



# Ask the Lab



**Stephen D. Killian, CDT**  
 30 yrs experience implantology  
 43 yrs experience Crown & Bridge:  
 Pankey/Dawson, Spear, Kois.

## Diagnostic Wax-up: Smile Design

### In This Issue

- \* **Diagnostic Wax**
- \* **Pre-op Models**
- \* **Prep Guide**
- \* **Putty Matrix for Temps**



**Q:** *Steve, I have a patient who wants an improved smile, and is considering a multiple anterior restoration. How can I best communicate the patient's needs and my goals to you to ensure a superior restoration with predictable results?*

**A:** When beginning a large anterior case, whether it is a full mouth of restorations or a cosmetic veneer case, it is essential that the dentist and technician understand and practice basic occlusal and aesthetic principals. First, verification of centric relation is primary. Second, (especially important for full-mouth restoration) is a set of accurate and neat pre-op models to be mounted on a semi-adjustable articulator using face-bow transfer. Your models will be duplicated at the lab and refined to presentation quality, ready for preparation and fabrication of the diagnostic wax-up. Third, please provide comprehensive written instructions to clearly communicate both the patient's and your expectations. Finally, five photographs are needed to help convey all anatomical aspects of the desired finished restorations. For a detailed pictorial description of the photos, see next page.

**Q:** *What tools will you provide as an aid for preparation and temporization?*

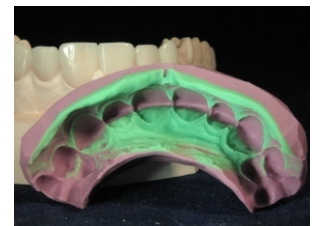
**A:** You will receive a preparation study model with a **Split Putty Prep Guide** that will allow you to accurately compare the preparation in the patient's mouth with contour of the diagnostic wax model. Differences can be identified and adjustments made to insure adequate reduction for the ceramist to fabricate optimal esthetics. Additionally, you will receive a **Putty Matrix** of the diagnostic wax that you can use as a mold to fabricate the patient's temporaries.



**Diagnostic Wax-up**  
Lateral Close-up



**Split Putty Prep Guide**  
with Preparation Study Cast



**Putty Matrix** for fabrication of temporaries replicates design of diagnostic wax-up (shown in background).