

# O PEARLS O

*(Editor's Note: If you have a clinical or practice management Pearl to share with your colleagues, send it to JCO, 1828 Pearl St., Boulder, CO 80302. Appropriate illustrations are welcome; a photograph of the author and a copyright transfer form are required prior to publication.)*

## A Debonding Memento for Patients

**D**ebonding day is a special day for any patient. Many orthodontists present their patients with mementos such as before-and-after photographs or models, but the appliances themselves are generally disposed of after removal. After several requests from patients to keep their braces, we came up with a novel way of presenting them.

Once the appliances are removed (usually with the archwire still in place), they are placed in a disinfecting solution. The archwire and brackets are then positioned in the desired configuration on a circular piece of .060" or .080" surgical splint material. A few dabs of clear adhesive will hold the appliances in place.

Several holes are drilled in the splint material to allow sufficient airflow for vacuforming. A thin .040" mouthguard material is then vacuformed over the splint, trapping the wire and brackets. If desired, the "face" can be further customized by drawing hair or other features on the splint material prior to vacuforming.

Adding slight indentations along the edge of the splint material or drilling larger airholes can improve retention of the mouthguard material if that proves to be a problem. If no base is desired, a thinner splint material (such as .020") can be used; in that case, the mouthguard material will not lock around the edges and can easily be peeled off.

We have found this gift to be easy to fabricate, and it leaves patients with a memento of the practice that is bound to be a topic of conversation with friends and family.



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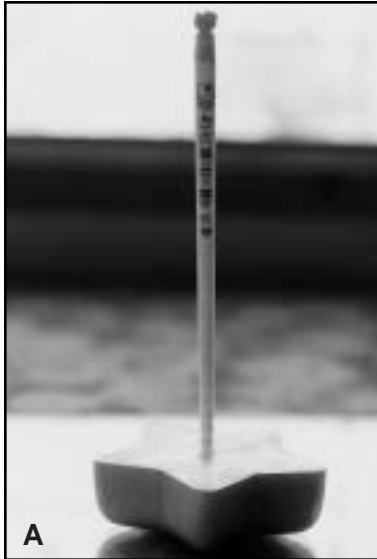


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## Reducing Cross-Contamination from Spools

**W**ire and elastomeric chain spools stored in drawers are a source of cross-contamination in the orthodontic office. A homemade spool dispenser can be kept on a countertop to reduce handling.

Find a container of the desired shape, and pour in a mixture of plaster of paris, water, and food coloring. Stick an old marking pen or chopstick into the center of the plaster (A); the height can vary depending on how many spools are to be stored (B).



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