

Important information about the

Pre-Finisher[®]
PREFORMED FINISHING APPLIANCE

Please Note:

The Pre-Finisher is not a tooth positioner. By definition, a tooth positioner is a custom-made appliance constructed over the models of a patient, on which one or more teeth have been rearranged. Even though a Pre-Finisher may resemble and initially act and hold like a tooth positioner, it cannot be expected to maintain detailed tooth positioning over an extended period of time.

Pre-Finishers are normally worn for a short period of time between the removal of fixed orthodontic appliances and the placement of a custom appliance, such as a tooth positioner or a retainer.

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The Pre-Finisher[®] — Effortless Detailed Finishing

Why not let the Pre-Finisher appliance do the work of detailed finishing for you?

Patients can look forward to getting fixed appliances removed earlier, and you'll appreciate the final results without doing the demanding, intricate work. Nothing could be easier! Near the end of treatment, remove fixed appliances, measure, and select a Pre-Finisher appliance from your in-office inventory kit — no impressions required.

- No laboratory wait; immediate delivery to the patient
- Corrects and relates teeth in both arches simultaneously
- Aligns, rotates and closes spaces
- Results in 2-3 weeks
- Sized in one-millimeter increments for precise fitting
- Soft, resilient, phthalate-free plastic and smooth edges increase patient comfort
- Optional seating springs facilitate proper placement and retention
- Economical — only one appliance needed

Asian Pre-Finisher appliances are specially designed to address common Asian dental anatomy traits:

- Increased incisal mamelon ridge definition
- Decreased clinical crown length

Suggested Applications for the Pre-Finisher Appliance

1. Use as an immediate finishing appliance to bridge the gap between fixed appliance removal and the placement of a custom appliance such as a tooth positioner or a rigid retainer. When used for this purpose, the Pre-Finisher is usually worn from one to twelve weeks.
2. Use as an adjunct to fixed appliance therapy: grinding away selected portions allows the Pre-Finisher to be worn over fixed orthodontic appliances as a way to discourage clenching habits. It can also act as an anterior bite-plane to encourage or permit bite-opening. When worn over existing appliances, a modified Pre-Finisher can also provide anteroposterior corrections to augment intermaxillary Class II or Class III elastic forces.

3. It can supplement fixed retention; the lower anterior sockets can be eliminated, and the Pre-Finisher can be worn over a cuspid-to-cuspid retainer.

This permits simultaneous corrections in the upper arch and improvements in the anteroposterior interarch relationships to help correct a relapse toward Class II or Class III malocclusion.



4. When properly fitted, the Pre-Finisher can be used as a pre-formed athletic mouth-guard. The soft, tough material provides comfort and protection. Anterior airways and optional seating springs encourage patient acceptance.

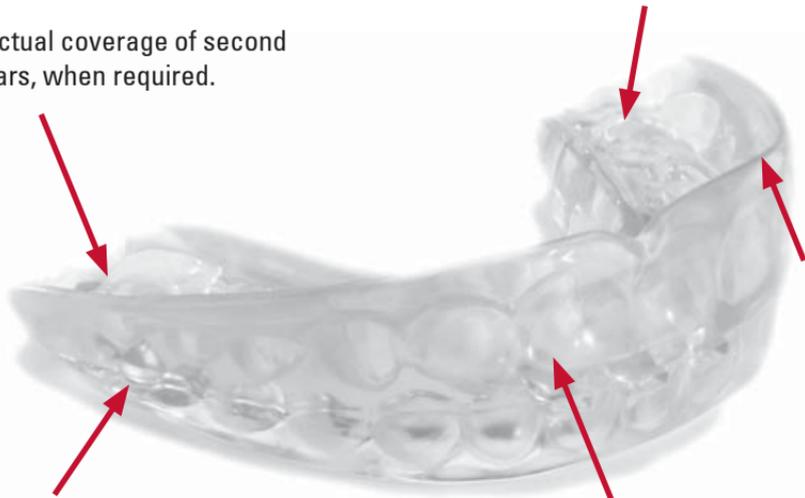
(Note: Safety straps of some type should be attached to the Pre-Finisher when worn during contact sports.)

Pre-Finisher Exclusive Features

Not available in any other pre-formed finishing appliance:

Available with or without seating springs.

Effectual coverage of second molars, when required.

