

# Enigmas and conundrums

## Part 2 – Retention and support

By Jordan Nikoloski

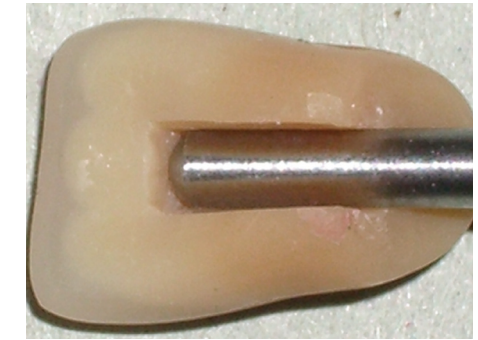
**R**eplacement of maxillary anterior teeth can present us with a multitude of challenges. The major consideration is aesthetics of course, it's all about the teeth. Followed by centric relation, how do the teeth fit in with the opposing dentition? And how much space do we have? Overbite is always an important factor, do we need to protect the maxillary anteriors from heavy shearing forces? What about lateral forces? Here is just one of those cases.

Part upper casting, immediate

replacement of 11, 12, 13, 21, 22, 24. Deep overbite on 11, 21, 22 will require metal backings for support and retention to guard against heavy shearing forces\*

Post support will be sufficient on 22, 23. Being an isolated saddle, 24 needs good retention, a mushroom post is ideal, not complicated and allows free flow of acrylic into the saddle.

In order to facilitate occlusion, retention and support, the *choice* of teeth is critical. This type of case requires hard teeth with enough density of colour



to maintain the shade, even after extensive grinding to the palatal surfaces.

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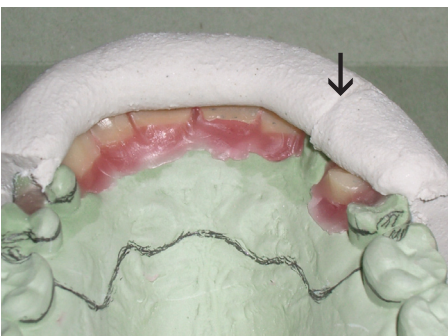
Teeth set. Necks relieved to allow easy removal of plaster key. Note relief around abutments.



Overbite can be a nightmare. In this case the overbite ranges between 3 and 5mm.



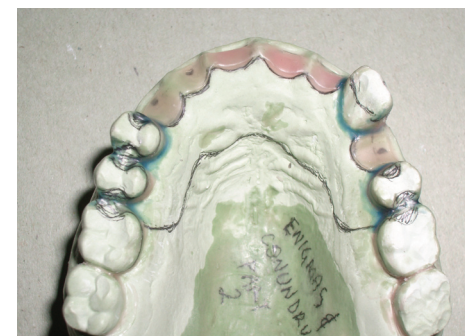
The palatals of the anteriors have been ground to facilitate the deep overbite - note reduction on 11, 21, 22 in particular.



Plaster to plaster separator is brushed onto the model and teeth before the plaster key is formed. Note cut in key while plaster is soft for easy key removal (without breakages).



Remove keys, boil out teeth then trim key with straight, square edges please.



Master model (2<sup>nd</sup>) blocked out and relieved, ready for duplication.



Relieve key where teeth are blocked out or where interference with clasps may present problems.



Key placed on master model. I have marked the long axis of each tooth prior to cutting to eliminate breakages of posts at wax up stage.



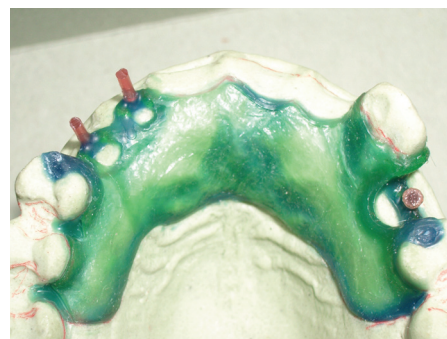
Palate waxed up. Teeth 12, 13 are cut for 1.3mm posts along the pencil marks, using an 014 T/C straight fissure bur just below the incisal third.



Plastic posts are cut to length and waxed into position. I prefer plastic rather than wax posts (plastic posts don't bend)



Pre-molar is trimmed to accommodate mushroom post. Mushrooms are easy to form - just cut the plastic post to length and melt the top.



12, 13, 24 posts and mushroom done. Parallel vertical cuts on teeth have allowed easy key removal without damaging posts.

\* Metal backings and acrylic processing of this case to be discussed further in Part 3: Enigmas and conundrums. Next issue of eLaborate

#### About the author

*Jordan Nikoloski is product development and technical manager at Ultimate Dental Supplies.*



## ENIGMAS AND CONSIGNMENTS

39 Genoa St, Moorabbin, VIC 3189  
Toll Free: 1800 636 801  
Ph: (03) 9532 1799 Fax: (03) 9555 9458  
Website: [www.ultimatedental.com.au](http://www.ultimatedental.com.au)  
Email: [info@ultimatedental.com.au](mailto:info@ultimatedental.com.au)



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