

A New Bracket-Positioning Gauge

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The GIK (Goel, Inder, Kiran) Gauge described in this article is not only simple and economical to construct, but can accurately mark bracket positions directly on the tooth surfaces.

Construction

Double over a 10cm length of .180" × .006" stainless steel band material. Weld across the band 5mm from the closed end (Fig. 1A). Immediately fold the band material along the weld into

an "L" shape, then weld the joint again to keep it rigid (Fig. 1B).

After separating the two halves of the band material, drill a hole into the upper half at the appropriate distance from the weld, corresponding to the desired bracket height (Fig. 1C). Bend the long arm of the upper band material over the top of a .5mm lead pencil, insert the pencil tip through the hole, and bend the lower arm beneath the pencil (Fig. 1D). Weld a piece of .016" stainless steel ligature wire to one arm,

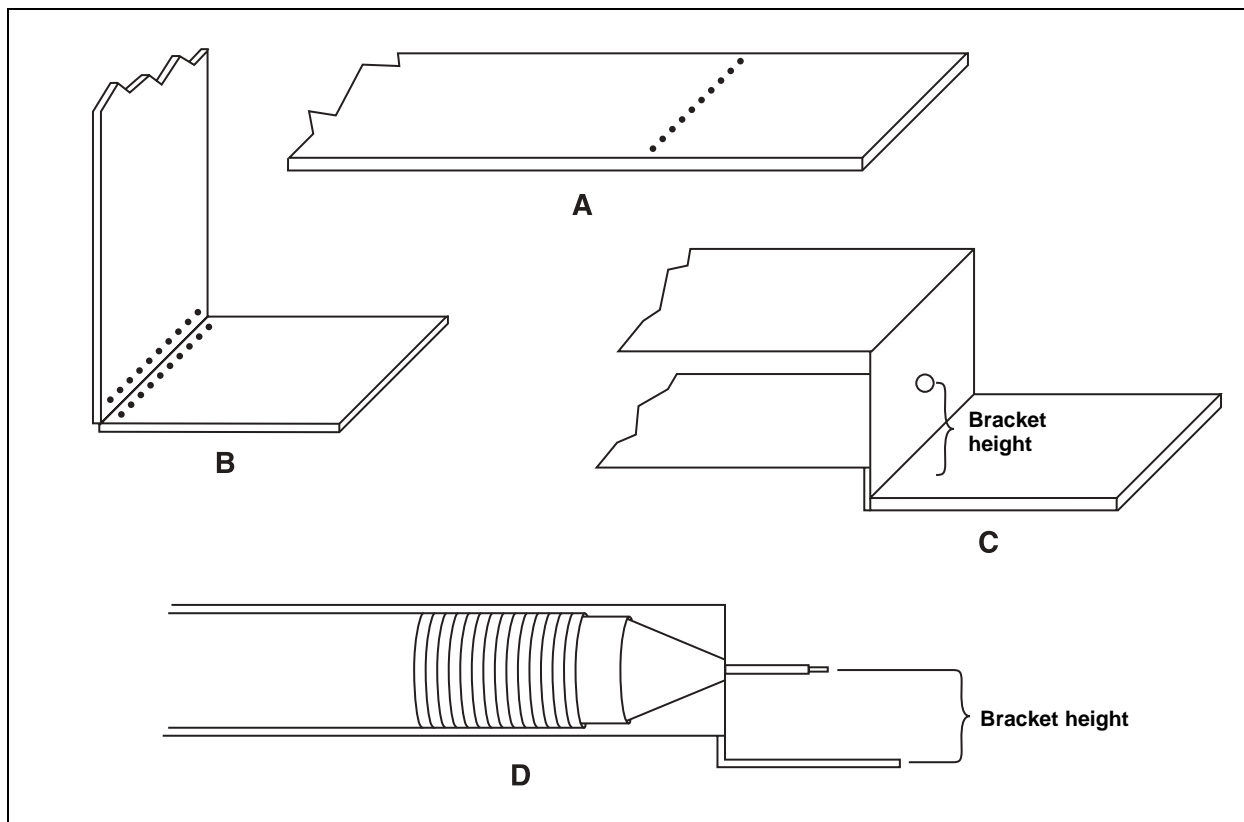


Fig. 1 A. Band material folded in half and welded 5mm from closed end. B. Band material folded into "L" shape and rewelded. C. Hole drilled into upper half of band material at appropriate bracket height from weld. D. Upper and lower arms of band material bent around .5mm lead pencil.

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then tie it snugly around the pencil to hold both arms in place.

GIK Gauges can be fabricated at various bracket heights and color-coded for easy identification (Fig. 2).

Clinical Application

Press the protruding flat surface of the GIK Gauge against the incisal edge or cusp tip of the tooth to be bonded. Scribe the appropriate bracket height on the tooth surface with the pencil tip (Fig. 3). □



Fig. 2 Color-coded GIK Gauges for 5mm, 4.5mm, 4mm, and 3.5mm bracket heights.



Fig. 3 Pencil mark scribed on tooth surface at 4mm bracket height.