

## CLINICAL HINT: PARTIAL DENTURES

After a partial denture is worn for some period of time, the clasps tend to lose some of their resiliency and not prove as effective as when new. Instead of bending the clasp, consider improving the undercut in which they are engaged by altering the contour of the tooth surface. This can be done in 2 simple ways 1: by cutting the surface of the tooth to provide an indent which means altering the clasp by bending which is not ideal with cast metal or 2: by the addition of composite resin to alter the contour of the tooth as illustrated.

First it is necessary to mark the spot where the composite is intended to be placed. Fig. 1



Fig. 1

Secondly roughen the surface with a small diamond bur and etch the enamel. Figs. 2 and 3



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3

Thirdly place some flowable composite resin in the usual manner to a depth about 1 mm. Fig. 4.



Fig. 4

Fourthly, now the tricky bit. With a blue “Softlex”™ disc gently reduce the composite resin to a smooth mound and frequently test the retention afforded by the clasp. Keep polishing until the desired retention is achieved. Fig. 5.



Fig.5

The clasp may have to be eased over the composite resin prior to the polishing Fig. 6.



Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.

The completed restoration is high enough (approximately 0.25-.3mm.) smoothed to the surrounding tooth. Fig. 7.

The restorative composite material can be used instead of the flowable resin.

This can be repeated at subsequent 6 monthly or annual inspections.