



Set yourself up for success!

Environment is Key!

Make sure the teeth are well hydrated no bleaching for at least two weeks prior to choosing the shade. Choose the final shade before preparation. The stump shade will need to be chosen after preparation.

Take your shade with natural light; avoid fluorescent light sources and your overhead light. Avoid bright or dark colors on the walls or furniture, choose an area that has neutral colors and remove any dark lipstick the patient may be wearing.

Make sure the person taking the shade and the person having their shade taken are not wearing any bright or dark colors. It would be a great idea to have a light-colored smock handy in case you need to cover this type of clothing.

Know Your Terminology!

Communication with your lab is essential so let's make sure we are speaking the same language

- **Value** – degree of darkness
- **Chroma** – intensity of color
- **Hue** – term for full spectrum color (shade)

Photography is the Ultimate Game Changer!

Practice makes perfect - become a master of your camera. Play with the settings and practice on your office staff. Find what works and write it down. Get everyone on your team involved. The staff should know how to use the camera as well.

Use a quality SLR camera not just your smart phone or intra-oral camera.

The following additions to your SLR camera will also make a huge difference:

- Macro lens
- Dual point source flash system
- Ring flash
- Use a black background or contraster

Place the edge of the shade tab to the edge of the restored tooth, mirroring its image, depth of field, and angle with the lens.

***Do not use more than two shade tabs per photo.
Make sure to take a photo of the shade tab that matches the stump shade best as well.***