

Directa AB – a Swedish manufacturing and supply company that has dedicated itself to introducing innovative high quality useful products into the dental marketplace. Our products are developed and clinically tested by highly skilled and renowned dental practitioners, which has led us to adopt our new philosophy and motto – Design by Dentists.

Procedures such as Class II Filling, Matrix placing, Temporary Restorations, Core Build-ups and Fracture Free Extractions are some of the areas Directa AB has focused its resources on over the years. A number of highly innovative and unique dental products have come out of the research that Directa AB has done in these areas with its team of experts and consultants. FenderWedge[®] and FenderMate[™] are clear examples of the continuous effort to introduce better products into the dental marketplace. These two products have been making a big impact on global dentistry.

During Class II preparation there is a major risk of damaging the adjacent tooth. According to research adjacent teeth are damaged in up to 70% of all cases. Until now, known protection methods have the disadvantage that the shield loosens when the approximal contact point is cut away increasing the risk of accidental aspiration of the shield. The need for improved protection methods has led Directa AB to design and develop FenderWedge – A plastic wedge with an attached vertical stainless steel band (0.08 mm / 0.00315 inch width) that protects the adjacent tooth and at the same time separates the teeth for an optimal restoration of the contact point (Figure 1). The FenderWedge is securely held in place throughout the whole preparation.

FenderWedge is inserted into the approximal space as easy as any other wedge on the market (Figure 2). The FenderWedge jams into place securing the positioning of the vertical stainless steel band. As a result the band will not dislodge from its wedge as excavation for Class II occurs (Figure 3). As the wedge component of the FenderWedge creates interdental separation, the vertical steel band automatically establishes correct positioning for a good contact point. Certainly, FenderWedge is a product that is most useful when practicing minimally-invasive dentistry. The comfort of knowing that 0.08mm / 0.00315 inch of metal protection will help avoid needless damage to healthy teeth is simply priceless (Figure 4).

FenderWedge is available in four different sizes; X-Small (*Purple*, 1.0mm), Small (*Orange*, 1.4mm), Medium (*Green*, 1.9mm) and Large (*Yellow*, 2.3mm). They are packed in boxes of 36 pieces per size or in Assorted Kit of 144 (one box of each size). They are designed to accommodate all interdental spaces.

Choosing a matrix technique for normal sized Class II preparation often ends up with a sectional matrix for a good result. Most sectional matrix systems are applied starting with the placing of the matrix which is secured with a wedge of suitable size. The matrix is held against the tooth surface with a retentive ring which separate the teeth helping to create a good contact point. This is a functional but time consuming and complicated procedure.

In Directa's quest to design high quality useful products, the next logical step after the FenderWedge is the development of FenderMate, a revolutionary wedge and section matrix combined (Figure 5). The FenderMate offers a two-in-one step procedure like nothing else on the market. After pre-separation of the interdental space with FenderWedge, the FenderWedge is removed and replaced by the FenderMate (Figure 6). On insertion, the FenderMate's unique design forces the winged wedge to press the affixed matrix securely against the surface while adapting to the curvature the tooth. The matrix is then detached from the wedge and shaped around the tooth (Figure 7). The placement of the specially designed Directa retentive ring firmly secures the matrix creating further separation (Figure 8). Burnishing the matrix ensures the best possible contact point and finishes the application procedure (Figure 9). After filling the prepared tooth with composite and completing the procedure by light curing, the retentive ring, wedge and matrix are easily removed.

FenderMate is available in two wedge widths, Regular and Narrow, for both Left and Right applications. There is a collapsing "wing" which accommodates most approximal spaces. They are color-coded for easy identification and made from food-approved plastic (polypropene) and color and a 0.02mm / 0.0008 inch stainless steel matrix. The thinness of the matrix allows for easy shaping, burnishing and contouring to the patient's tooth. They are packed in boxes of 18 pieces per size (*Regular Right, Narrow Right, Regular Left and Narrow Left*) or in Assortment Kit of 64 (*one box of each size*). Retentive rings are available in a box of 6 pieces and can be heat sterilized or autoclaved.

The combined use of FenderWedge[®] and FenderMate[™] sets a new standard in dentistry with a tissue-friendly approach for the preparation and filling of Class II cavities. The FenderWedge protects the adjacent tooth and separates the teeth, thus creating a perfect contact point; while the FenderMate aids fast and efficient restorations with a one-piece wedge and matrix application.

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