

Achieving Appropriate Proximal Contacts – Part 2 Clinical Cases

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KEY FACTORS IN CHOOSING MATRIX AND WEDGE

- Distance between preparation and adjacent tooth
- Height of preparation

CASE 1 – ROUTINE CLASS II RESTORATION

- Replacing a failing composite with a concave profile with recurrent decay underneath
- Preparation:
 - Proximally, the buccal, palatal and gingival margins must all be open
 - Band must seat passively
- Placement:
 - Space between prep and the tooth about 1mm
 - Prep equigingival.
 - Dead soft matrix used with plastic wedge and separating ring (recommend 3D fusion ring from Garrison)
- Broad contact achieved

CASE 2 – COMPLEX CLASS II RESTORATION

- Premolar-canine contact
- Challenge in that the canine usually does not allow ring placement
- Placement
 - Distance between teeth < 1mm and quite shallow
 - Kidney bean matrix used - firm and do not have to worry about it distorting
 - Not possible to use a ring, so a wooden wedge is used
 - G rings can also be used in this case, but can get complicated
- Customizing the wooden wedge:

- Wedge inserted when prepping tooth
- When opening up the box, a little bit of the wedge is taken away
- The part of wedge that is taken away would've been sitting in the restorative space and the contour would be lost
- Nice contact achieved

CASE 3 – BACK TO BACK CLASS II RESTORATIONS

- Both teeth prepped simultaneously before the anesthesia wears off
- Both matrices put on at the same time
- Ring is not necessary if using a big wedge
- Plastic wedge used
- Once first restoration is complete, go back and polish/finish
- Now second restoration is a regular class II filling:
 - Dead soft matrix
 - Plastic wedge
 - Garrison ring

TOP TIPS

- Look at the distance between teeth – with a shallower prep can probably get away without using a separating ring. With a wider prep, a separating ring is necessary
- If you use a ring, use plastic wedges
- If you don't use a ring, use wooden wedges