



Digital Photography



For best results when matching a shade in the esthetic zone, we recommend communicating shade information with high quality digital photos. Your photos can be submitted via memory card, USB flash drive, emailed to shade@obriendentallab.com, or submitted to our website: obriendentallab.com.

Single Unit

Take a photo of the tooth to be matched with the closest matching VITA Classical shade tab. Place the shade tab incisal to incisal with the tooth to be matched and the identity of the shade tab visible. Take multiple photos and verify that there is minimal flash reflection on the tooth. We recommend that a close-up photo be taken when teeth exhibit significant secondary optical properties such as translucency, hypocalcification, craze lines, or staining. Examine the photos prior to sending to confirm they accurately depict what is seen in the mouth.

Multiple Unit

For multiple unit cases, we recommend taking a photo from nose to chin to capture the patient's smile. This communicates midline, cant, lip line, extent of tooth and gingival display, and shade of adjacent teeth. In addition, a portrait photo is helpful to communicate facial features such as shape, symmetry, proportion, and complexion.

Shade Photography Camera Recommendations

- Digital SLR camera body
- Macro lens with a focal length close to 100mm
- Dual light-source flash (wider than camera lens)
- High capacity memory card (1 Gig+)

Additional Suggestions

- Take photos at the beginning of the appointment
- Include a prep shade for metal free cases
- Explain primary objectives of the case
- List any future treatment planned
- If patient is whitening, verify treatment has been completed and shade has stabilized prior to selecting shade