3M Science. Applied to Life.™

CLARITY™ | ADVANCED
advanced ceramic brackets

Clarity™ ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Q. Why is it that Clarity™ ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets do not require a metal slot liner?**
A. Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets are constructed of a fine-grained material that is stronger than the material used in Clarity™ Metal-Reinforced Brackets, so a metal liner is not needed to provide additional strength.
Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets are injection-molded, providing rounded corners in the slot, which potentially reduce binding and notching in the bracket slot. (Figure 1)


Figure 1

2. **Q. Is the bracket strength of Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets affected by their low profile or small size?**
A. No. Because Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets use a finer grain ceramic material than Clarity Metal-Reinforced Ceramic Brackets, the size of the Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets can be smaller without compromising bracket strength.

3. **Q. Is the bond strength of Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets affected by their small size?**
A. No. Even though the size of Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets is small, bond strength testing has shown that there is sufficient bond strength due to the size of the base and the mechanical locking base.

4. **Q. Can Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets be used cuspid to cuspid, and metal brackets be used on the bicuspids?**
A. Yes. Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets can be used on the same arch with Victory Series™ Low Profile Brackets, since the in/out dimensions of the two brackets are the same.

5. **Q. Can Clarity Metal-Reinforced Ceramic Brackets be used with Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets?**
A. No. It is not recommended to use Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets and Clarity Metal-Reinforced Ceramic Brackets on the same arch since the in/out dimensions of these two brackets are different.

6. **Q. Do cases need to be treated differently when using Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets?**
A. No. Fundamentally, treatment with Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets is no different than with other brackets. Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets are capable of withstanding all normal treatment requirements. As with all ceramic brackets, torquing activations should only be applied to the wire when it is outside of the bracket.

7. **Q. How should Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets be placed?**
A. Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets feature an easy-off vertical and horizontal reference marker (Figure 2a) to guide bracket placement. To minimize force on the vertical stress concentrator, which provides the easy debonding feature of this bracket, 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 (Figure 2b and 2c). It is recommended that reverse-action tweezers are used (e.g. REF 804-171) to pick up and position the bracket (Figure 2d) as these tweezers place less, and more consistent, force on the tie-wings. Additional positioning should be done using the archwire slot, not the vertical slot, as this creates a wedge effect, which multiplies the force on the vertical stress concentrator. This additional force could cause the bracket to split in half.

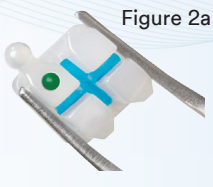
Figure 2a

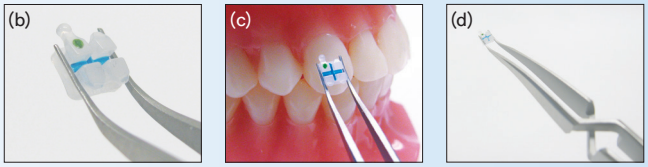

Figure 2b-d

8. **Q: Is indirect bonding possible with the easy-off reference markers?**
A: Yes. During the time when the model is soaked in water (to facilitate removal of the tray from the stone model), water may seep between the tray and the brackets and partially dissolve the water-soluble reference markers on Clarity ADVANCED brackets. This causes superficial discoloration of the brackets. If this discoloration is still observed on the bracket bases after the tray is removed from the model and cleaned, place the tray in an ultrasonic bath with water until the bracket bases no longer show the discoloration. Any remaining color on the labial side of the bracket can be brushed off with water once the brackets have been bonded on the patient.

9. **Q. Can Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets be double-ligated?**
A. Yes. During hands-on assessment, 10 out of 11 doctors and assistants found that Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets easily accommodate double-ligation. Care should be used when tying metal ligatures. Over-tying a metal ligature on ceramic brackets can cause excess stress resulting in bracket fracture or damage.

10. **Q. How should Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets be debonded?**
A. For optimal debonding results, it is recommended to squeeze and rock the bracket mesial-distally using the Unitek™ Self-Ligating Bracket Debonding Instrument, REF 804-170. More details can be found in the Instructions For Use.

11. **Q. Can Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets be debonded with the archwire in place?**
A. Yes. It is recommended to debond Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets with the archwire in place and ligated (Figure 3a) in order to hold together debonded bracket parts. However, if necessary, brackets may be debonded with the archwire removed (Figure 3b). Extra caution should be taken when debonding without the archwire in place. Maintain the hold on the bracket to keep the debonded bracket parts in the instrument tips.

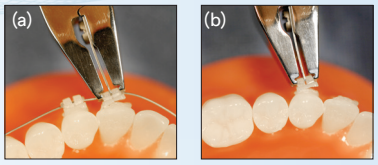

Figure 3a-b

12. **Q. Do Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets contain nickel?**
A. No. Clarity ADVANCED Ceramic Brackets are completely ceramic, so they can be used on patients with nickel allergies.

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