

Communication and Artistry in Case Type II

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Matching a single central incisor is one of the most challenging procedures in dentistry. Obtaining an excellent color match and recreating the anatomy of the adjacent tooth requires a fine lab and outstanding communication between the dentist and the laboratory technician. Unlike direct resin Accreditation Case Types IV and V, where the dentist is the artist with complete control of the entire process, in Case Type II the laboratory technician is the artist. It is incumbent upon the dentist to provide the laboratory technician with the best possible canvas upon which to create his or her artistic restoration. Dr. Tempel did an exceptional job of communicating with her laboratory technician and together they achieved a first-rate result (Figs 1 & 2).¹

When replacing a single central incisor, the ideal outcome is a restoration that is a true mirror image of the contralateral central. Dr. Tempel had to perform some gingival contouring for symmetry and to make the teeth the same length. Much effort went into creating a temporary crown that would closely approximate the final restoration. The laboratory technician was extremely involved in the entire process, which increased the case's chance of success.

Having a proper understanding of the restorative process, communicating well with the laboratory technician, and completing the pre-restorative data collection helps the restorative dentist to obtain an excellent result. Dr. Tempel and her dental ceramist did an exemplary job of restoring tooth #8 to match tooth #9.



When replacing a single central incisor, the ideal outcome is a restoration that is a true mirror image of the contralateral central.



The examiners had the following comments:

- **Criterion 53:** *Is the color (hue, value, chroma) selection appropriate/natural, not monochromatic?* Several examiners felt that the restoration was higher in value than the adjacent natural tooth. However, the restoration had increased chroma in the cervical third.
- **Criterion 61:** *Is margin placement and design appropriate? Are the margins visible?* Several examiners felt that the margin was visible on the 1:1 view.



Figure 1: The preoperative 1:1 view, showing an old composite restoration that is over contoured and discolored.



Figure 2: The postoperative 1:1 view, displaying extremely well-matched central incisors.

Reference

1. American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD). A guide to Accreditation criteria. Madison (WI): AACD; 2014. **JCD**



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