

# STRIPPING IN VEGAS

Just the thought of cleaning up interproximal cement can bring a frown to our faces. It's always been a challenge for me. In the past I've used instruments that although small were relatively gigantic compared to the access I had. I've used interproximal ribbon saws with mixed success. Long and sharp I would often remove the stubborn cement along with some not so stubborn lip or cheek tissue.

AXIS has introduced a new system called Qwik Strip (figures 5 and 6). The nice thing about this system is its versatility and ergonomic design. Essentially there are metal blades within plastic handles providing the ability to have outstanding control. There are five color-coded abrasive strips (serrated, superfine, fine, medium and course). For typical clean-up I use the serrated design (figure 7) and if they did away with

the serrations I'd be pleased with that as the wedging action of the metal between the teeth is normally sufficient to remove the cement

The plastic handles have teethering holes (figure 8) through which floss can be inserted to prevent accidentally ingestion or inhalation of the Qwik Strip should it slip into the patient's mouth. Another function of the plastic handles is that they act as a stop to prevent laceration of the soft tissues (figure 9). One possible drawback with a long contact is whether the Qwik Strip can reach the gingival contact area, but so far it's worked well for me in every situation.

I've used the Qwik Strips in the anterior areas of the mouth all the way back to the distal of the second molars with great success.

Another use for the Qwik Strips is for interproximal reduction for Invisalign

or OrthoClear cases. In this situation it is recommended by AXIS that you begin with the QS-SF (super fine) then the QS-F (fine) grit, then the QS-M (medium grit) and finally the QS-C (course grit) strippers (figure 10).

The Qwik Strips are autoclavable, and, therefore, reusable.

During post-cementation clean-up, I inform the patient that they will be feeling a little pressure as we smooth off the space between the teeth. If informed beforehand, I find that most patients tolerate the use of the Qwik Strips quite well.

So here are two more great products that I would encourage you to try. Both provide solutions to everyday challenges and once incorporated into your practice may have you putting these two tasks on your top ten favorite things to do. Okay, maybe.

Take a look at these products. After you do I'd love to hear your comments. Your suggestions always are welcome – please send them to me at: [mmiyasaki@lvglobal.com](mailto:mmiyasaki@lvglobal.com)



Figure 5 and 6-Qwik Strips Assortment



Figure 7-Serrated edge

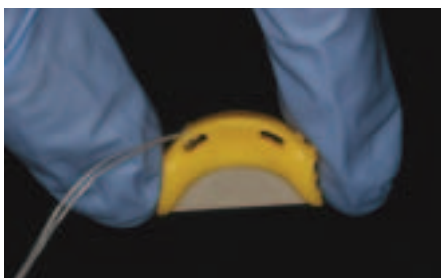


Figure 8-Teethering holes



Figure 9-Interproximal positioning



Figure 10-Course sided Qwik Strip