

Rick-A-Nator

Technical Bulletin

Opening or Establishing the Correct Vertical Dimension for Non-Compliant Patients

The Versatile Rick-A-Nator Has Many Uses.

The Rick-A-Nator is one of the simplest tools used in orthodontics. Its design comes in many forms, but the fixed type is the most common.

It can be used to open or establish the correct vertical dimension of a case. It is a fabulous adjunct to mandibular translation and Class II elastics. It is also extremely effective in treating TMD. It is an appliance that can simplify many orthodontic treatments.

Prior to Construction of the Rick-A-Nator.

Similar to any functional appliance, it is first necessary to properly prepare the maxillary arch.

Secondly, any discussion regarding orthopedic (functional) appliances must also involve airways. The patient cannot wear any functional appliance unless they are a normal nasal breather. Constricted maxillas and compromised airways must be corrected first. Some solutions include expansion or development of the maxilla, the treatment of allergy problems or surgical removal of the adenoids. In many cases, a consultation appointment must be made with an E.N.T. specialist. This problem must be addressed prior to the utilization of the Rick-A-Nator or any other functional orthopedic appliance.

Clinical Results of the Rick-A-Nator

- Advances the mandible
- Improves the profile
- Reduces the submental crease
- Corrects Class II skeletal to Class I skeletal
- Eliminates the deep overbite
- Re-establishes the correct posterior alveolar processes
- Eliminates the deep curve of spee
- Improves the health of the TMJ
- Moves the condyles closer to the Gelb 4/7 position

Rick-A-Nator Advantages

- Doctor has total control since appliance is fixed
- Can be worn with straight-wire appliance
- Very esthetic
- Easy to speak
- Worn 24 hours per day
- Patient acceptance is good

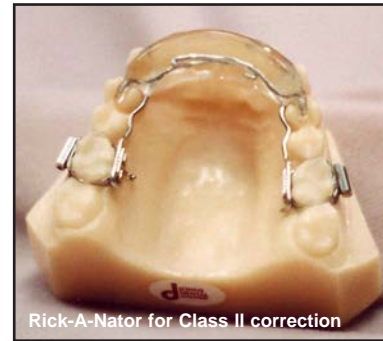
Rick-A-Nator Disadvantages

- Risk of appliance fracturing at lingual sheaths (if fixed-removable)
- Tissue irritation can occur
- Slight alteration of speech initially
- Lower anteriors sometimes become loose
- Spaces open up between upper and lower anteriors
- Increases lower face height

The Rick-A-Nator Can Be An Effective TMD Appliance.

Phase I therapy involves a splint to make the patient pain free. In Phase II, the Rick-a-Nator can be used with or without an inclined plane to place the mandible into the final stabilized position. Brackets are then used to align and support the dentition with the new occlusion. Trans-cranial or tomogram x-rays are used to verify this new mandibular position.

One side effect of the new mandibular position, however, is the presence of a posterior open bite.



Rick-A-Nator for Class II correction

This is our standard Rick-A-Nator made with an inclined plane to guide the mandible forward. Johns Dental will need upper and lower models and an advanced bite for an incline.



Rick-A-Nator for open bite

This Rick-A-Nator from Johns Dental works well for an open bite case without any class II correction.



Pioneers In Orthodontic Treatment

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Vol. 7, Number 4, July/August 1990
Author: Dr. Brock Rondeau

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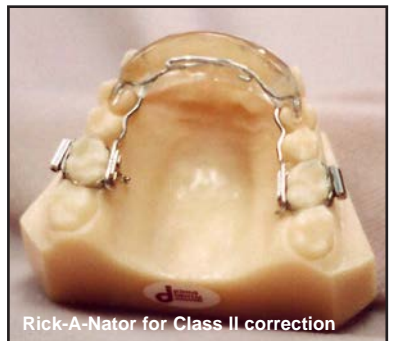
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