In my first article, The Beauty of Simplicity-Part 1, I discussed the techniques of laminate veneers. As a continuation I will now discuss more complex cases that combine crowns and laminates.

As dental technicians, we routinely encounter cases that include crowns and laminates in the same mouth—these are the most challenging cases. They require working with two different preparations, often a laminate and a crown, next to each other.

In this article, I will discuss two different cases: the first, involves the two upper central incisors (#9 an existing crown), the second case involves four upper incisors and a lower single crown, for a patient who was demanding a more beautiful smile.

Over the years I have explored numerous techniques. The most valuable lesson that I have learned is to always use the same porcelain material. Using the same material will provide you with the freedom and flexibility to build-up a beautiful restoration working with the same model. For example, if I build a laminate of a refractory model it would be time consuming and much more labor intensive. The techniques that I employ, only require pouring the model once. There are no extra steps, for example, such as duplicating models or pouring refractory materials.

Case #1

Figure 1: The patient came to the office complaining about an old crown, #9. To complicate the case, she also had had some bleaching done. The dentist suggested that she would replace the crown, and at this stage also laminate the adjacent tooth, #8.

Figure 2: You see the restoration in place. As you can see the color and the translucencies of the two different types of restorations blend in perfectly.

Figure 3 shows the preparation. The impression was taken, the model poured, the dies sectioned, the metal coping fabricated and opaqued, and a large porcelain shoulder was applied for #9. On #8, I applied foil, as it is usual, and then applied the first wash.

Figure 4 shows the porcelain shoulder done and a porcelain wash applied on the #8 laminate.

Figure 5: We are now ready to do a full contour porcelain build-up.

Figure 6: I always have a solid model to check my contact before I glaze the restoration.
Case #2

Figure 1: As you can see this patient needed two crowns, #8-9, two laminates #7-10, plus a single lower crown #23. When the dentist called me into the room to evaluate the color, the preparation had already begun, therefore, I do not have a before picture.

Thankfully, I was able to get a picture with the preparations so that I could evaluate the color of #7 and #10.

This is a case, again, where the patient had undergone some bleaching, which complicates the matching. The same technique, as above, was performed. A PFM with shoulder porcelain was chosen for the crowns, and again, a foil technique was done for the laminate veneer.

Figure 2 shows the final result. While figures 3 and 4 show an harmonious color blend and the close-up of the lateral view of the final restoration which indicates a perfect blend between the natural teeth (#6, #11), the laminate (#7, #10) and the crown (#8, #9).

As you can see, once again a simple approach accomplished an astonishing result using uncomplicated and simple techniques. By using simple step-by-step procedures, without duplicating efforts and using simplicity, a beautiful finished product can result. Both cases were completed using Creation Porcelain.

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About the author

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