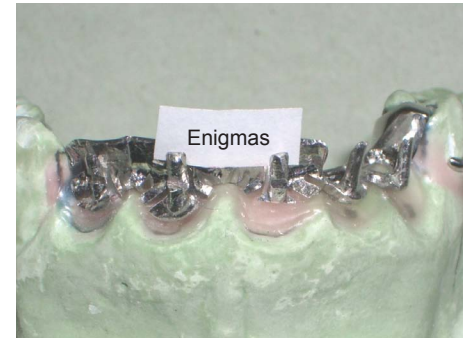


# Enigmas and conundrums

## Part 3 – Why Backings? Minimum space, Maximum retention!

By Jordan Nikoloski



In the previous Enigmas and Conundrums articles we discussed posts and mushrooms. Our focus will now shift to **backings**. I'm sure every one of you has seen a backing at least once.

First of all and most importantly, it is imperative that the correct centric occlusion is established and the teeth tried in, before the case is sent to the lab (saves mucking around later).

Whenever we are confronted by a deep overbite, high and narrow isolated anterior teeth, the need to increase occlusal

vertical dimension and establishing interference free lateral and protrusive movements and generally lacking space, requires the use of backings. Straight mesh or post retention won't do the job of stopping those denture teeth breaking off, backings will.

Backings allow the technician to achieve aesthetics whilst at the same time maintaining incredible retention which is protected by a thin cobalt-chrome occlusal contact.

Choice of teeth is critical. We need strong

teeth with enough density of colour. Teeth intended for backings need to be ground heavily on most occasions. For this case I have chosen Enigma teeth. Enigma teeth fill the demands that are placed on these heavy duty cases. With the extra benefit of having a softer internal layer and softer acrylic around the necks of the teeth make for a fail-safe chemical acrylic bond.

Enigmas and backings go together like peaches and cream.



Cut indexes into the refractory model, lightly vaseline and articulate which allows removal and placement of the model back onto the articulator.



Wax the casting base right up to the teeth. Place the key on the model and check for interference between teeth and wax.



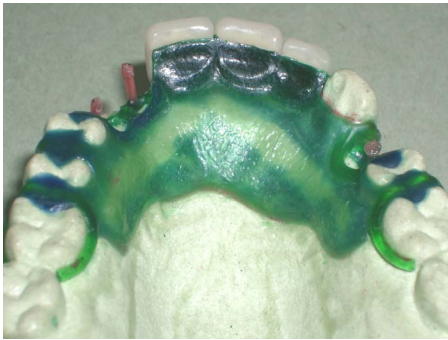
Brush wax separator onto teeth and key. Place key back onto model, flow carving wax into the key. Wax palatal contacts whilst checking the occlusion.



The key is removed after the wax up leaving the teeth in place. Note visible wax. Remove the teeth and trim excess wax which is visible from the labial aspect. This will leave sharp margins short of the gingival aspect of the teeth. Wax is easier to trim than cobalt-chrome.



Place the teeth onto the waxed backings and check for visible wax. Spot on!



Palatal surfaces, waxed and carved to occlusion. Note fit of the wax to the teeth. Complete the P/- wax up, sprue and cast.



Fit the casting, check and adjust the occlusion if necessary. You will find the teeth will fit straight onto the backings. Rubber and polish.



Retention is cut into the backings. Using a thin disk (0.3 - 0.6mm) separate down 1.0 - 1.5mm at the incisal of the backing.



Then cut vertically between the post and backing on both sides of the post.



Teeth are placed onto both backings and posts, ready for either try in or finish.



\* Acrylic Processing will be discussed in Part 4: Enigmas and conundrums.  
Next issue of eLaborate

#### About the author

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### Typo 3 Green

Smooth, non marking and very accurate  
- 0.1% expansion. Suitable for castings,  
acrylic work and opposing models for C&B.

Compressive strength - 9565psi (66MPa)  
25kg Bucket



High colour stability-Enigma  
Teeth.

### Ultimate - Lab Putty

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silicone material for a multitude of  
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