

## **POOR MAN'S IN-HOUSE FLIPPER**

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### **ABSTRACT**

It can be difficult to keep an edentulous horizontal space after orthodontic treatment in preparation for a permanent restoration. Traditionally, the orthodontist has maintained such a gap by wearing a Hawley retainer with an attached pontic full-time, but this method has drawbacks. Patients, for example, dislike the ugly metal labial bow, and the pontic commonly fractures off. Hence Pontic was included into the Essix retainer to eliminate this disadvantage. This clinical tip will show you how to make the Poor Man's Flipper step by step.

**Key words:**

Essix Retainer, Pontic, Flipper, Hawleys retainer.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

After orthodontic treatment, the space left by missing teeth must be preserved for prosthetic replacement, which necessitates a rehabilitative procedure wherein space can be replaced with a prosthesis once the orthodontic therapy is completed.

According to Kravitz N D In his clinical pearl, he discussed the in-office manufacture of flippers<sup>1</sup>, requiring a large amount of composites to replace a missing tooth, which is quite expensive thereby making it unaffordable for patients in developing nations. This clinical tip is a straightforward and clinical way for maintaining prosthetic space following orthodontic treatment by incorporating an acrylic tooth with the Essix retainers.

#### **Steps in Fabrication of Poor man's In-House Flipper**

**Step 1:** A post-treatment cast is made, and wax is applied to the missing tooth's area, which helps to secure the acrylic tooth. (A)



**Step 2:**A tooth made of acrylic is measured and placed on the location. (B)



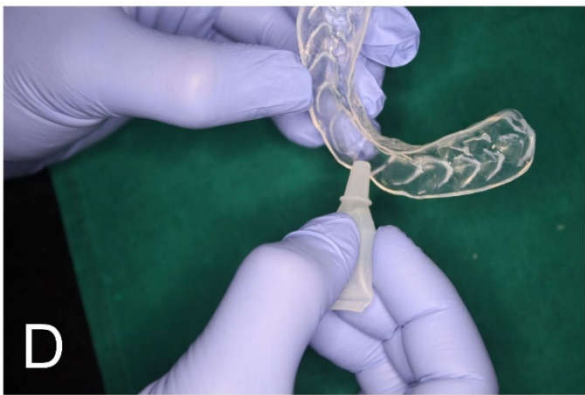
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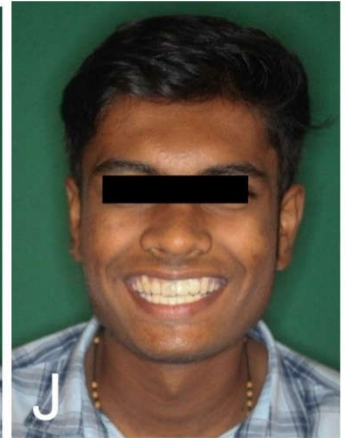
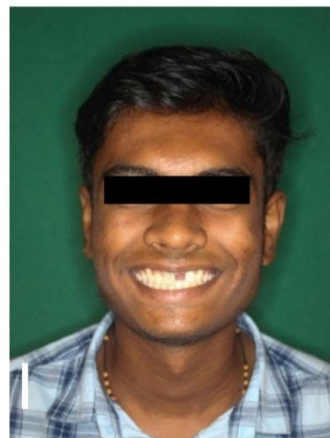
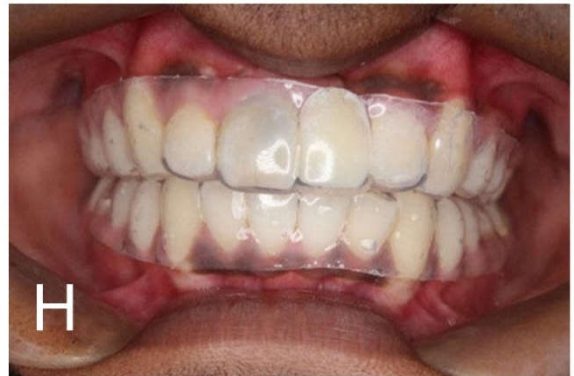
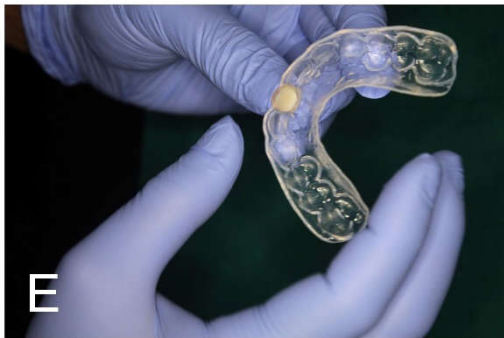
**Step 3:**The Essix retainer is made on the same cast as the acrylic tooth. (C)



**Step 4:**The acrylic tooth is removed after the Essix retainer is finished, and hydrophobic glue is applied to the proper location. (D)



**Step 5:**The acrylic tooth is restored to the glue application area and allowed to set. (E) The retainer is then examined on the cast (F) before being placed in the patient's mouth.



The missing tooth space was aesthetically maintained for one year after which patient decided to go for a Fixed prosthetic denture. (K and L)



Intraoral (G and H) and Extraoral pictures (I and J) of the Flipper.



## **CONCLUSION**

This redesigned retainer will assist clinicians and patients by acting as a transient substitution from the time of debonding to the time of prosthetic rehabilitation, allowing the patient's aesthetic and function to be preserved.

## **Reference**

1. Kravitz ND. In-Office Fabrication of a Flipper. *J Clin Orthod.* 2016;50(8):504-505.

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