Tofflemire and Matrix Band Assembly

A matrix band is used when doing interproximal restorations. Simply put, its purpose is to keep composite from coming in contact with the adjacent teeth. It forms the interproximal wall.

Materials
Tofflemire (Also known as Matrix Band Holder, Matrix Retainer)
Matrix Band
Wedge

To place the band, turn the long knob to move the locking vice all the way down to the head of the retainer. Then turn the short knob to loosen the retaining screw. The retaining screw should disengage from the sliding body.

The matrix band gets GENTLY folded to create a loop. Observe that one end will appear wider than the other.

(Keep in mind that the OPEN end of the holder will always face the gingiva. Smaller circumference of the band will be placed toward the gingiva.)

Place the band in the holder with the holder end making an ‘n’ shape and the band with the wider end facing up. (See image on the right.)
Place the two ends of the band into the slot of the locking vice with the occlusal edge of the band facing the retainer.

Depending on the tooth, the matrix band will get moved to either side. Keep in mind that the tofflemire cannot sit inside the patient’s mouth, so it must sit on the buccal side. It also cannot go back into the patient’s throat, so it must be in the correct direction to face the other way. A tofflemire set up correctly for the UR can be flipped to fit the LL. A tofflemire set up correctly for the UL can be flipped to fit the LR.

There are two knobs on the tofflemire. The long knob changes the diameter of the loop and the short knob locks the band in place. Once the band is in place, and facing the correct direction, turn the short knob to lock it into place.