



Luke S. Kahng, CDT

# Great esthetics in an eight-unit veneer case

Brightening a smile the right way.

In discussing cosmetic cases, a dentist must give special consideration to those that are conducted over long distances. The particular situation we are looking at involves a patient who resides in Florida but used to live in Illinois. She was a long-time patient of the dentist and wished for him to handle her work despite the distance between them. He is a member of the Academy of Cosmetic

Dentistry and she trusted his abilities. Her situation had recently changed with the passing of her husband after a long illness and she was interested in changing her smile.

When she came to visit the author, he noted that there was really nothing wrong with her fifteen year old veneers. She had a very small chip on the incisal area of tooth number 8, and the color was darker than what she liked. Therefore, she

wished to replace them with a brighter color and take care of the chipped area at the same time. The author proceeded with her custom shade and fabrication of the case.

**01** When the author looked at the patient's dentition during the pre-operative custom shading appointment (fig 1), he asked her exactly what she wanted to change about her

### SHADE-MATCHING AN EIGHT-UNIT VENEER



Fig. 1 Pre-op view



Fig. 2 Small chip on the incisal edge, wanted brighter color



Fig. 3 Prep view



Fig. 4 Prep color



Fig. 5 Shape check



Fig. 6 Material selection



Fig. 7 Wax after press



Fig. 8 Fit to model



Fig. 9 Second build-up application



Fig. 10 Finish restorations on model



Fig. 11 Mirrored image



Fig. 12 Post-cementation



Fig. 13 Side view



Fig. 14 Smile view



Fig. 15 Before/After views

For Client Review Only. All Rights Reserved. Copyright, Advanstar Communications Inc.

appearance. He informed her that in his opinion, the veneers she wore were well done and that he would mimic them when he created her new ones. The only thing he would change, unless she stated otherwise, was the color. The small chip was noted and they decided that her color was somewhere in between A1 and A2 (fig 2). To brighten the color, he would use a B1 base shade instead.

**02** The dentist prepped her teeth (fig 3) in-office and provided this image for the author. Using one of the author's shade guides, prep color was checked (fig 4) and any discoloration noted. It was also important to discuss shape with the patient and ask her preferences (fig 5). The author asked her if she wanted a more rounded edge or if she like the current square/square shape given to this set of restorations. She stated that she wanted the shape to remain the same.

**03** AO, BO and BOO ingot colors were chosen in a feldspathic material (fig 6) for the veneers. After pressing, the veneers were waxed (fig 7) and fit to the model (fig 8). Dentin and enamel color was applied during the second build-up stage (fig 9). The finished restorations were then placed on the cast model for a fit check (fig 10).

A mirrored image of the final veneers is provided for the reader to clearly see the beauty and harmony of the color characteristics (fig 11).

**04** Upon cementation, a photographic image was taken for a before/after comparison protrusive view (fig 12). A side view smile (fig 13) and facial smile view clearly denotes the prominence of the centrals (fig 14)—common within everyone's dentition. It is noted that the maxillary teeth are brighter in color than the mandibular, which was not problematic for the patient. For a side-by-side contrast, figures 15 and 16 provide the color differences for the reader to clearly see.

### CONCLUSION

Often when people experience a life-changing event they may want to change something about themselves. In our patient's case, she simply wanted to brighten and improve her smile as a step to changing her appearance. Perhaps it was the first step of many, we cannot say. But she was happy with the changes she undertook to implement and the author was happy with the results of his work, as well. **lab**

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

An accomplished dental technician with more than 20 years of experience, Luke S. Kahng, CDT, is the founder and owner of LSK121 Oral Prosthetics, a dental laboratory in Naperville, Ill. He has published more than 85 articles in dental journals, and his lectures have taken him across the United States and internationally. He is the creator of the Chair Side Shade Guide Seasons of Life, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 6.0 and 7.0 ceramic shade tabs, which were invented to facilitate effective communication regarding color between doctors, patients and technicians.