

Adhesive remover: what's important?

Agnes Römeth describes the steps she takes to remove bracket adhesive from enamel



Figure 1: Disruptive adhesive residue deposits after bracket removal

The removal of the brackets is the 'bread and butter' of every orthodontic practice. The treatment date for removing the orthodontic brackets, after months of therapy, is an absolute highlight for my patients.

The removal needs to be quick and without any complications. The patient's primary hope is to find a smooth and undamaged tooth surface the first time they run their tongue over their teeth. These expectations can be met using the right instruments for removing adhesive residue, followed by polishing of the tooth surfaces.

In the interest of the patient and the practitioner it is essential that necessary steps are implemented efficiently and swiftly. The adhesive residue removal, in particular, requires specialist instruments that remove the adhesive residues quickly, whilst protecting the enamel.

Whoever handles the instrument for the first time will realise that it provides a completely new way of working

Firstly, I remove the brackets from the tooth, using the de-bracketing plier HSL 226-14 by Hammacher, which is aligned to the specific bracket. This usually separates the bond between the bracket and the glue, but not the adhesive residue from the tooth.

Adhesive residues remain on the tooth surface (Figure 1); these will have to be removed using a rotary tungsten carbide instrument. For this process, I exclusively use the Komet Adhesive Remover.

The instrument needs to respect the shape of the teeth, operate with a low vibration and achieve perfectly smooth surfaces. We are able to confidently and successfully implement the final step of the bracket treatment by using the following instruments at our practice.

Vestibular tooth surfaces

For vestibular surfaces, I use the Adhesive Remover H23RA (Figures 2 and 4). Whoever handles the instrument for the first time will realise that it provides a completely new way of working. The H23RA is a lot

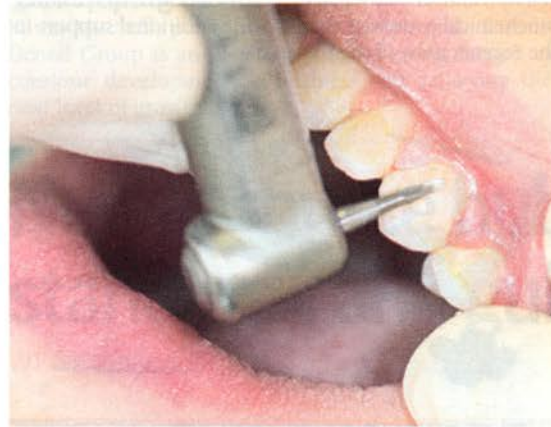


Figure 2: The solution: the fast and effective H23RA Adhesive Residue Remover (Komet)

more aggressive than conventional adhesive removers; the reduction of the adhesive residue is fast and precise, without the usual resistance. Therefore, the H23RA is particularly valuable and useful in the removal of large adhesive residues.

Figure 4: H23RA Adhesive Residue Remover



Figure 5: H379AGK Adhesive Residue Remover



Figure 3: The patient after successful treatment

Lingual tooth surfaces

For lingual surfaces, I use the Adhesive Remover H379AGK (Figure 5). The egg shape of the instrument adapts perfectly to the shape of the tooth. The reduction/removal of the adhesive residue therefore is very targeted (in the exact place) without the formation of any grooves and without damaging the enamel.

Special AGK instruments, developed in conjunction with Professor Dr Ralf J Radlanski of Freie Universität Berlin, are technically refined, which makes them indispensable in our practice: the innovative blade geometry guarantees precise reduction/removal even at very low contact pressure and with no damage to the enamel.

To protect the gingiva, all adhesive removers are provided with smooth, non-cutting tips (tip without blades). Furthermore, the AGKs have a safety chamber at the head end, which eliminates the formation of grooves on the tooth surface. I always achieve a very smooth tooth surface when removing adhesive residues.

For the final polish I use the prophylaxis polisher 9631.204.060 (Komet), as well as fluoridated polishing paste. In most cases, we also apply fluoridation with a tailor-made bar in order to truly appreciate the result together with the patient.

In summary

The biggest advantage that I can see, using the AGK Adhesive Residue Remover, is the precise and time saving cutting performance. This is very comforting for the patient and for me as the practitioner. The smooth running and low vibration of the AGK offers high treatment comfort. The AGK Adhesive Residue Remover brings more expertise into routine treatments. **D**



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Article source: Dr Agnes Römeth: KN Kompendium 2015, S. 42-43, Oemus Media AG, Germany.