

fixed appliances



One of the most effective ways of straightening teeth.

fixed appliances



A LIGATURE OR MODULE

A ligature is a tiny wire and a module is a tiny elastic, both of which can be used to hold an archwire in place within each bracket.

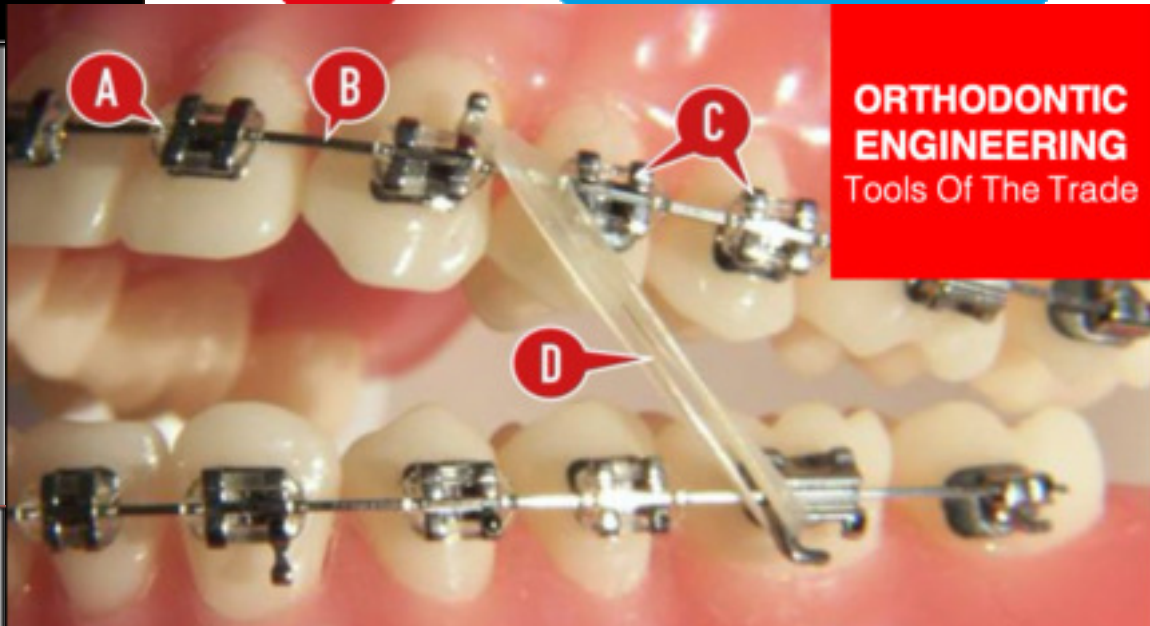
B ARCHWIRE

These act as a guide or track, along which the teeth are to be moved. They are changed throughout the treatment process.

Each archwire brings you to an ideal tooth position.

METAL BAND (not shown)

These are thin bands or rings of metal, carefully fitted to the tooth and then they have either a tube or hook attached so that they hold in place.



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C BRACKETS

These are small square shapes which are cemented directly onto each tooth. The archwire is then placed through the bracket.

We use three types of brackets, namely - metal, gold and ceramic.

D ELASTIC HOOKS & RUBBER BANDS

Not every patient needs to wear elastics. These are small rubber bands which are attached to hooks on your brackets to cause a continuous, gentle force helping each individual tooth to move, or to align one arch to the next. If you are required to use these, please note that they are essentially speeding up the day your braces will be removed, so it is in your best interests to wear them. Teeth have never failed to move when elastics are worn consistently and as directed by the orthodontist.

SEPARATORS (not shown)

To make it more comfortable, before placing part of your fixed braces, we may need to make space between your back teeth to allow the bands to go into place. Slowly, separators move certain teeth slightly apart allowing us to accurately attach bands at your next appointment. This can cause temporary soreness. Rinsing with salt water can relieve the soreness. It is important to call the practice if you lose any separators.

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Fixed Appliances

METAL BRACKETS WITH COLOURS

Stainless steel metal brackets are easily recognised and are widely used in the treatment of patients in all age groups. Their robustness makes them suitable for most courses of treatment. The designers have been making them smaller and decreasing the profile of these metal brackets, sometimes with beneficial results. They include higher treatment efficiency, decreased friction, decreased appliance breakage (due to increased bond strength) and superior fit or seating. These metal brackets can be customised with coloured ligatures or modules to provide individuality and make them more aesthetically pleasing.



➤ 1) Metal brackets

GOLD BRACKETS

Others might be more attracted by the aesthetic appeal of the Gold appliance systems which can be complemented with gold wires. These provide the patient with an alternative to the traditional stainless steel look.



➤ 2) Gold brackets

CERAMIC BRACKETS

Attractive, translucent or tooth coloured, aesthetic fixed brackets appeal to patients in view of their less obtrusive appearance. These are made from a ceramic material and differ from plastic (polycarbonate) brackets in terms of the superior durability, colour stability, strength and overall performance throughout the treatment. Not all tooth coloured brackets are ceramic, if you are having problems with breakages and discolouration, you most likely have been fitted with an inferior plastic bracket.



➤ 3) Ceramic brackets

Fixed braces can be made "totally white" by utilising ceramic brackets, white or tooth coloured arch wires and non-staining ligature wires. This means that your appliance is virtually invisible!

SELF LIGATING BRACKETS

These are fixed braces which function without ligatures and modules. These braces are designed to help the teeth move more efficiently and may result in fewer adjustment visits. The absence of modules and ligatures eliminates the hassle of staining.

One orthodontist shares his thoughts on Self-Ligating Systems:

"I am treating more and more cases with self-ligating systems and I am more excited about what I can achieve for my patients than ever before in 25 years of providing orthodontic care. I've noticed an increase in the number of non-extraction opportunities, my patients' gums look healthier and I've had numerous comments that breathing problems are reduced.

Using the reduced friction and light forces of self-ligating systems allows me to move teeth in a "biologically-compatible" way. I believe the body works with this treatment instead of opposing it. Orthodontic expertise combined with self-ligation has the potential to transform faces and smiles like never before!"



➤ ➤ 4-5) Damon Self ligating brackets



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