

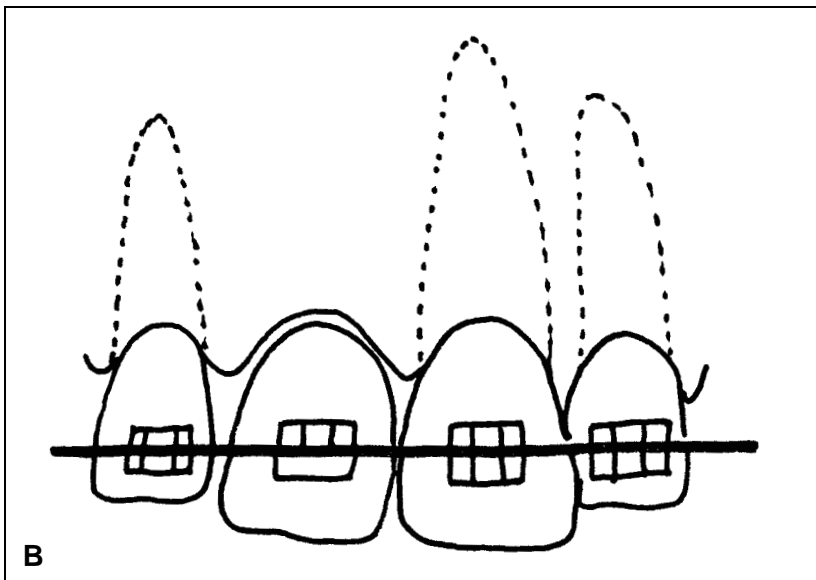
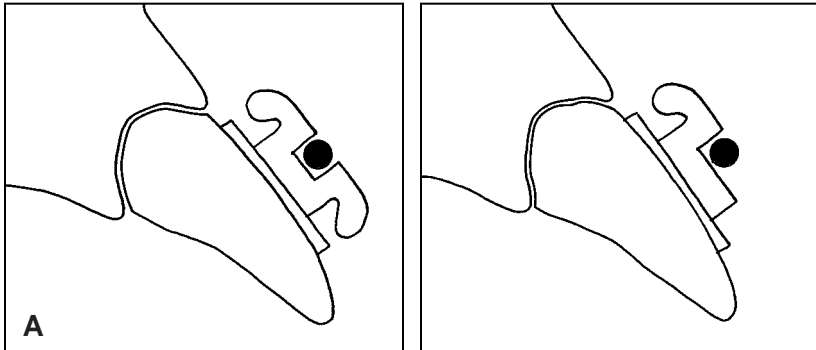
TECHNIQUE CLINIC

Using Archwires with Removable Prosthesis

Occasionally a patient presents for comprehensive orthodontic treatment with a “flipper”-type removable prosthesis replacing one or more missing anterior teeth. For esthetic reasons, it is desirable to bond brackets to the pontics so that they resemble the natural anterior teeth. However, the placement of a continuous archwire creates problems in inserting and removing the prosthesis. A simple technique can resolve this dilemma.

Bond brackets to all the teeth, including those on the prosthesis, so that the archwire will lie passively in the horizontal slots of the brackets on the pontics. Proper bracket positioning is critical to avoid displacing the prosthesis.

Grind the occlusal tie wings of the brackets on the pontics down to the bases of the bracket slots (A). The prosthesis can then be inserted or removed without removing the archwire or interfering with its action. To a layperson, the brackets without tie wings will appear the same as those on the adjacent teeth (B).



ROBERT E. BINDER, DMD
Professor of Orthodontics and Oral Biology
New Jersey Dental School
University of Medicine & Dentistry
of New Jersey
110 Bergen St.
Newark, NJ 07103

