

January 2020
Newsletter

Smile Design Center

Implant Specialists - Home of the Flex Temps

Jade
DENTAL LAB

2020! Can you believe 2020 has arrived. It seems that the year 2000 was not long ago and 2010 was just yesterday. The movement into technology has been booming in the past two decades and the dental field is no different. Most dental schools today have students learning to scan and mill their units, and some are even very involved in implant placement. The challenge for all offices will be to move forward and still provide excellent dentistry.

Remember, new is always better for the patient. As a lab technician I see a need to blend both the craft of old school with new technology. We see some cases that we can improve on in non-ideal situations and still get a case to mill.

Shading to me is still the one item that I am forever working on. Getting the right materials and testing out new materials. I sense that this will be a great year for the dental business. The patients I meet are very knowledgeable about dentistry and there are more options to meet their needs. Unfortunately the variety of options are getting to a point that it is almost overload. Case in point is screw retained crowns and angle cases. Good luck explaining all the options. Most technicians are confused too.

Have a great year and enjoy your work! Dentistry is a great, fun field to be in.

Sincerely,

Paul Ema, CDT, President of Jade Dental Lab

SP Alloy !! Speaking of Old School, we would like to announce a new Sp alloy that we are trying out. It is composed of Platinum and Chrome. Recently this new alloy is 1/3 the cost of Sp Palladium alloy that has recently shot out of sight. This is the first new semi-precious alloy that has a real solid chemical make-up. The other alloys used before were not ideal for every use in a patient's intra-oral cavity. This alloy is ideal and is also fine for implant cases.

The alloy is trickier to use and is more technique sensitive in the lab than the old Sp alloys. Like anything new, more training and defining the technique is required for our technicians.

Tricky Shades: Recent cases show why pictures are worth a thousand words.



The photo on the left shows white calcification on the teeth. It would be so difficult to describe the tooth. On the right, the texture and look of # 8 and 7 would again would be very difficult to describe. Always take a shade or two to describe the tooth. An example, A2 looks good but the tooth is more orange-yellow like A3 or A3.5.



In-Lab Shade Taking

We genuinely enjoy it when patients come to our lab for a shade. We find most of them very nice and interesting people. I like to find out something about the patient and I'm amazed where patients are from. I met one couple who were neighbors with my wife's cousin and his wife in Staunton, Illinois, near St. Louis. They both knew cousin Bob.

If the case is difficult I will have them come in again to check the final crown. Sometimes, if we know the case will be tough at seating, I will try to be there at the seating appointment so we can adjust the tooth if necessary.