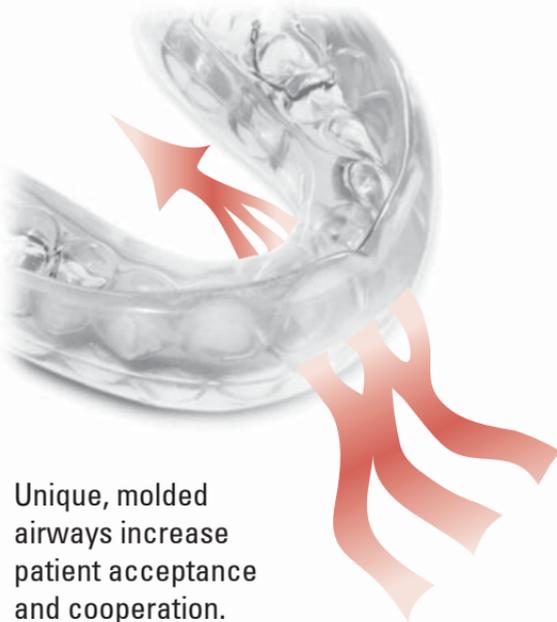


Smooth, rounded borders — no sharp edges.

Formed from soft, crystal-clear, phthalate-free, resilient plastic.

Relief for incisive papilla.

Accurate freeway space ensures maximum comfort and proper anteroposterior arch relationships.



Unique, molded airways increase patient acceptance and cooperation.



The last two digits of the part number are molded into airways of each appliance to indicate size in millimeters.

What the Pre-Finisher Does

When worn as recommended, a properly fitted Pre-Finisher can be expected to accomplish one or all of the following corrections:

1. Close all interproximal spaces (if total spaces are more than one millimeter in either arch, a Pre-Finisher with seating springs is recommended).
2. Align anterior teeth, space permitting.
3. Correct both anterior and posterior cross-bites.
4. Rotate central and lateral incisors, provided space is available.
5. Maintain or correct anteroposterior interarch relationships.
6. Level the Curve of Spee to help open deep anterior overbites.
7. Help close anterior or lateral open bites by preventing tongue thrusts.
8. Improve and coordinate dental arch form.
9. Discourage mouth breathing (in patients who have no actual nasal airway obstructions), bruxism, thumb-sucking, fingernail or lip biting.

Selection and Fitting Made Easy

Using the special disposable millimeter rule provided with each Pre-Finisher appliance, measure along the incisal edges of the six upper anterior teeth to determine their total width. The ruler is designed so it can be read on either the patient's right or left side, according to the preference of the operator.

First, choose the appropriate appliance type from the following series: Nonextraction, Four Bicuspid Extraction, Two Upper Bicuspid Extraction, Asian Nonextraction or Asian Four Bicuspid Extraction. Choose an appliance with a part number ending in two digits the same as the millimeter measurement. If there are band spaces to close, select a Pre-Finisher one size smaller.

For the patient pictured in **Figure 1**, with no band spaces (as would usually be the case with direct bonding), an appliance with a part number ending in "51" would be selected.

If this patient had four pre-molars extracted, a Pre-Finisher identified with the number "451" would be selected. The "4" indicates the Four Bicuspid Extraction Series with no springs. If seating springs were indicated, a "551" appliance would be chosen. The "5" identifies the Four Bicuspid Extraction Series with seating springs mesial to the upper molars.

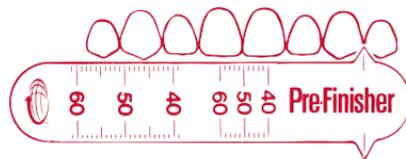


Fig. 1. Measure along the incisal edges. Width of six anterior teeth can be taken from condensed scale at middle, or from full-sized scale distal to the cuspid — in this case, 51 mm.

Fit the Pre-Finisher selected onto the upper teeth and have patient close firmly into the appliance. The cuspids should be tightly in contact with the distal surfaces of their respective sockets in the appliance. This can easily be determined by visual examination through the appliance, **Figure 2**.



Fig. 2. Desired cusp-socket relationships with fitting Pre-Finisher—pressure from appliance will urge teeth toward midline.

Of course, if spaces are to be closed between anterior teeth, it may be necessary to slightly stretch the appliance to achieve the desired cusp-socket relationships.

