

THE GOAL

To make small adjustments for patient comfort.

THE ACRYLIC

Laboratory fabrication of The Moses™ appliance involves a preliminary step to block out all undercuts (both hard and soft tissue) before the acrylic is processed. Usually The Moses™ inserts immediately but occasionally slight adjustment is needed. A colored disclosing indicator such as Pascal Occlude is sprayed on the interior surfaces where The Moses™ would contact teeth and tissue. Where there is an interference the colored indicator spray shows clear from having been rubbed off. Interferences are removed with a small egg-shaped acrylic bur on a slow speed handpiece. It is very important that patients be able to easily and smoothly insert and remove The Moses™ by themselves. Patients should be carefully queried to make sure the appliance is not irritating their soft tissue before they leave and instructed to come in immediately for adjustment if they develop a sore spot, jaw pain or sore teeth.

THE JACK SCREWS

The Moses™ appliance is adjustable by the doctor for anterior mandibular movement. The appliance has two jack screws built in – one on each side. They must both be adjusted together for anterior movement. Each turn of the jack screw from bar to bar advances the mandible approximately one-quarter millimeter. Six additional millimeters of anterior movement is possible.

The starting bite position for The Moses™ appliance is the maximum comfortable protrusive jaw position. It is recommended that patient comfort be a consideration in further anterior adjustment. As the patient wears The Moses™ appliance, tight muscles may lengthen and ligaments may stretch, and the appliance may need to be advanced to control snoring. The appliance should never be adjusted to a position in which the patient is uncomfortable, either wearing it or in the morning after awakening.

