Spring Retainers

These appliances can be used both for active and passive applications. In their active application they are used to make minor corrections in the alignment of anterior teeth. This is achieved by the lab cutting out and resetting the desired anterior teeth on the work model prior to fabrication of the appliance. A spring mechanism is then built into the design of the appliance which provides a force in the desired areas until the teeth are in ideal alignment. In their passive application they are used (like basic retainers) to hold the position of the teeth. When prescribed in this manner, the idea usually is that the appliance will become active should the patient neglect to wear the retainer long enough for the anterior teeth to move. The spring mechanism will apply force to the teeth that have moved when the patient resumes wear of the appliance.
**Modified Spring Retainers:** The Modified Spring Retainer uses a staple shaped spring mechanism and a bow with labial acrylic to apply force in the desired areas. This design is relatively rigid and is only capable of very minor corrections, but is less prone to breakage than the more flexible designs.
**Plus 2 Spring Retainers:** This appliance provides a greater degree of flexibility in the spring mechanism and plate design than the modified spring retainer making it a better choice for more extensive corrections to the anterior teeth. A mushroom shaped spring is used to apply force from the lingual side and the palatal acrylic is eliminated from the plate allowing the posterior portion of the appliance to flex when inserted.
**Super Plus 2 Spring Retainers:** A variation of the Plus 2 design which provides additional flexibility from the labial side by incorporating helical springs into the loops of the labial bow. This design is a good choice when a good deal of the force required to align the anterior teeth must be applied from the labial side.

Maxillary Super Plus 2 Spring Retainer

Mandibular Super Plus 2 Spring Retainer