Pre-Finisher and Seating Springs

Initial size selection procedure is the same as that used for a Pre-Finisher without seating springs. Next, care is taken to seat one seating spring completely (usually on the left), and while holding the appliance firmly to place on that quadrant, stretch it around and seat the spring on the opposite side.

If no distal pressure is needed to seat the second spring (i.e., if the springs do not press against the distal surfaces of the bicuspid), then the springs may need to be modified. Bend the arms of the springs .5 millimeter, as shown in **Figure 3**.

This will effectively shorten the inter-spring arch length by one millimeter, and should result in the desired space-closing forces when the appliance is seated.

If bending the springs does not give the desired results, select a smaller size Pre-Finisher and repeat the steps above as required. Conversely, if it is not possible to seat both the right and left springs at the same time because the inter-spring arch length is too small, bend the arms of the springs distally approximately .5 millimeter.

After the patient has worn the Pre-Finisher and the spaces have begun to close, the springs can be returned to their original inclinations to “reactivate” the appliance.

Note: If one has not had experience with seating springs, the first thought may be that the arms of the seating springs are too long. Do not arbitrarily shorten these arms—they are designed to provide maximum retention and delivery of forces. The opposing arms of each spring are directed toward one another to place their retentive ball-ends in the gingival embrasure areas. If the end of a spring is causing discomfort, chances are it is not placed properly, or needs to be directed into the embrasure area. Check placement and bend the arm of the spring before cutting the arm shorter.

Note: If spaces in the upper arch total one millimeter or more, or increased retention of the appliance is desired, a Pre-Finisher with seating springs should be utilized.

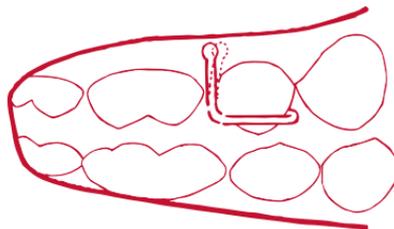


Fig. 3. Arms of seating springs can be bent mesially to increase space-closing forces.

Pre-Finisher Comfort and Fit

The Pre-Finisher can be made more resilient, and initial patient comfort aided, by immersing it in lukewarm water 15 to 30 seconds before placing. If this does not permit proper seating, choose the next appropriate size.

In the Pre-Finisher, socket depth is directly related to tooth width. This feature reduces the chances for impingement on the patient's soft tissues. However, it is recommended that all flanges be examined to determine any pressure points. These will be evident by blanching of the tissue when the patient clenches into the appliance. Small pressure areas can be relieved with an acrylic burr. Larger areas can be reduced with a carborundum wheel on a dental lathe.

The flanges may stand slightly away from the gingival tissue, especially in the upper anterior area. This is merely an indication of flared or excessively procumbent upper anterior teeth. As spaces close and/or teeth upright, the flanges will move closer to the gingiva. The Pre-Finisher is designed in this manner in order to reduce the possibility of tissue impingement as the teeth move.

If a Pre-Finisher is eliminated during fitting, it can be cold-sterilized (do not boil or autoclave), and placed back into inventory. Rinse thoroughly to clear all sterilizing solution from the anterior airways.

Pre-Finisher will fit most occlusions, either following the removal of fixed appliances or in nearly normal occlusions that have had no orthodontic treatment.

Exceptions would include:

- cases with tooth mass discrepancies
(one or more teeth that are relatively large or small)
- cases which exhibit unbalanced extractions
(only one tooth removed in one or both arches)

The Non-Extraction Series of Pre-Finisher appliances can be used on patients who have had the four first molars extracted. Also, the Four Bicuspid Extraction Series can be used when any combination of bicuspids has been removed, as long as one has been removed in each quadrant.

Even eight-tooth extraction cases (four molars and four bicuspids removed) can be finished using the Four Bicuspid Series. It may be necessary to trim off the distal ends — unless, of course, the third molars have erupted. These teeth would fit into the sockets normally occupied by the second molars.

Pre-Finisher and the Patient

Clearly explaining the proper use of the Pre-Finisher to patients can often mean the difference between treatment success or failure. Its design and function should be carefully explained. Include a parent if the child is young or seems uninterested.

Patient instructions are included with every Pre-Finisher appliance. Please give one set of instructions to each patient.

One wearing schedule requires 4 daytime hours of exercise wearing as well as overnight wearing. Exercise wearing means that the patient should close the teeth into the Pre-Finisher until muscle fatigue occurs, then relaxing with the teeth seated in the appliance. Note: The daytime (exercise) wearing schedule need only be 3 hours if seating springs are employed.

