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## Restoring Occlusal Tie Wings of Ceramic Brackets

**T**he occlusal tie wings of ceramic brackets often have to be ground down if they interfere with opposing teeth. Unfortunately, the reduction makes it difficult to tie in stainless steel ligatures.

If this problem occurs, a groove can be carved for the ligature wire on the occlusal side of the ceramic bracket, between the tie wing and the tooth surface. Either the smallest possible rounded stainless steel bur (A) or an ultrathin carborundum disc should be used. The disc will make a straighter groove, but be careful not to carve too deep.

A ligature wire can then be engaged in the groove without slipping off the bracket (B).



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## Preventing Gingival Injury from Air-Rotor Stripping

**G**ingival tissue can be protected from potential injury during air-rotor stripping by using Stim-U-Dent Plaque Removers\* (A). I find these work well whether the procedure is done between maxillary or mandibular molars, premolars, or anterior teeth. Even with a deep gingival reduction (B), the disc simply cuts into the Stim-U-Dent without contacting the tissue (C). Brass wires can be used for the same purpose, but they are



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clumsier to work with and often too thick for the anterior interdental spaces.



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### Improving Retention of Anterior Open-Bite Cases

To improve the retention of an anterior open-bite case or recover an open-bite relapse, small composite bumps can be bonded to the labial surfaces of the incisors (A). Before light-curing, the paste is shaped into smooth round balls using a brush saturated with primer solution.

The labial wire of a Hawley-type retainer is slightly activated incisally and placed against the gingival edges of the composite bumps (B). For more positive retention, the gingival edges can be shaped into horizontal steps with a fluted bur. These steps are not required when using positioners or clear plastic retainers (C).



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