

Question and Answer Department

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1. Is it necessary to use a lingual arch in conjunction with the edgewise archwire to effect buccal movement of the molars and premolars?

No. There is adequate force within the edgewise archwire to produce the buccal movement of molars and premolars. When the appliance is properly adjusted each tooth, through its bracket, comes under the influence of the forces within the archwire. If one understands how to use both expansion and torque forces in unison, which can easily be done, the movement of the posterior teeth can readily be controlled and buccal movement of crowns or roots or both can be accomplished.

2. I have been having difficulty in preventing the tiny discs of solder, recommended for use with ribbon or edgewise arch appliances, from jumping or moving during the soldering operation. Can you suggest where I might be at fault in my technique?

There is a possibility that the flux you are using is carrying away the solder when heat is applied. A pure thin paste of borax is the best flux to use. Apply a minimum amount of this flux to the exact spot where the solder is to flow and apply the heat gradually.

Another reason for flat pieces of solder jumping is that when heat is applied suddenly the moisture under each piece causes a miniature explosion of steam, with the resulting movement of the solder. It has been found that wire solder when cut up into the desired sizes may be used like the flat solder with practically no movement. The point of contact made between the wire solder and the surface on which it is to flow, is in the form of a line instead of an extended area. Hence, no moisture is confined beneath it and the evaporation takes place without disturbing the solder.

3. Can you suggest any remedy or device to break the habit of finger nail biting?

John D. McCoy in his text-book, *Applied Orthodontics*, says this regarding habits. "Psychologists agree that 'all such simple habits are formed in the same way, namely, that at first the act is performed by conscious effort, but with each repetition it becomes less and less a conscious effort until finally it is performed entirely unconsciously, becoming a part of the routine of the mind from which the consciousness is removed.' It follows, then, that the elimination of such habits necessitates strong and persistent conscious effort on the part of the child with whom the greatest responsibility lies, but such children should be constantly aided and encouraged by both parents and orthodontist."

The most satisfactory aid in breaking this habit which has come to our attention is a preparation called STOP, made and distributed by The Corrective Guild in Los Angeles. The solution, which is applied to the fingers, is of such a nature that through the senses of smell and taste and even sight the child is constantly reminded of the desire to break the habit. This is a most helpful way to bring about a persistent conscious effort to eliminate the habit. The preparation is also recommended for finger and thumb sucking habits.