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Fundamentals of orthodontic bracket selection: a user guide, 2nd edn. (2009)

Author: John C. Bennett
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This thin hardcover book leaves the referee with mixed feelings. On the one hand, it gives a good overview about what makes a good orthodontic bracket; on the other hand, the author seems to be biased towards conventionally ligated brackets of one particular prescription. It can be confirmed that commercial promotion of self-ligation has no scientific basis, but randomized clinical trials, most of which are not cited in this book, show that self-ligation, if not better, may not perform worse than conventional appliances. It has been proven that friction is not an issue, as the author puts it, and that slot accuracy is of great importance. The author, however, doubts the versatility of self-ligating systems and the possibility to use bracket positioning gauges with some self-ligating bracket designs, claims that seem incomplete without mentioning the corresponding bracket types. An important issue discussed by the author is the much higher cost of self-ligating brackets.

In summary, this book gives a good review on bracket requirements but seems to emphasize the advantages of conventional appliances too much. Still to be recommended to postgraduate students and orthodontists that consider switching to self-ligating appliances.

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