

Standard Braces

For most people, orthodontic treatment is synonymous with braces. Dr Oliver uses braces to create great smiles with speed and precision.

Braces work by applying a constant controlled force to the teeth, to gently and gradually move them to their new position. Having braces fixed to your teeth will generally mean your teeth move to their ideal position as fast as possible.

Orthodontic braces have advanced in recent times, with modern braces characterised by small high-tech stainless steel designs. Braces are now more streamlined than their earlier counterparts, making them less bulky and noticeable.

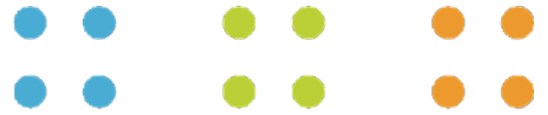
There are three main components to your braces: the brackets, the arch wires and the o-rings.

Brackets are the most visible part of the braces apparatus, and consist of a small metal component that is bonded to each tooth. Each bracket has a slot through which the arch wire runs.

The arch wire is used to control the movement of the teeth, and is secured to each bracket by an o-ring.

O-rings are small elastic bands that can be customised by the patient, with a wide range of colours to choose from, including clear and silver.

The nickel titanium arch wires that are used by Dr Oliver for initial alignment were developed by NASA to produce a very low, consistent force. By using these high tech wires in orthodontics Dr Oliver can move teeth efficiently and with reduced levels of discomfort.



Clear Braces

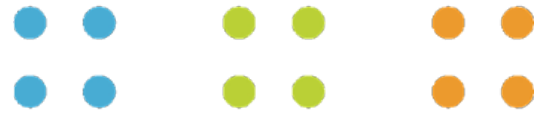
Taking the leap to correct your smile can be a big decision, but now with white ceramic braces from Oliver Orthodontics, you can enjoy inconspicuous treatment with the same fantastic results.

Also known as clear or white braces, ceramic braces are tooth-coloured rather than metallic, making them less noticeable than standard braces. Dr Oliver recommends ceramic braces to image-conscious patients who are concerned about the appearance of metal in the mouth.

There are several different types of white braces but Dr Oliver only uses braces with the latest ceramic technology to ensure they do not stain over time. White wires can also be used to ensure your friends can hardly see the braces.

Despite their subtle appearance, ceramic braces consist of the same components as conventional braces, and function in the same way. Through the application of gentle, controlled pressure, the teeth are gradually moved to their new position.





Lingual Braces

If you want to straighten your smile but would like to avoid the obvious appearance of orthodontic treatment, the answer could be lingual braces.

Dr Oliver is one of a select few practitioners in Australia who offer Incognito lingual braces, an orthodontic technique where the brackets and wires are placed on the back of the teeth, rather than the front. As a result, your braces are discreet and not visible. And you don't have to remove and replace your aligners every time you eat.

Lingual braces are as powerful as traditional braces, so they can treat all types of bites and complex treatments. As they're fixed onto your teeth, your treatment is working all the time resulting in reduced treatment time.

Incognito lingual braces use highly specialised 3D computer technology to custom make brackets and wires just for your mouth. This means your Incognito treatment is highly efficient at moving your teeth to provide fast results.

Because Incognito lingual braces are customised to your mouth, they have the lowest profile of all lingual braces, making them comfortable to wear.

Incognito is appealing to teenagers who want to straighten their teeth without their friends knowing they have braces. You can go to your formal and smile with confidence and still be straightening your teeth.

Incognito lingual braces are also great for alignment of the front teeth only. For this treatment option Incognito lingual braces can be a very cost effective and fast way of correcting your smile.



Functional Bite Correction

Orthodontics is about more than straight teeth: it considers the overall harmony of the bones, teeth, and soft tissues of the face.

Functional bite correction involves the use of a specialised dental appliance to alter the growth patterns of the jaw bones and improve jaw alignment.

By timing functional appliance treatment carefully, Dr Oliver can harness the power of natural growth spurts to achieve excellent orthodontic outcomes.

The two main types of functional appliances are the removable Twin Block device, made from acrylic and wire; and the fixed Forsus device, which is fitted to the braces.

Achieving correct jaw alignment through use of a functional appliance is a critical step in achieving a good treatment outcome and in some patients can reduce the need for future surgery to correct bite problems.



Expansion Appliances

For patients with an upper jaw too narrow relative to the lower jaw, an expansion appliance is often recommended.

Expansion appliances are used to remove cross bites at the back of the mouth to allow the lower jaw to bite correctly with the upper jaw, create additional space for crowded front teeth, and assist in creating space for impacted canine teeth and to improve the nasal airway space for improved nasal breathing.

One of the risks of not correcting a cross bite at the correct age is potential for asymmetrical lower jaw growth leading to an asymmetrical face as well as the potential for increased risk of temporomandibular joint (jaw joint) dysfunction later in life.

There are several types of expansion appliances. Removable plates may be used for younger individuals. For patients with some adult teeth a rapid maxillary expander is often used.

A rapid maxillary expander is fitted to the upper molar teeth and is activated once per day at home to widen the upper jaw bones. The appliance is very predictable at creating a larger upper jaw. The appliance is left in place for about 6 months to ensure the expansion is stable in the long term.

Expansion can also be used in adult patients although additional treatment is usually required to achieve skeletal expansion.



Removable Appliances

There are a large variety of removable appliances used in orthodontics, and they serve many purposes. For example, they are commonly used to align a few front teeth to correct a bite, or to push a tooth back into its proper position if an adjacent tooth has been lost early and there's some space loss.

Removable appliances are typically used in children and are custom made for each type of bite. Patients can choose between about 15 different colours and can have sparkles put into the appliance.

The success of removable appliances is highly dependent on the patient.

By closely following instructions for wear, the effectiveness of removable appliance therapy is likely to be high. However, where patient compliance is an issue, particularly when the appliance is removed too often or for too long, treatment can be less effective and take much longer to see results.