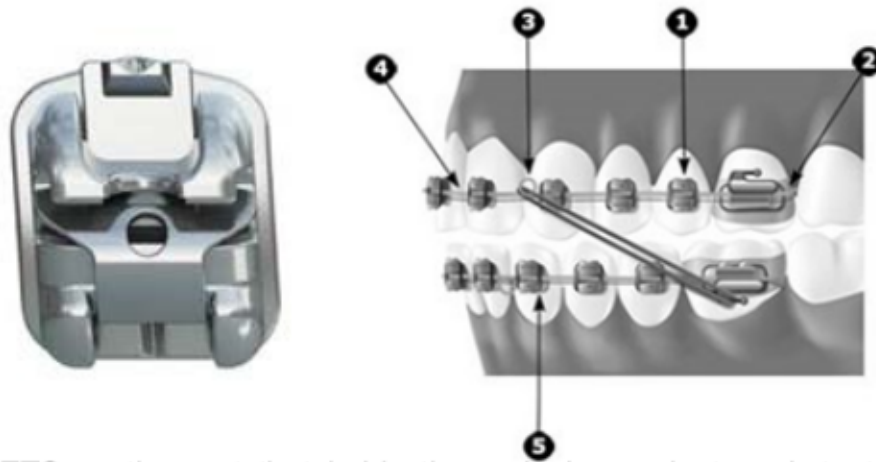


Braces And Wires



1. **BRACKETS** — the part that holds the archwire against each tooth. The archwire fits into a slot in the bracket. Brackets may be attached directly to each tooth or to a band.
2. **BANDS** — are a ring of metal, which fit around the back teeth (molars and sometimes pre-molars). Each tooth has its own shape and size. The bands are selected from a range of sizes. The aim is to select the tightest fitting band. The bands are sealed in position using a dental cement (like glue) containing fluoride to prevent any decalcification during treatment.
3. **HOOKS** — small attachments on the brackets used to attach elastics (rubber bands).
4. **ARCHWIRES** — the main wires or arch wires are shaped specifically to fit around the arch into the bracket slots. Teeth move from the pressure that is applied through the braces. That pressure comes from the archwire, which guides the direction of movement. Note that the archwire is held in place by a series of small rubber rings or a metal door that engages the archwire into the bracket. ANY ADDITIONAL BENDS CAUSED BY LACK OF CARE IN EATING MAY ALLOW THE TEETH TO MOVE IN THE WRONG DIRECTION.
5. **SELF-LIGATING BRACKET** — recently, methods and materials have been perfected that allow braces to be used without elastic or steel ties. The wire is held in the bracket by a hinged door. This technology creates less friction and results in greater comfort to the patient.

If a bracket breaks, do not panic. This is not an emergency. Call our office and we can schedule you to come in and get it repaired. If a wire is poking and bothering you, please call our office so we can adjust the wire and make you comfortable.