

TIPS FROM OUR READERS

Technique for removing the stud attachment metal housing from an acrylic resin denture base



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Stud attachments have been used with tooth-supported and/or implant-supported overdentures for several decades. They are easy to use and provide retention and stability for implant overdentures.^{1,2} Such attachments include a metal housing for the retentive insert that engages the patrix attached to a tooth or implant.³ A metal housing with the retentive insert can be incorporated into a denture directly intraorally or indirectly from a stone cast.⁴⁻⁸ Accurate placement of the attachment into the overdenture is essential for patient comfort, function, and tissue preservation. If the pickup of the metal housing is inaccurate, the removal and insertion of the prosthesis becomes difficult. Such a condition dictates removal of the housing, which is conventionally done with an acrylic resin trimming bur. This technique may damage the metal of the housing. An alternative technique uses an electric soldering instrument to remove the housing,³ but this device may not be available. This report presents a straightforward technique for removing the metal housing along with its retentive insert from the denture intaglio.

PROCEDURE

1. Heat the tip of a wax spatula (GDC Wax Spatula).
2. Move the hot tip around the metal housing to create a trough by softening the acrylic resin (Fig. 1).
3. Use the tip of the spatula to lift the housing and remove it from the denture base (Fig. 2).
4. Prepare the denture base to repeat the pickup procedure according to the manufacturer's instructions.

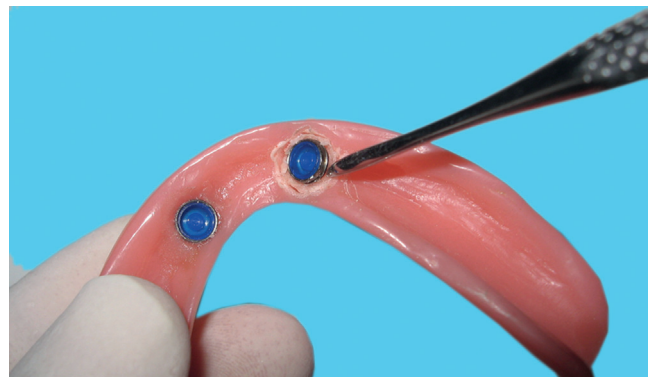


Figure 1. Hot wax spatula in trough around metal housing.

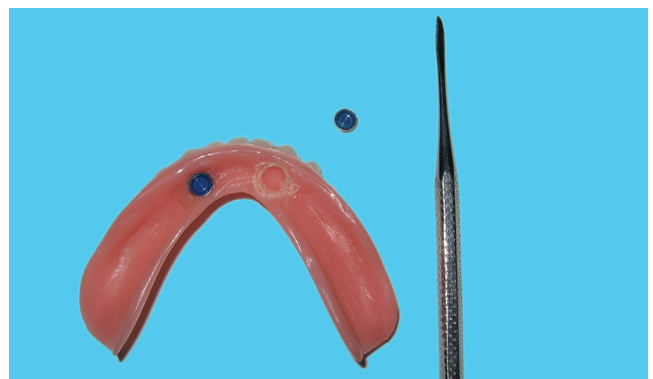


Figure 2. Removed metal housing with retentive insert.

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