



Ask the Lab



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Chairside Tips - Helping the Lab Help you

Over the years I have worked on cases that I knew were likely to encounter difficulties that were avoidable. Often a few simple tips can make all the difference between success and failure.

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Anterior Cases Involving 2 or more teeth.

Before numbing the patient...

- Take full smile photo with lips unretracted and teeth slightly apart to show the occlusal plane and incisal length in relation to the lips.
- Take impression for pre-op and/or post-op full arch study cast to demonstrate desired incisal edge position.
- Discuss improvements to be made with the patient. Note changes on the laboratory work order.

Impressioning

- **Subgingival** - Impression material must capture tooth structure below the margin to enable the technician to clearly identify the margin finish line during the die trim procedure. We encourage dual cord or similar techniques. The success rate of the dentist/technician team will be substantially lower with cordless techniques on cases involving subgingival margins.
- **Prior to impressioning**, please polish rough proximal contacts.
- **Quadrant** impressions should include cuspid at a minimum. (to midline is best).

Photography

- Provide photos for any restorations requiring characterizations, such as crazes, cracks, white decalcification, color streaks, color bands, color blotches, or areas with varying levels of opacity or translucency.
- When taking pictures, position shade tab so incisal edge of tab is opposing incisal edge of tooth. (Include tab shade# in photo.)

Bite Registration

- A centric occlusion bite registration, limited to only the preparations and opposing dentition, allows for visual verification of centric occlusion at the remaining unprepared dentition. Use a firm, flexible material such as 3M Espe Ramitec.

Veneers and All-Ceramic Restorations

- Take stump shade to enable ceramist to determine the level of porcelain opacity needed to insure the correct shade of the restoration is not altered by the underlying tooth structure after seating.

Shade Taking

- Take shade at the beginning of the appointment while teeth are fully hydrated.

Draw

- Please check for overhanging proximal teeth that prevent proper draw, especially in the lower arch where excessive Curve of Spee may be present. Remove the overhanging contact area and polish smooth.

