



# Clarity™

Esthetic Orthodontic Solutions

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 3M™ Clarity™ Ultra Self-Ligating Brackets

#### Placement and Positioning

##### 1. Are 3M™ Clarity™ Ultra Self-Ligating Brackets shipped with the doors open or closed?

Clarity Ultra Brackets are shipped with the doors already open in order to maximize your efficiency by eliminating the extra step of opening the doors to place the archwire.



##### 2. How should the Clarity Ultra Brackets be placed?

Clarity Ultra Brackets feature vertical and horizontal reference markers to guide bracket placement. Grasping with an occlusal/gingival grip may close the doors. To minimize force on the vertical stress concentrator with a mesial/distal grip, the bracket should be picked up and positioned by seating the instrument on the base flange of the bracket, as opposed to higher up on the tie-wings.

##### 3. What instrument is recommended for bracket placement?

Reverse-action tweezers (e.g. REF 804-171) are recommended to pick up and position the bracket, as these tweezers place less, and more consistent, force.

##### 4. How do I remove the ink marking from the bracket?

Colored reference markers provide vertical and horizontal visual guidance for bracket positioning. Colored ID dots are also used on most brackets. These reference markers and ID dots are water soluble. Reference marks should

be removed after bonding, but before the placement of the archwire. To remove the ink faster, have the patient brush and use warm water.

##### 4. Are there any tips and tricks for visualizing incisal edge alignment when I'm positioning brackets on the upper arch with the door open?

On the upper arch, use the incisal edge of the open door to align the bracket to the incisal edge of the tooth.

#### Bonding

##### 1. How can I avoid adhesive build-up under the door?

For brackets that are not 3M™ APC™ Flash-Free Adhesive Coated Brackets, thoroughly clean all excess flash from underneath the door to prevent the inhibition of door function and plaque build-up, minimize the potential for staining of the adhesive, and reduce the risk of bracket breakage during the debonding procedure.

##### 2. Can Clarity Ultra Brackets be double ligated?

Yes. You may double ligate Clarity Ultra Brackets. You may use elastomeric ligatures and chains, and/or metal ligatures as needed.

##### 3. Can I engage Class II elastics with Clarity Ultra Brackets?

Yes. All Clarity Ultra upper and lower cuspid and bicuspid brackets have a distal hook to facilitate auxiliary attachments.

##### 4. Can I use archwire stops with the Clarity Ultra Brackets?

You may use archwire stops and/or dimpled archwires with the Clarity Ultra Bracket system.

#### Opening/Closing

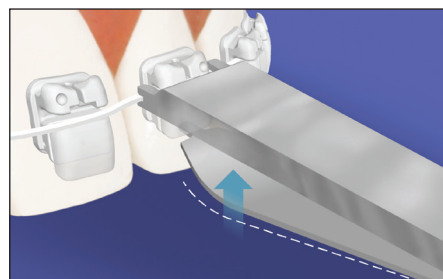
##### 1. Do I have to use the 3M™ Unitek™ Open-Close Instrument?

The use of the 3M™ Unitek™ Open-Close Instrument for the Ultra SL System (REF 804-155) is highly recommended. The “Open” end allows you to open the brackets without overstressing the door. The “Close” end assists with archwire insertion.



##### 2. How do I close the Clarity Ultra Bracket door using the instrument?

- 1) Rest the notches of the Unitek Open-Close Instrument for the Ultra SL System (REF 804-155) onto the archwire, with the pointer aligned below the bracket's open door.
- 2) Ensure the wire is fully seated by lightly pressing and/or torquing the wire with the tool.
- 3) Squeeze the tool, pushing the pointer against the open door. Continue squeezing until the door is closed.
- 4) You may hear a click when door closes.



##### 3. What strategies can I use when closing the Clarity Ultra Bracket doors in severely crowded situations?

When closing, engage the archwires in the most crowded brackets first, before moving to the other brackets. Gently close the bracket doors using the fingers on your other hand, squeezing the bracket door shut with your thumb on the bottom of the

bracket door and your first finger on the top of the bracket. Ensure that the wire is fully seated before attempting to close the door, either by using your other hand or by using dental floss.

**4. What if the teeth are too rotated to close the door using the Unitek Open-Close Instrument?**

You may use your fingers to close the door.

