

Best Practices

FOR SHADE COMMUNICATION



Take these lab photos



Full face



Before



Prep shade (stump)



After



1. Check your environment & lighting.

Avoid unwanted glare on shade tabs and teeth. Close the blinds on big windows facing the patient or turn your dental chair.

2. Raise your dental chair to the height of your patient.

With the patient sitting upright, raise the dental chair so the photographer is at or near the height of the patient. This will reduce unwanted glare from the ceiling lights and help control the angle of the camera to the teeth. Consider using a hand-held diffuser (Neewer SKU:10078408) over the patient's head if the glare is from bright ceiling lights.



3. Record the name of your shade tabs.

Select two shade tabs (one is ok, two are better) that are the closest shade to the tooth and take a photo of them.

4. Retraction and choosing the correct tooth.

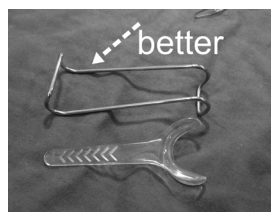
Too often, a photo of the wrong tooth or no tooth is made, or it is not fully seen. Have the patient open slightly with the incisal edges slightly apart. Square up to the tooth and make sure the lip or fingers are out of the way. If the tooth being restored is a canine, try and shoot the contra-lateral one because often they are lower in value than the other teeth. As you move posteriorly, use metal wire retractors, avoiding ones with half wings. Winged retractors may block vertical plane placement.



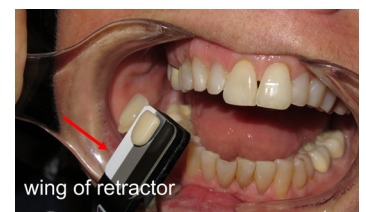
No tooth



Good example



On top, wire retractor

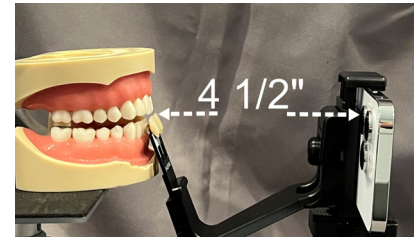


Winged retractor



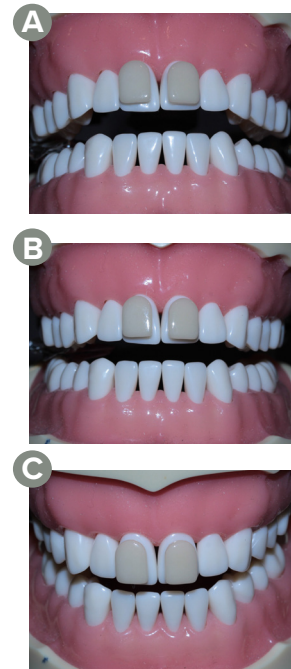
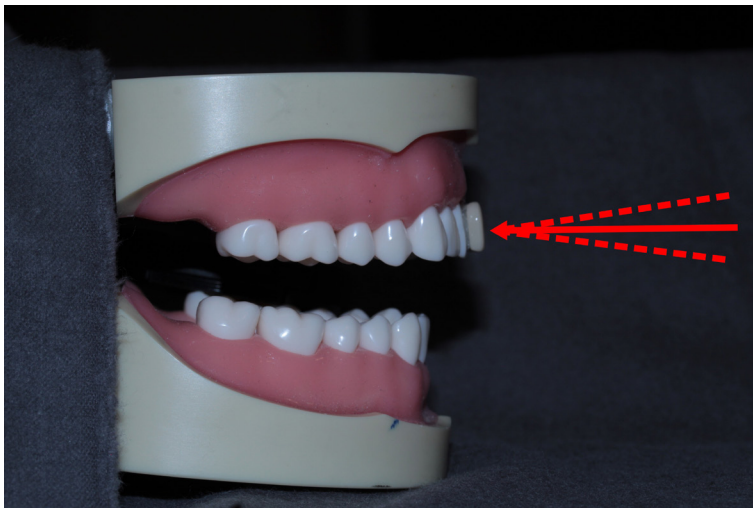
iPhone Mobile Camera.

Ideal distance for anterior teeth is about 4 1/2 inches (4-5 inches). For other clinical cameras, move further or closer so you see approximately 8 teeth.



5. Central incisors.

For single or both central incisors: take 3 photos. Inferior (top right photo, camera low, look up, figure A), Normal (straight on, figure B), Superior (bottom right photo, high, looking down, figure C).



6. Shade tab placement.

Place your shade tab incisal edge to incisal edge and on the same vertical plane as the tooth (figure D). If you lean the tab slightly in, toward the patient, flash glare will be eliminated or reduced. On mandibular (lower, figure E) teeth, hold the shade tab horizontally and rotate the tab maintaining incisal edge to incisal edge of the tooth.



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