



TP Orthodontics, Inc.

Business Solutions for the Orthodontic Practice

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SELF-ACTIVATING SAL® SYSTEM FROM TP ORTHODONTICS REVOLUTIONIZES RETAINERS

La Porte, Indiana, May 31, 2006. — NASA scientists were the first to discover that certain metal alloys change from one shape to another in response to temperature variations. This “Shape Memory Effect,” or SME, has been harnessed by TP Orthodontics to develop the SAL (Self-Activating Loop) Retainer System.

The SAL Retainer System uses labial bows formed from SME nickel-titanium wire. When used in the SAL Retainer System, nickel-titanium provides indefinite activation for upper or lower retainers and spring aligners.

According to TP Orthodontics Laboratory Services Manager, John Soplanda, the SAL retainer provides many benefits over traditional, stainless steel retainers. “If conventional retainers are not reactivated on a regular basis, the decrease in force will frequently result in anterior relapse,” he explained.

“Because nickel-titanium wire retains its shape,” he continued, “periodic adjustments are no longer needed when using a SAL retainer.” Retention checks are eliminated, chairside visits are reduced, and patients also experience less anterior relapse.

“It is possible to dismiss patients earlier since long-term stability of treatment results can be established earlier and maintained much longer,” Soplanda said.

In addition to its high-tech material properties, the SAL Retainer System can also be incorporated into a spring aligner or Hawley retainer. In these applications, the SAL System acts more like a tooth positioner than a traditional retainer and can be used to close slight spaces, correct anterior rotations and adjust buccolingual discrepancies.

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Since 1942, TP Orthodontics, Inc. has been a leading worldwide supplier of orthodontic supplies and services. In addition to its manufacturing plant and headquarters in La Porte, Indiana, TPO maintains

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distribution centers in Europe, Australia, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, and Japan. A joint manufacturing and distribution facility is located in China. A full range of orthodontic laboratory services is available from TPO facilities in La Porte, Indiana and Lodi, California.

Orthodontists around the world choose TPO brands for innovative practice solutions that no other manufacturer can match. From the Tooth Positioner of the 1940s to today's patented InVu® ceramic brackets, TPO products continue to revolutionize the orthodontic industry. TP Orthodontics, Inc. manufactures medical devices in compliance to FDA, ISO, CE, and CMDCAS requirements. Visit TPO on the World Wide Web at www.tportho.com.

SAL is a registered trademark of TP Orthodontics, Inc. and manufactured under US Pat #6,135,767. All other patents are pending.

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