



A Self Ligating Tale of Two Sisters

By David W. Jackson, DDS, FAGD

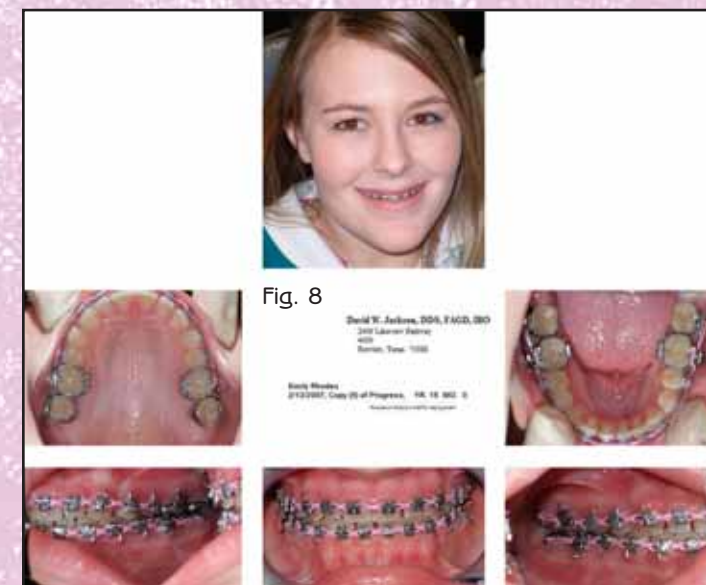
It had been a very rainy winter in the land of Dallas, but now it was June and the spring rains were but a memory. I recall this month in 2006, when two lovely fair young maidens entered my humble dental abode with their mother seeking help for their smiles. The older 14-year-old Emily, (Fig. 1), had spacing in her teeth which she loathed. Her younger sister, Allison, 11, (Fig. 2), had a very deep overbite being compared by classmates to the teeth of a rabbit. Their mother was beside herself, shouting, "Oh woe is me! What shall I do with my unhappy daughters? All is lost." I sat the grief-stricken lady down and explained a miracle orthodontic treatment, that of the "Self-Ligating Bracket!" (Fig. 3). I shared with her how the young lasses would look so much better in no time... well... 14 to 18 months no time... using this different kind of bracket. The one I had chosen came from the Land of Carlsbad, California – of the House of Ortho Organizers. The mother wiped her tears, opened up her purse, and paid me the sum I ransomed to transform their smiles.

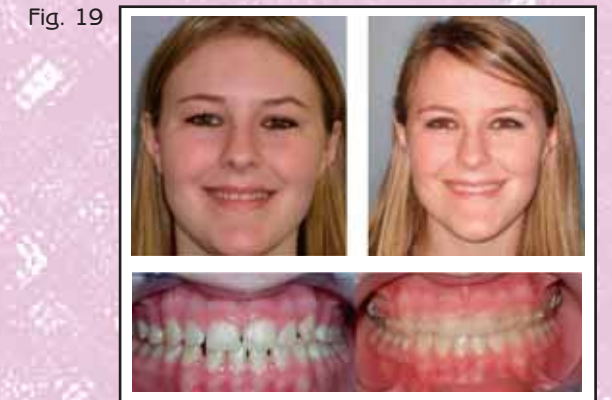
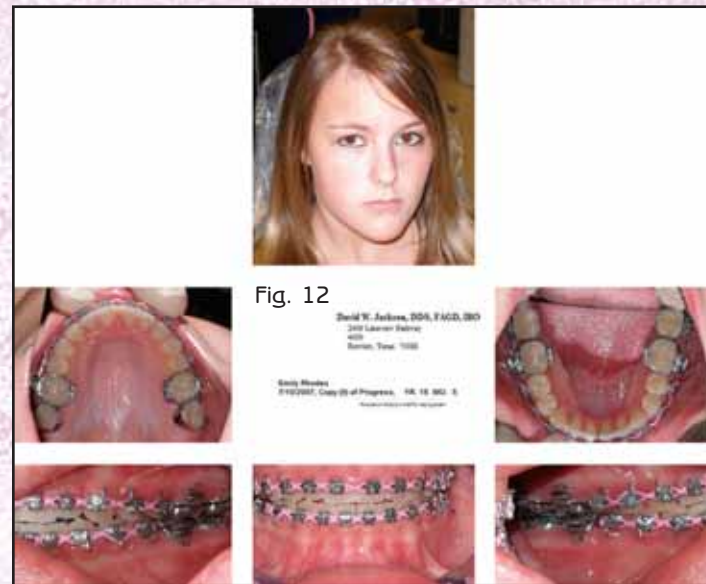


In June 2006, I began the metamorphosis of the ducklings to swans. (Fig. 4, 5) I found these new brackets from the house of Ortho Organizers to be of sound quality with the exception of one (UL2 of Allison) on which the sliding gate failed. With the aid of the self-ligating instrument again provided by Ortho Organizers, I found

lifting of the gates and closure of the gates to be of the greatest ease. I proceeded into month five. (Fig. 6, 7) I pleaded with the young ladies not to bind the brackets with Elastomerics, but alas, after much gnashing of "teeth" (as well as just a typical teenage attitude), I succumbed to their incessant whines. By month eight, I had much bite opening in Allison. I also began to close the spaces in Emily with power chain. (Fig. 8, 9) Time passed on. The movements of the teeth were delayed as the elastics negated the purpose of the natural sliding mechanics created by the bracket. Try as I might, I could not convince the sassy young ones to leave the elastics off. In months 11, 12 I continued this quest to make beauty more beautiful! (Fig. 10, 11, 12, 13) In Aug. 2007, I was able to place the younger child, Allison in sectionals and finish her case in September. (Fig. 14, 15) But the plight of the older fair maiden was not yet determined as the spaces were closing, but not closed. (Fig. 16) Her ordeal finally came to an end in October 2007 after wearing sectionals and cross arch elastics. (Fig. 17,18)

Both young ladies jumped for joy upon the sight of the side-by-side comparisons of their beginning and finishing smiles. (Fig. 19, 20) As they left my dwelling, a calm once again came over the office, my staff and myself. And they lived happily ever after... sort of.





IN SUMMARY

Self-ligating brackets have the advantage of creating sliding mechanics. There is simply no bind in the slot, which speed up treatment...unless one has to place elastomerics over the latches. Then this becomes a negative as chair time is lost from not only having to open and close the latches when there is a wire change, but also placing the elastomerics following the closure of the latches. I also found the shape of the Ortho Organizer bracket conducive to easier placement on the tooth. All in all, I feel self-ligating brackets have a definite place in orthodontics, especially in adults who do not want colors on their teeth!



Orthobites, a regular section in each issue of the Journal, is a combination of helpful hints in orthodontics, practice management "pearls," and a few personal thoughts now and then. If you have an idea or thought that might improve the practices or lives of fellow AOS/AGPO members, please share it with all of us. You may send your Orthobites to: Dr. David W. Jackson, 2409 Lakeview Parkway, Suite 300, Rowlett, TX 75088; Phone: 972.412.2828 To e-mail: drdwj@verizon.net Internet: www.orthoplusseminars.com or www.dentaldallas.com.



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