**5. In which direction do the doors open?**

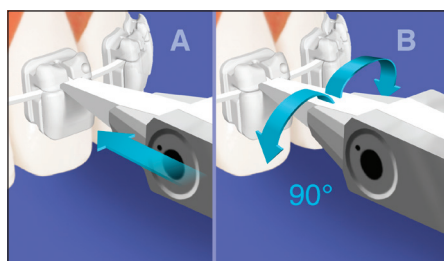
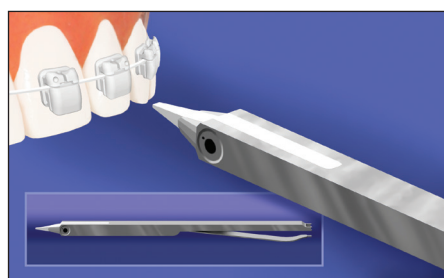
Clarity Ultra Brackets open occlusal on the upper and gingival on the lowers.

**6. How can I be confident that the bracket door is closed completely into place?**

The bracket is designed to click upon opening and closing as an audible and tactile indication.

**7. How do I open the door of a Clarity Ultra Bracket?**

To open the bracket door, insert the tip of the Unitek Open-Close Instrument (REF 804-155) into the horizontal groove just above the door, and twist the tool 90 degrees (1/4 turn) in either direction. This action opens the door. The door opens toward the chin on all brackets. You may hear a click when the door opens.



**Debonding**

**1. Which debonding instrument should I use?**

The 3M™ Unitek™ Debonding Instrument for the Ultra SL System (REF 804-175) is required for a proper debonding experience.



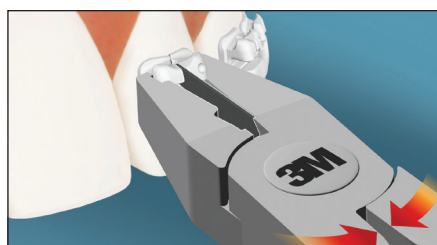
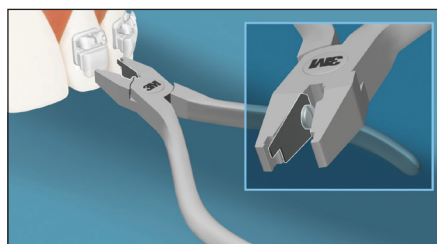
**2. How should Clarity Ultra Brackets be debonded?**

Clarity Ultra Brackets feature a unique stress concentrator for squeeze debonding.

Debond Clarity Ultra Brackets with the archwire and ligation removed.

Grasp the debonding instrument so that the notch of the centering guide and the 3M logo are facing up. Place the centering guide of the instrument vertically into the center of the bracket, perpendicular to the archwire slot. Ensure that this placement is symmetrically positioned, flush against the bracket and perpendicular to the body of the bracket.

Gently squeeze, then rock the bracket mesial-distally and carefully lift the bracket off, maintaining the hold on the bracket with the instrument to keep the debonded pieces in the instrument tips.



**3. Can Clarity Ultra Brackets be debonded with the archwire in place?**

No. In order to minimize the possibility of loose ceramic pieces upon debond, the archwire should be removed when you debond Clarity Ultra Brackets.

**Overall Treatment**

**1. How do Clarity Ultra Brackets limit ceramic bracket occlusal interference?**

The doors of the brackets have a tapered occlusal surface, which is designed to help minimize occlusal interference. The brackets are designed to accommodate ligature guards for protection. Occlusal build-up or bite openers can be used as needed.

**2. With what other bracket systems can Clarity Ultra Brackets be used?**

Clarity Ultra Brackets can be used on the same arch with 3M™ Clarity™ Advanced Ceramic Brackets or 3M™ Victory Series™ Low Profile Brackets, since the in/out dimensions of the brackets are the same. Clarity Ultra Brackets can also be used in conjunction with 3M™ Victory Series™ Superior Fit Buccal Tubes.

**2. What strategy can I use when treating patients with darker shades of teeth?**

Some patients, especially adults, may have darker tooth shades due to diet or hygiene. Tooth whitening a few weeks before bonding may change the tooth shade to better match the bracket shade.

Refer to the Instructions for Use for additional information. REF 011-703.



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