

A New Method of Recycling Debonded Brackets without Discoloring the Face of the Bracket

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CLINICAL TIPS

Rebonding of orthodontic brackets is most often required either due to bonding failures^{1,2} or to facilitate repositioning of the bracket during the course of treatment. Traditional methods of reusing a debonded bracket require burning off the residual adhesive with a blow torch flame and then cleaning the bracket with a jet of air and water spray from a three-way syringe. This method, however, will discolour the face of the bracket (Figure 1), making it unsightly necessitating the use of a micro etcher to remove the discoloured layer. ^{3,4} Micro etching or sandblasting is not only a process that is detrimental to the surface finish of the bracket but is sometimes not effective in completely removing all traces of discolouration.

This article proposed a simple and innovative technique using a bar of soap to work as a heat-insulating carrier for the bracket allowing burning off the resin without discolouration of the face. The face of the bracket is pressed into the bar of soap (Figure 2), and the exposed mesh of the bracket is flamed with a blow torch (Figure 3). Once the bracket is red hot, it is quenched with a stream of air and water spray from a three-way syringe (Figure 4), to dislodge and remove all the burnt resin.

CONCLUSION

This clinical tip describes an inexpensive yet effective way of removing resin residue from debonded brackets. The method also prevents any discolouration of the face of the bracket (Figure 5).



Fig 1: Discolored Face of the Bracket.



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Fig 2: Bracket Face Pressed in the Bar of Soap.



Fig 3: Mesh of bracket flamed with blow torch.



Fig 4: Quenching bracket mesh with air and water spray.



Fig 5: Face of Bracket without Discoloration.

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