

## **Fabricating a Contoured Retainium Splint**

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Retainium is an excellent material for making fixed lingual retainers. It is dead soft, malleable, with a matte surface ideal for bonding. However, since it is fabricated in single flat strands, it does not conform to the lingual surface of the teeth in either the Maxillary or Mandibular arch. This means that if you cut a portion of the strand and attempt to bond it into place without bends, it will sit unevenly across the lingual surfaces. In the Maxillary arch, this could mean occlusal interference (fig.1). In general, the uneven placement could make hygiene more difficult.

With a few simple bends, however, a Retainium splint can be ideally contoured, look more esthetic, and facilitate oral hygiene.



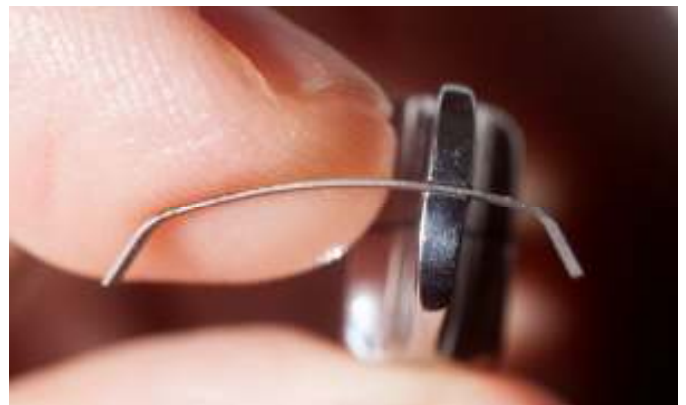
Step 1. Cut a piece of Retainium wire to the desired length.



Step 2. Make a 45 degree bend in a gingival direction at the end of the splint, approximately 2-3 mm. This bend helps contour the wire and locks it into the adhesive, preventing any potential sliding .



Step 3. Holding the Retainium splint on its inciso-gingival edge with a flat plier, gently sweep a curve gingivally to match that of the lingual surface .



Step 4. Holding the Retainium splint on its flat edge with same flat plier, gently sweep a curve bucco-lingually



Step 5. Using floss interproximally, hold the Retainium splint against the lingual surface of the teeth (fig 5). Burnish the splint against the teeth to maximize contact and bond into place.