

A New Bracket-Positioning Instrument

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Orthodontists have used a variety of hand-held dental instruments to position brackets for direct bonding; some have even customized old instruments for this purpose. Now, the TN3* bracket-positioning instrument has been specifically

*Trademark of GAC International, Inc., 185 Oval Drive, Central Islip, NY 11722.



Fig. 1 TN3 instrument has blade at one end for bracket positioning and small curved tip at other end for adhesive removal.

designed for direct bonding (Fig. 1). A hand-held instrument with a bracket-positioning blade at one end and a composite-cleaning tip at the other, it allows quick and easy manipulation of orthodontic brackets into the desired positions on the teeth.



Fig. 2 Tip of blade end placed in slot to manipulate bracket.



Fig. 3 Lower edge of blade can be used for positioning bracket and for horizontal or vertical reference.





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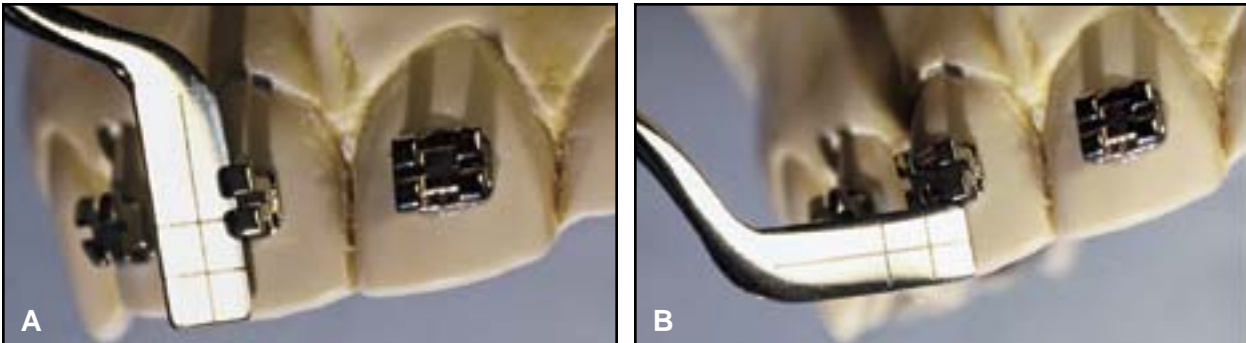


Fig. 4 Flat surface of TN3 blade has three reference lines for bracket positioning. **A.** Reference line used to estimate position of incisal edge of bracket slot relative to incisal edge of maxillary right central incisor. **B.** Width of blade used to estimate bracket height for comparison to bracket height on adjacent tooth.

Procedure

Once the bracket is placed on the tooth, it is moved into position by inserting either the tip (Fig. 2) or the lower edge of the blade end (Fig. 3) into the bracket slot. The blade of the TN3 is thin enough that it will not get caught in either an .018" or .022" slot when it is lifted away from the bracket, as some other instruments tend to do. The angulation of the blade allows the tip to be used for premolar brackets, as well as for those displaced from the line of the arch.

The long axis of the blade can also be used as a quick vertical or horizontal reference to improve the accuracy of bracket placement (Fig. 3). The flat surface of the blade has three reference lines that can provide a gauge of bracket height for comparison with bracket positions on other teeth (Fig. 4).

Once the operator is satisfied with the placement, the bracket can be compressed against the tooth surface to express any excess adhesive. Composite can then be removed from around the bracket base with the small cleaning tip on the opposite end of the instrument (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5 Excess composite removed from around bracket base with cleaning end of TN3.