

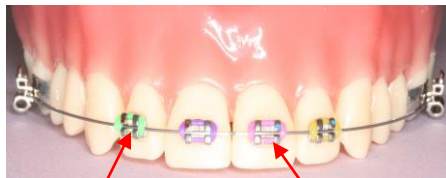
## 2 x 4 OR 2 x 6 (PARTIAL BRACES)

### What do they do?

Partial braces are placed on the upper **or** lower teeth to provide some early aesthetic correction or functional problems such as crowding, excess spacing or cross-bites related to the front teeth. Usually we are waiting for remaining adult teeth to erupt. When a full complement of adult teeth is present, full braces would then be introduced.

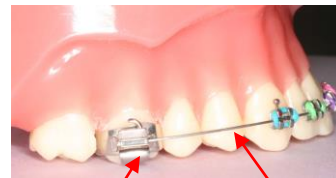
### What do they look like?

- Partial braces are comprised of brackets on the back molars and on the front four or six teeth.
- A horseshoe shaped wire (archwire) is seated into the front brackets and anchored through the molar brackets.
- Alastics or steel ties surround the front brackets to keep the wire in place.



**Brackets**

**Alastics**



**Bands**

**Archwire**

### How long will I wear them?

- Partial braces are generally worn for 6-12 months however, treatment length will vary with each individual case and complexity. Your orthodontist will keep you informed as to your progress.

### What are responsibilities for a successful treatment?

- It is normal for your teeth to feel sore for a few days to a week. You may take an anti-inflammatory (Ibuprofen) as needed to help you adjust.
- You may have difficulties chewing in the first week while you are adjusting to your new braces. Softer foods that are cut into small pieces will be the easiest to eat. It should help to know that these eating challenges will reduce as your bite improves.
- Avoid any hard, sticky foods or food high in sugar while the braces are in place.
- It is important that you clean your teeth, brackets and bands thoroughly after eating. Please refer to our "How to Clean Your Braces" document.
- Check your brackets and bands daily to make sure everything is still securely in place.
- Please contact our office should anything become bent, loose, breaks or if it is lost.