How to Take Great Dental Photos On Your Own

Lacking five-star photo resources doesn’t preclude you from getting great dental restoration photos. In fact, with a decent camera and a little guidance from our partners at Ivoclar Vivadent™, they’re only a shutter click away.

1. **Always use a tripod.** No matter how steady your hand is, you’ll want to invest in a tripod. Tripods can ensure every photo is taken from a consistent angle and height, and they’ll also keep your camera safer in the long run (there’s less chance you’ll drop it!)

2. **Have a dedicated photo location.** Set up a dedicated space that’s used only for photos – ideally one with good lighting. You’ll need a desk or table, a tripod and, of course, a camera. Invest in a white and black background, too.

3. **Opt for manual mode.** It can be tempting to shift into auto gear if your camera has one, but these options make it hard to maintain consistency. Instead, set your camera to manual mode and choose a 22 or 32 aperture. You should also dial the ISO down as low as possible and set a short exposure time – around 1/125 seconds, if possible.

4. **Keep your camera clean.** Even the smallest speck of dust can impact your images, so take good care of your camera. When you’re not using it, always keep the lid on the lens and store it away safely in a camera bag, cabinet or other dust-free environment. If you ever need to change the lens, be sure to do so in a clean, indoor space where there’s not a lot of airflow. You don’t want dirt or dust to settle on your sensor and leave spots on your photos.
The Best Photos to send to your Dental Lab

High-quality photos can also help in your partnership with your dental lab, ensuring the most accurate fit and the fewest adjustments. Dental Services Group is top-rated by dental professionals for fewest adjustments, and a partnership with our lab network gives you hands-on guidance regarding photography that will deliver the best possible restorations for your patients.

Here are a few tips to get you started:

• **Take a full face photo, with lips retracted and teeth apart.** This lets your lab compare the interpupillary line and the occlusal planes of both arches to horizon – a must for achieving the perfect fit. *(See Picture A)*

• **Always include shade photographs.** Hold the shade tab directly underneath the tooth you are trying to match and make sure your flash is the same distance from both. This will give you the most accurate depiction of coloration. *(See Picture B)*

• **Be careful of bright colors.** Bright lipstick, colored cheek retractors or even brightly colored gloves can throw off the contrast and make it hard to match shades. For items that will be photographed, opt for neutral tones, and ask patients to remove lipstick or brightly colored accessories.

• **Choose the right type of flash.** Occlusal and posterior shots should use the ring flash, while anterior and shade photos do best with the macro twin light flash.

• **When in doubt, take multiple shots.** If you’re not sure you got the right shot, take more.

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**DENTAL SERVICES GROUP LAB NETWORK IS HERE TO HELP**

Guidance on proper dental photography is just one of the things we offer our customers. With DSG, you also get hands-on customer service and technical support every step of the way, as well as access to our innovative digital technologies and solutions. We are a national-scale network with a localized feel, but with the access to the capabilities and resources of a network, and we’re here to help you and your team succeed. Contact us today to learn more, or get started!