

# Placing piggy back: An easy way out

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## Abstract

Use of piggy back nickel-titanium (NiTi) archwire with stainless steel base archwire is often a part of an orthodontic treatment mechanics. Here is an innovative method for securing the piggy back.

**Key words:** Piggy back, archwire, orthodontics

## INTRODUCTION

Correction of certain malocclusions such as a single tooth cross bite and palatally or lingually placed tooth [Figure 1] often requires the use of piggy back NiTi archwire attached with a stainless steel base archwire. The placement of the piggy back NiTi is a cumbersome procedure. The following procedure provides a simplified method for securing the piggy back NiTi wire with stainless steel base archwire.



Figure 1: Malocclusion showing anterior single tooth crossbite

## PROCEDURE

1. Place elastomeric orthodontic separators between the canine and premolar/first and second premolars, with a portion of each separator extending above the occlusal surfaces [Figure 2].
2. Pass the ends of the NiTi wire through the separators so that the anterior segment of the wire is in passive contact with the bracket slot of the anterior teeth [Figure 3].
3. Ligate the instanding tooth (Central incisor) with ligature wire [Figure 4].
4. Place stainless steel base archwire above NiTi wire for stability [Figure 5].
5. After ligating stainless steel base archwire cut and take out the separators [Figure 6].



Figure 2: Elastomeric orthodontic separators between the canine and premolar

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**Figure 3:** Placing nickel-titanium wire through the separators maintaining passive contact with the bracket slot of the anterior teeth



**Figure 4:** Instanding tooth (central incisor) ligated with ligature wire



**Figure 5:** Stainless steel base archwire placed above nickel-titanium wire for stability



**Figure 6:** Separators removed

and removed after the engagement of the stainless steel base archwire.

## CONCLUSION

In this procedure handling of the piggy back wire becomes easier as it is engaged into the separators, which can be cut

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