

Pontic Design

Factors for consideration:

- Cleansability
 - Should be smooth, polished and glazed.
 - The metal connector between the metal wing and the pontic should be at the contact point to allow adequate embrasure space for cleaning.
 - The same applies for the contact between the pontic and the adjacent natural tooth.
 - Embrasure space should be smooth and cleansable.
- Aesthetics
 - Anterior: Labial surfaces must be aligned with the adjacent teeth and symmetrical to the contralateral tooth. In high smile line cases, consider lowering the connector to reduce the embrasure space (black triangles), however, ensure oral hygiene is reinforced.
 - Posterior: Aesthetics may be compromised to promote oral hygiene.
- Strength
 - A greater pontic thickness (design C and D) is required for longer spans.

Design	Description	Areas utilised
Wash-through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No contact with the soft tissue Functional rather than for appearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower molars
Dome-shaped	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point contact with the soft tissue Aesthetically unpleasing in high smile line cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used for lower incisor, pre-molars or upper molars
Modified ridge lap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buccal surface flush with gingiva Palatal/lingual is cut away for cleansability Problems with food packing on palatal/lingual surface can occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate-low smile line anteriors
Ridge lap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleansable if designed carefully Less food packing compared to modified ridge lap Greatest contact with soft tissue Avoid blanching and displacement of gingivae 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long span anteriors High smile line anteriors
Ovate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presses into the ridge to create the illusion that the tooth is emerging out of the gingiva Not utilised commonly by clinicians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long span anteriors High smile line anteriors