

Clarity™ Metal-Reinforced Ceramic Brackets

Instructions For Use



Warnings

- Due to the hardness of ceramic brackets, bonding brackets in occlusion should be avoided to prevent wearing of enamel surfaces during all phases of treatment.
- Deep bite cases should be opened prior to bonding with Clarity™ Metal-Reinforced Ceramic Brackets to prevent wearing of enamel surfaces. Alastigard Ligatures are designed to help protect opposing tooth surfaces from occlusal interference and from potential enamel wear. Bite plates and other intrusion mechanics may also be necessary to prevent bracket to tooth contact. Indications for using Alastigard modules include deep bite cases, protection of cusp tips during retraction and situations in which tooth to bracket contact is possible during finishing.
- Instruct patients not to chew or bite on hard substances such as hard candy, ice, carrots, etc. Careful and thorough patient instruction is a key to avoiding appliance or enamel damage.
- Bonding of ceramic brackets to compromised teeth (i.e., with large restorations, peg laterals or preexisting conditions) can increase the risk of tooth damage.
- Bonding to porcelain crowns or facings may cause chipping or breakage of the crown or facing during treatment or debonding.
- The archwire slot liner of Clarity ceramic brackets contains nickel and chromium. A small percentage of the population is known to be allergic to these metals. If an allergic reaction occurs, direct patient to consult physician.
- Debonding of Clarity ceramic brackets can be done using either a How or Weingart hand instrument. No other existing ceramic bracket debonding instrument should be used to debond Clarity ceramic brackets since this might result in fractured tie-wings or tooth damage.

Note: Clarity ceramic brackets are for single use only. Due to its vertical debonding slot design, these brackets collapse during debonding and cannot be reused or recycled.

Debonding Procedure

Insure adhesive flash has been removed from all Clarity ceramic brackets that are to be debonded. Cured adhesive flash should be removed with a bur.

To debond Clarity ceramic brackets, position the tips of either a How or Weingart hand instrument over the mesial/ distal sides of the metal archwire slot. See Figure 1, 2, 3. **Do not place the instrument jaws below the archwire slot liner.** See Figure 3. If the tips of the hand instrument are placed too close to the base of the bracket, the bracket will not collapse. Squeeze gently with the hand instrument until the bracket collapses. This debonding technique is similar to the debonding of metal brackets.

In some cases instead of both sides of the bracket coming off the tooth simultaneously, one side of the ceramic bracket will come off the tooth first. In those instances, gently rock the bracket toward the side that debonded first as shown below. See Figure 4, 5.

If a bracket fractures during treatment or debonding, use a diamond bur to carefully remove the ceramic fragments.

Failure to follow the correct debonding procedure may lead to tooth damage.

Debonding Instruments

Use a How or Weingart hand instrument to debond Clarity ceramic brackets.

Important: Clean plier jaws of any ceramic material after debonding each bracket to ensure even contact and force distribution.



Figure 1

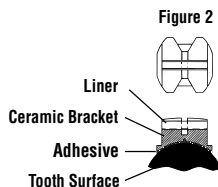


Figure 2

Figure 3

Engage ceramic bracket with pliers. Gently apply pressure until bracket debonds.



Figure 4

In some instances, one side of the bracket will debond while the other side still remains on the tooth.



Figure 5

To debond the side that still remains on the tooth, gently "rock" the bracket toward the side that debonded first as shown.



Bracket Identification

Clarity ceramic brackets are easily identifiable by a color coded recessed distal gingival dot.

Bracket Bonding

Adhesive flash should be removed at bonding in order to minimize staining of the adhesive and reduce the risk of bracket breakage during the debonding procedure.

Clarity ceramic brackets feature mechanical retention on the bonding base. No special primers or pretreatments are necessary.

Clarity ceramic brackets can be used with traditional direct or indirect bonding methods. No change in bonding technique is necessary. For bonding procedures please follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations. When placing Clarity ceramic brackets, it is suggested that the bracket be placed in a sliding motion, occlusal to gingival, forcing excess adhesive to the incisal edge of the bracket for easier clean-up.

Bracket Rebonding Procedure

In the case of a spontaneous bond failure, it may be necessary to rebond a bracket. The following steps are recommended:

1. Carefully inspect the bracket for any damage. Brackets that have fractured through the vertical debonding slot cannot be rebonded and must be replaced. In certain cases, the bracket tie-wings might have fractured but due to the metal liner in the archwire slot, the bracket tie-wings will remain attached to the bracket body. If a tie-wing is cracked, replace the bracket.
2. Remove any excess adhesive. Extra care must be taken to prevent chipping or breaking of the bracket. Use a hand scaler to remove any excess flash from around the edges of the bracket. **Do not use a bur. Do not attempt to scrape adhesive from the base of the bracket as this may damage the bracket's bonding surface.**
3. If the bracket has been contaminated (e.g., moisture), rinse the bracket in isopropyl alcohol or acetone and allow to dry.
4. Prepare the tooth surface and bond the bracket using the procedure as described by the adhesive manufacturer.

Torquing Precautions

Extensive customer experience has proven that Clarity ceramic brackets are capable of withstanding all normal torque requirements. However care should be taken when making large torquing activations since large corrections with full size stainless steel wires may result in bracket failure and should be avoided.

Warranty and Limited Remedy

3M Unitek warrants that this Product is free from defects in materials and manufacture.

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