BEYOND JUST MAKING A GREAT IMPRESSION

There is much to be gained by practitioners who carefully purchase and fully employ a CAD/CAM system that meets the needs of their practices. They not only spare their patients and themselves the displeasures of impression trays, but they also gain the ability to offer them same-day restorations made of proven and highly esthetic materials.

A complete CAD/CAM system includes an intraoral scanner to provide an accurate digital impression, software to design the restoration based on that impression, and a milling machine, where the restoration is fabricated using the latest generation of materials specifically adapted to the technology.

Some practitioners may initially choose to use the equipment in a more limited way—for example, using just the scanner to produce an impression that can be incorporated into the digital workflow. A significant benefit of digital impressions is that they can be reviewed instantly and at greater magnification than with loupes or even microscopes. Depending on how involved clinicians wish to be with the design process, they can either design the restorations themselves using software that has been tailored to them or they can send the scan to laboratories for technicians to design and mill.

To choose which system is best for a particular office, a review of the type of restorative materials routinely used is a good start. If the majority of indirect restorations are ceramo-metal based, digital impressions may be the way to go. However, true return on investment can be achieved if an office is using all-ceramic materials routinely, especially in the posterior region.

It is likely that CAD/CAM equipment will cease to be a novelty and instead become a necessity in keeping with new realities in the dental industry. As patients come to expect same-day restorations, and practices work to reduce expenses and increase efficiency, CAD/CAM offers benefits that add up to improved patient satisfaction and practice production.

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Resource Center

COLOR STREAMING
Because this technology displays the color of 3-D data, it was very easy to differentiate the tooth structure from the gingiva.
InsideDentalProducts.com/idp28311

VERSATILITY
Multiple design tools assist dentists and ceramists in verifying essential smile design makeover components.
InsideDentalProducts.com/idp28312
Planmeca PlanScan Intraoral Scanning System

The Planmeca PlanScan Intraoral Scanner and PlanCAD Design software driven by E4D Technologies enhances the ease-of-use in digital dental restorations for the benefit of the patient and the practitioner. The solid-state Planmeca PlanScan employs blue laser technology, which offers an improved ability to capture the fine details that allow for more precise and accurate prosthetics. It also incorporates many other advances to ensure an exceptional intraoral scanning experience. These include fog-free scanning, ergonomic design for easy positioning, removable tips for infection control, active heat dissipation for full arch scanning, color-coded feedback to operator, and adjustable field of view.

The laptop-based Planmeca PlanCAD Design Center gives the practitioner increased flexibility and portability. It is easily moved from operatory to operatory, or even among multiple offices, all while wirelessly connected to the milling center for maximum productivity and patient service.

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E4D® Dentist System with Mill

E4D Technologies

E4D® Dentist is a complete powder-free chairside CAD/CAM system for digital impressioning, designing and fabricating metal-free inlays, onlays, crowns, and veneers in your office.

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RSC #38

CEREC® AC Powered by Bluecam

Sirona

At the heart of CEREC AC is the Bluecam handheld acquisition camera, which uses a highly visible blue light LED (light emitting diode) to capture digital impressions.

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WANT MORE INFORMATION ON CAD/CAM EQUIPMENT?

Check out the Inside Dental Products Resource Center
InsideDentalProducts.com/cad-cam-equipment