



Shade Appointment Protocol

This protocol ensures consistency and effective communication between dental clinics and the laboratory.



Accurate shade-taking is critical for achieving optimal aesthetic outcomes in dental restorations.



Required Equipment:

DSLR or mirrorless camera with macro lens
and twin flash

Recommended settings:
Nikon 105mm, ISO 2000, f22, 1/250

Shade guide brand and type
(e.g., Vita Classical, Vita 3D Master)



Patient Preparation

Proper patient setup ensures accurate and consistent shade capture by minimising visual distractions and lighting inconsistencies.

Ensure teeth are clean and moist

Avoid dehydration of teeth. Dry teeth appear brighter and more opaque. Keep teeth hydrated throughout the shoot.

Remove Lipstick or coloured makeup

For precise colour perception, pigments can interfere with the natural appearance of teeth and surrounding tissues potentially distorting shade assessment.

Take Photos Prior to Treatment

Level Patient up with the frame

Ensure patients face is levelled up with the frame.





Photography Guidelines Summary

1

Patients face is level to frame

2

Use consistent and appropriate lighting

Colour temperature of 5500K daylight bulbs.
No fluorescent or mixed lighting.

3

Include frontal, lateral and occlusal views

4

Shade tab placement

- Edge-to-edge with the tooth
- Same plane as the tooth
- Include multiple (3 minimum) tabs for comparison

Shade tab position



Position shade tab edge to edge to the tooth you are matching.

Keep the shade tab within the same plane of view as the tooth.

Photos to Include

1

Close up of tooth with shade tab
multiple shade tabs for comparison



2

Retracted Smile



3

Natural Smile
for overall facial aesthetics



Photos to Include

4

Close up of tooth

Take a couple of close up photos for detailed analysis of the tooth characteristics with black contrast paddle



5

Close up of patient smile



Additional information

Tooth number(s) being restored
Type of restoration (e.g., crown, veneer)
Material preference (e.g., zirconia, lithium disilicate)
Desired translucency, texture, and surface finish
Any special characteristics (e.g., white spots, cracks, staining)

Common mistakes to avoid

Dry teeth during photography
Shade tab not aligned properly
Inconsistent lighting
Missing reference photos

Submission checklist

All required photos taken and labeled
Completed shade-taking form
Any additional notes or preferences

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