

Testing the Tools

What's Hot and What's Getting Hotter

By Howard S. Glazer, DDS, FAGD

Featured in *AGD Impact*, June 2008



Chu's Aesthetic Gauges

Hu-Friedy

3232 N. Rockwell

Chicago, IL 60618

800.HU.FRIEDY

www.hu-friedy.com

Size does matter—but so does shape! In order to help us create the ideal esthetic result, we need a proportional combination of both size and shape. Stephen Chu, DDS, a well-known prosthodontist, developed a set of instruments that will be of great assistance in design and treatment planning for esthetic case management. This set of esthetic gauge instruments helps determine proportion and the amount of crown lengthening needed (if any) and includes a sounding gauge to determine the location of the bony crest before, during, and after the crown-lengthening procedure.

The instrument handles work with the various tips (which are screwed in) in all cases, except for the sounding gauge, which is a separate and “fixed” instrument. For both the proportion and crown lengthening gauges, the tips are color-coded, making it easy to determine the various measurements that you need for treatment planning and for relaying the information to the laboratory. In fact, each color marking corresponds to a set measurement for easy communication (as outlined in the instruction manual). The crown-lengthening gauge allows you to measure both the clinical and biological crown, along with the appropriate papilla dimensions. You can autoclave the handles and tips; the color will wear on the tips and you will need to buy replacement tips after five to 10 uses.

While there is a bit of a learning curve involved, the easy-to-follow instructions and photos in the package will enhance the viability and ease of use of these instruments. These are essential tools for any type of anterior case that involves changing the length and/or width of teeth. Undoubtedly, the use of these instruments will have a positive influence on the esthetic outcome.

Alpen Speedster One-Piece Carbide Burs

Coltène/Whaledent, Inc.

235 Ascot Parkway

Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

330.916.8800

www.coltenewhaledent.biz

A two-piece might be nice at the beach, but when it comes to rotary cutting instruments, one-piece construction is better. The new Alpen carbide line is just that—a full line of carbides that cut fast and accurately for preparing teeth. Notice that I said, “cut,” not “grind.”

When I went to dental school, I learned to prepare teeth with a diamond. However, in reality, diamonds grind and may cause iatrogenic pulpitis in vital teeth. Carbides, on the other hand, cut tooth structure in a very effective and efficient manner while generating very little heat. Couple this with the Speedster crown and bridge prep in an electric motor and you will no longer feel the fatigue in your hand or the stress from putting pressure on a tooth structure to effect a smooth preparation. Carbides also cut faster than diamonds and invariably last longer (although I believe in single-patient use for all rotary cutting instruments).



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The Speedster burs are available in the popular round-end taper (856 series), which is ideal for ceramopreps; flat-end taper (847 series), which is ideal for all-ceramic preps; and football shape (379), for inlay/onlay preps. I still use a medium to fine diamond to remove any striations left with the carbide instrument. No longer will you experience drag or chatter, since this bur cuts faster and smoother, thus reducing cutting time.

LuxaPost®

LuxaBond®-Total Etch

LuxaCore® Z-Dual

Zenith/DMG Brand Division

Foremost Dental LLC

242 South Dean Street

Englewood, NJ 07631

800.662.6383

www.zenithdental.com

They say that good things come in threes, and this new group of products is a great example. Zenith has grouped three products (all can be purchased separately) that will enable you to use one simplified system to provide a solid foundation for a crown on an endodontically treated tooth. LuxaPost® is a cone-shaped, 16 mm long glass fiber post. One package contains five posts in a choice of widths: 1.25 mm, 1.375 mm, and 1.5 mm.



It is recommended that you silanate the post prior to cementation. After fitting the post, you can use the LuxaBond®-Total Etch adhesive system. Although you could use another adhesive system, I prefer to stay within the "system" and make use of the LuxaBond system. By using the prebond component, you will shorten the working time of LuxaCore® Z-Dual in the root canal to 30 seconds. As with any total etch system, you will etch both the enamel and dentin simultaneously. Remember, the use of any seventh generation adhesive system is contraindicated in this type of procedure.

The last component is the automix syringable LuxaCore Z-Dual cured core material. If you have used LuxaCore in the past, you will see that the product is not much different other than it seems to be a "smoother" product. Working time is about 1.5 minutes, in addition to inserting the post and immediately photocuring for 20 seconds. The material will continue to cure for another five minutes before you can prepare it for the crown. There is a handy technique card that can be found in the LuxaCore Z-Dual box that provides step-by-step instructions clearly, simply, and visually.



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iCem® Self Adhesive

Heraeus Kulzer

99 Business Park Drive

Armonk, NY 10504

800.431.1785

www.heraeus-kulzer-us.com

I scream, you scream, we all scream for...something easy and reliable to use for cementation of crowns, bridges, inlays, and onlays! iCem® Self Adhesive cement from Heraeus Kulzer will etch, prime, bond, and desensitize in a one-step, single-layer application. This cement is quite versatile and applicable in all cementing situations with all materials, including all-metal, ceramo-metal, all-ceramic, glass fibers (e.g., posts), and composites, as well as nylon materials used for splinting. iCem provides very high bond strength while greatly reducing the risk of postoperative sensitivity when cementing to dentin.

Application is easy with an automix syringe and offers a long working time prior to setting. The material uses an oxygen-inhibited curing mechanism that will start to set only once the restoration is seated. This is a unique self-adhesive cement, as it tolerates varying degrees of moisture on the tooth surface, ensuring reliable curing and marginal integrity. Cervical excess can be removed easily after light curing (of only one to two seconds) and the material will continue to set over the next seven minutes. This is a very easy-to-use and strong cement that takes the worry out of post-op sensitivity after cementation.



Howard S. Glazer, DDS, FAGD, practices in New Jersey. For the past 18 years, he has lectured and published articles on cosmetic dentistry, forensic dentistry, and patient management. He can be reached at impact@agd.org. Dr. Glazer has not received any remuneration for the products mentioned. He has received products from these and other companies for evaluation purposes. Dr. Glazer evaluates the latest in dental materials, equipment, and technology. All reviews are the opinions of the author, a practicing general dentist, and are not shared or endorsed by AGD Impact or the Academy of General Dentistry.