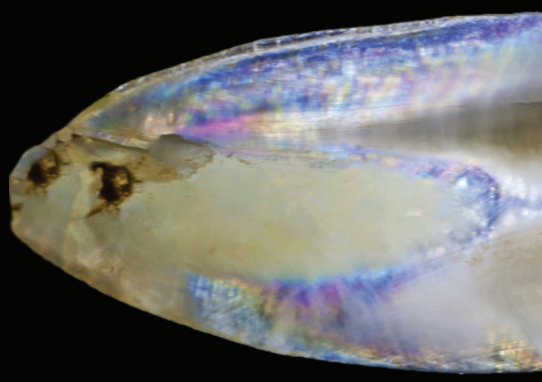
The Fascinating World of MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

By Kevin M. Brown, DDS, AAACD

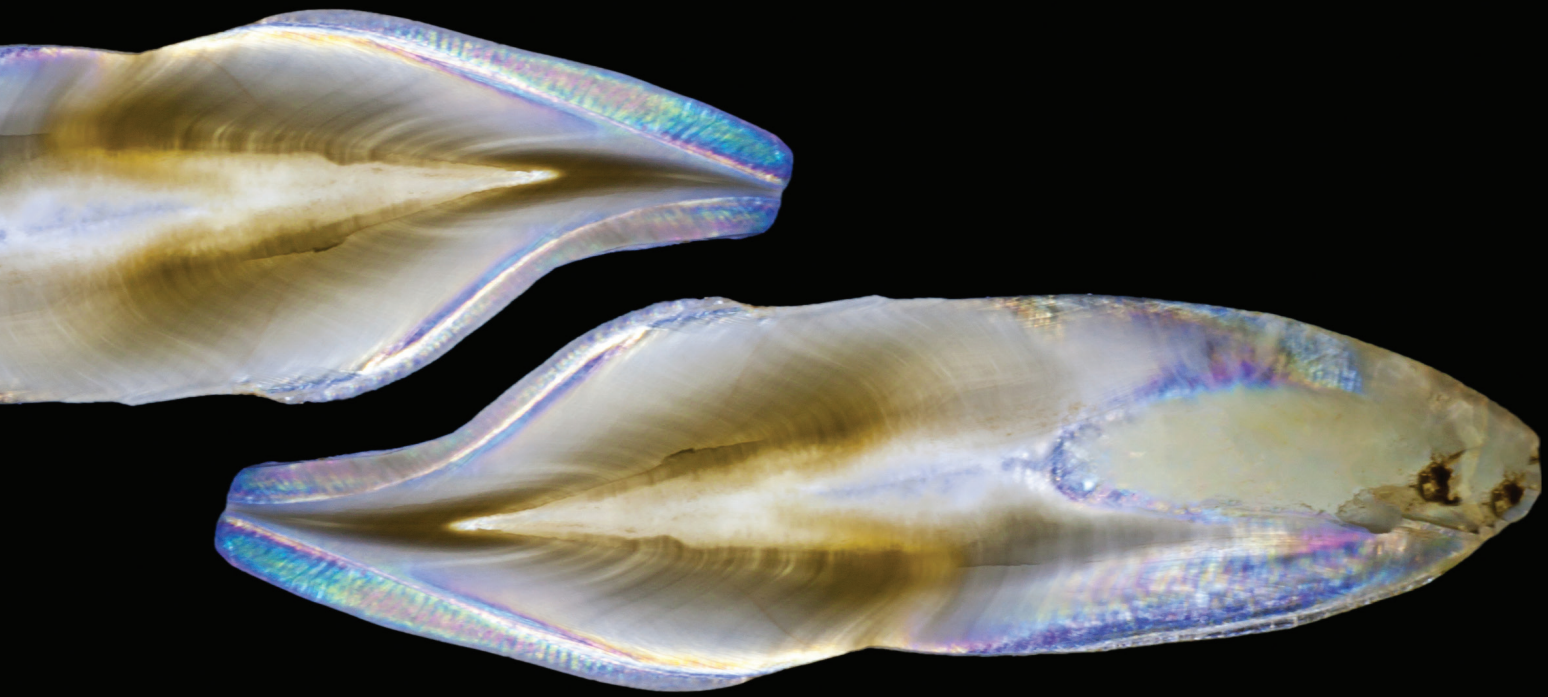


My fascination with and appreciation of photography began when I started documenting cases for AACD Accreditation. Over time this evolved into a passion, especially in regard to macro photography. It never ceases to amaze me how one can take something as simple as a small flower and, with the high magnification and incredible sharpness and clarity provided by a macro lens, bring to light a whole new universe to be explored and admired. I have found the same to be true within the dentofacial complex. Showing a patient a 1:10 full-face or even a 1:2 full-smile view of their smile can be a moving experience. But going one step further to the 1:1 view and closer opens up an even more exciting new world. It truly is thrilling to visualize through macro photography the astonishing beauty of the human dentition and how nature has perfectly blended the characteristics of light, reflection, color, shape, form, and texture.

Because I am so impressed with and inspired by the beauty of teeth, I wanted to share it with my patients in an artistic way. Experimenting with different lighting and different angles, I took photographs of extracted teeth that had been cut in half with a high-speed drill and carbide burs. This led to experimenting with different lenses and light filters. As I cut the sections thinner and thinner the results were astounding, as a bloody extracted tooth became a spectacular display of dental art. Through the magic of macro photography I have gained a deeper appreciation of how flawlessly the human dentition is designed in every conceivable way.

To see Dr. Brown's time-saving technique for common emergencies on Class IV direct resins, turn to page 38.

Cover photography by Kevin Brown, DDS. Cover images shot with an EOS 5D Mark II (Canon USA; Melville, NY) with a Sigma EX 105mm DG 1:2 macro lens (Sigma-Aldrich; St. Louis, MO). The camera settings were aperture f/13, shutter speed 1/20th of a second, and ISO 400. The lens was fitted with a circular polarizer (Schneider Optics; Van Nuys, CA) and a linear polarizing film was positioned between the tooth and the light source (Lumadent; Reno, NV). The image was captured in RAW format, and Adobe Photoshop Elements (Adobe Systems; San Jose, CA) was used to improve image sharpness and contrast.



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