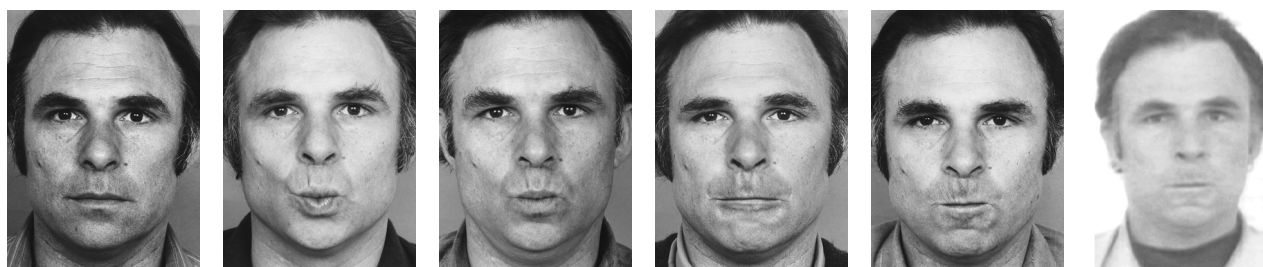## *Action Unit Combination – 18+23*

A. Appearance Changes due to AU Combination 18+23

The product of the joint action of 18 and 23 produces a new appearance, which is not simply the combination of the appearance associated with each component.

1. Constricts the mouth opening, de-elongating the mouth.

2. Makes short wrinkles on the skin above the upper lip and a small bulging of the skin below the lower lip.

3. Narrows the red parts of the lip, tightening the lips and skin adjacent to the lips and pulling the lips medially.

These appearance changes are the result of the medial pulling action of 18 and the tightening action of 23. The addition of 23 to 18 prevents the lips from coming forward as they do in 18 alone. The addition of 18 to 23 causes the lips to be shorter they are in 23 alone, as they are pulled medially by 18. Compare images 18i, 18ii, and 23 with 18+23. Inspect the video of 18+23. 18+23 can occur with the lips parted and is scored as18+23+25.

| 0 page 465 | 18i page 491 | 18ii page 491 | 23 page 492 | 18+23 page 496 | video 18+23 |
| page 381 for score | page 406 for score | page 407 for score | page 407 for score | page 411 for score | page 428 for score |

B. How to do AU Combination 18+23

Follow the instructions for making AU 18 and AU 23, which are repeated below. Say the word "fool" (18) and observe your lips when you say the "oo" sound, then tighten the lips (23) as much as you can.

AU 18 (repeated from page 233): This movement is easy to make. Try pursing your lips, try puckering-up as if for a kiss or an imitation of a kiss where you are going to make a puckering sound. Speak the word "fool", holding your lips in the vowel position.

AU 23 (repeated from page 237): This movement is not easy to make. Tighten your lips. Make them thin and tense. Be careful not to press them together (AU 24). Concentrate just on your lips. If you have difficulty, try tightening your lips and pressing them, then release the press holding the tightening action. You may have done or seen this movement when using the phrase "Zip your lip."

C. Intensity Scoring for AU Combination 18+23

The intensity criteria for AUs 23 and 18 are modified from the criteria for their individual action. These criteria are presented below for combinations in which the component actions are at roughly the same intensity, but any combination of intensities can occur in this combination, and you must consider the relative contribution of the separate AUs in the combination you score against the criteria listed below. AU 18 dominates the appearance changes due to 23, so in scoring 18+23, look for the tightening and narrowing of the red parts of the lips, which 18 does not produce.

AU 18A+23A

The appearance changes for AUs 18+23 are sufficiently present to indicate AUs 18+23, but are insufficient to score 18B+23B (e.g., *slightly* de-elongated mouth and *markedly* tightened, narrowed lips).

AU 18B+23B

1. *Marked* change in the size of the mouth – it is de-elongated by a medial pull of 18.
 and

2. *Pronounced* tightening of lips and wrinkles or bulges in skin above or below lips (18 contributes to this also and therefore this sign alone is not sufficient to score 23 with 18).
 and

3. *Pronounced* narrowing of the lips.

AU 18C+23C

The criteria described for 18B+23B (shortening, tightening, and narrowing of the lips) are all in the *severe* range, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 18D+23D.

AU 18D+23D

The criteria described for 18B+23B (shortening, tightening, and narrowing of the lips) are all in the *extreme* range, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 18E+23E.

AU 18E+23E

The criteria described for 18B+23B (shortening, tightening, and narrowing of the lips) are all in the *maximum* range.

If the criteria for 23 are met on one lip but are totally absent on the other lip, score as T23 or B23. Unilateral 23 cannot be scored in a single lip.

Note, the criteria for either 18 or 23 are quite different if there is no influence of the other AU. If 18 is scored on one lip and 23 on the other, you have to use the criteria for scoring the component AUs alone.