

# PEARLS

*(Editor's Note: If you have a clinical or practice management Pearl to share with your colleagues, send it to JCO, 1828 Pearl St., Boulder, CO 80302. Appropriate illustrations are welcome; a photograph of the author and a copyright transfer form are required prior to publication.)*

## An Inexpensive Microetcher Hood

**W**hen a Microetcher\* is used to prepare the bonding pad of a debonded bracket prior to its replacement in the mouth, the aluminum oxide powder is messy and difficult to control. Several vacuum chambers are commercially available, but I have been disappointed with their bulk and cost, and they make infection control a challenge.

Instead, I use a clear, disposable 7oz plastic cup as a hood and a household sponge as a filter. A hole just large enough for the Microetcher nozzle is drilled into the side of the cup, about an inch from the rim. The cup is turned upside down on a damp sponge for microetching.

This method works best if the bracket is microetched while still attached to the archwire, eliminating the need for a plier and minimizing powder escape. It also works, however, if the bracket is held with a college plier.

The Microetcher nozzle is inserted through the hole in the upside-down cup, and the bracket is held close to the nozzle. A little pressure should be applied



to the cup while microetching to compress it into the sponge. The cup and sponge can be disinfected after each use or simply discarded.



CHARLES R. REED,  
DDS, MS, MPH  
1621 Tongass Ave., Suite 206  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

## PRODUCT REFERENCE

The light-cured resin used by Drs. Romanides and Barckhausen for bonding mandibular lingual retainers (Pearls, JCO, May 1999) is Transbond LR from 3M Unitek, 2724 S. Peck Road, Monrovia, CA 91016.

\*Danville Engineering, 1901 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, CA 94583.

### Storing Temperature-Sensitive Wires

Temperature-sensitive wires need to be chilled before placement. To avoid having to use a refrigerant spray, we keep a supply of wires in the lab refrigerator. When a patient needs an archwire change or a new bonding requires a flexible wire, we simply remove one from the refrigerator (A). This permits bracket engagement with minimal force (B), making the procedure more comfortable for the patient, and saves chairtime.

We also keep a few ligature directors in the refrigerator for use in patients who already have temperature-sensitive archwires, but need more brackets engaged. Unlike refrigerant sprays, this method does not require removal of the archwire.



RICHARD E. JONES II, DDS, MS  
8170 Oaklandon Road, Suite A  
Indianapolis, IN 46236

---

This idea originally appeared in the *Nectar Connection*, published by Hummingbird Associates, P.O. Box 10279, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.