

Dr. Hayes' Top Five	When did you start using it?	Why can you not live/work without it?	When do you use the item?	How do you market it to your patients?	If you could change anything about the item, what would it be?
Forestadent 2D Lingual Brackets – 3rd Generation	2008	They are a huge improvement in comfort for the patients. They're only 1.3mm thick!	I use these as alternatives to aligners, for simple cases, retreats, or limited tooth movement cases. I no longer use spring retainers.	I ask them whether or not they would like people to see their braces – it sells itself.	This self-ligating mechanism uses clips that are welded to the base. I love the simplicity, but occasionally the weld breaks and the brackets need to be replaced.
Cross Tubes – DynaFlex Orthodontics	2005	They allow me to apply forces to a specific tooth and brace it against an entire segment of an arch. They can be placed anywhere on the archwire, so you are able to be specific about the positions of force applications and control the magnitude of the moments and forces.	Molar uprighting, unilateral molar cross-bite correction, sliding mechanics of multiple teeth with miniscrew anchorage, attaching auxiliary springs with very specific force vectors, custom power arms – literally anywhere and everywhere.	–	A bi-dimensional one for sliding wouldn't be a bad idea.
Orbit Mini Temporary Anchorage Implant Screw – G&H Wire Co.	2008	It's a very universal screw. You can use it as a simple anchor, take advantage of the bracket slot or use the "hole in neck" for ligatures or larger diameter wires (up to 0.020").	Occlusal cants, maximum anchorage retraction, protraction or uprighting of a collapsed posterior segment.	I just talk about indefinite treatment time frames versus more definite time frames using a screw.	No complaints.
Mini-Mold Kit – DynaFlex Orthodontics	2004	It's quick, simple, and they just work. As an auxiliary they are much less prone to breakage when compared to a conventional buttons or bite ramps because there is only one interface to fail vs. two with all other systems.	I use them daily for opening bites of Class IIs or IIIs, and bonding buttons. The clear buttons are a very good option for elastics with the lingual patients.	–	I wish I had thought of it.
Dolphin Imaging Treatment Simulation Software	2004	It's an accurate predictor of orthodontic movements both with skeletal anchorage and orthognathic surgery.	Skeletal anchorage, orthognathic surgery or functional appliance cases.	I show the patients their treatment simulations and it helps to understand the problems and treatment goals.	They've thought of pretty much everything.