The patient should be examined 2 to 3 weeks after the appliance is placed. If results are satisfactory, exercise wearing time can be reduced in one-hour increments, and intervals between appointments can be lengthened by one week.

After 2 to 3 months, the successful patient will have achieved all desired corrections, and will be wearing the appliance one hour during the day and while sleeping.

Another suggested wearing schedule calls for the patient to wear the Pre-Finisher continually for the first two days — nearly 48 consecutive hours — with as much exercise wear as possible. The appliance is removed for eating only. After two days the patient is instructed to reduce wearing to 3 or 4 hours a day, plus all night.

The patient is seen in 2 to 3 weeks, and if the results are satisfactory, exercise wearing is reduced one hour each appointment, as mentioned above.

Of course, if after the initial wearing period no changes have occurred, the appliance has either not been worn enough, or worn improperly. In this case, repeat the wearing schedule.

Ordering the Pre-Finisher Appliance

The Pre-Finisher can be ordered in two ways: either assembled in convenient assortment kits or individually by item number.



Pre-Finisher appliances are available in five series:

- Nonextraction
- Two upper bicuspid extraction
- Four bicuspid extraction
- Asian nonextraction
- Asian four bicuspid extraction

Appliances can be ordered either with or without seating springs.

Order Pre-Finisher appliances online at www.tportho.com.

Note: The last two digits at the end of each item number indicate the size in millimeters.

Pre-Finisher Appliance Kits

To provide an immediate, balanced supply of Pre-Finisher appliances, the following kits are available.

Convincer Kits (10 assorted sizes)	Plain	With Seating Springs
Nonextraction	190-010	190-110
Four Bicuspid Extraction	190-410	190-510
Two Upper Bicuspid Extraction	190-210	190-310

Standard Kits (15 assorted sizes)	Plain	With Seating Springs
Nonextraction	190-015	190-115
Four Bicuspid Extraction	190-415	190-515
Two Upper Bicuspid Extraction	190-215	190-315

Thrift Kits (20 assorted sizes)	Plain	With Seating Springs
Nonextraction	190-020	190-120
Four Bicuspid Extraction	190-420	190-520
Two Upper Bicuspid Extraction	190-220	190-320

Individual Pre-Finisher Appliances

Nonextraction Series

Can also be used on first molar extraction cases. Nineteen sizes (40 mm to 58 mm).

Plain				With Seating Springs			
190-040	190-045	190-050	190-055	190-140	190-145	190-150	190-155
190-041	190-046	190-051	190-056	190-141	190-146	190-151	190-156
190-042	190-047	190-052	190-057	190-142	190-147	190-152	190-157
190-043	190-048	190-053	190-058	190-143	190-148	190-153	190-158
190-044	190-049	190-054		190-144	190-149	190-154	

Two Upper Bicuspid Extraction Series

Thirteen sizes (44 mm to 56 mm).

Plain				With Seating Springs			
190-244	190-248	190-252	190-256	190-344	190-348	190-352	190-356
190-245	190-249	190-253		190-345	190-349	190-353	
190-246	190-250	190-254		190-346	190-350	190-354	
190-247	190-251	190-255		190-347	190-351	190-355	

Four Bicuspid Extraction Series

Can also be used on eight-tooth extraction cases. Seventeen sizes (44 mm to 60 mm).

Plain				With Seating Springs			
190-444	190-449	190-454	190-459	190-544	190-549	190-554	190-559
190-445	190-450	190-455	190-460	190-545	190-550	190-555	190-560
190-446	190-451	190-456		190-546	190-551	190-556	
190-447	190-452	190-457		190-547	190-552	190-557	
190-448	190-453	190-458		190-548	190-553	190-558	

Asian Nonextraction Series

Designed to accommodate individuals with Asian dentitions. Eight sizes (48 mm to 55 mm).

Plain			
190-848	190-850	190-852	190-854
190-849	190-851	190-853	190-855

Asian Four Bicuspid Extraction Series

Designed to accommodate individuals with Asian dentitions. Fourteen sizes (44 mm to 57 mm).

Plain						
190-644	190-646	190-648	190-650	190-652	190-654	190-656
190-645	190-647	190-649	190-651	190-653	190-655	190-657



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