

THE NATIONAL DENTURIST USA

COMMUNICATING THE IMPORTANCE OF DENTURISTS



Smile Design:

A Key Point for Patient Satisfaction

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Why are Collegial Interaction and Connection so Important?

12th World Symposium on Denturism Registration

Smile Design:

A Key Point for Patient Satisfaction

Have you ever noticed that good looking people always want to look better? And that better looking dentures tend to fit better too? I sure have. And now, thanks to selfies and social media, esthetics are more important than ever. But just what is it that makes a denture look better?

We all know the basics. Facial proportions, anatomical markings, and corresponding measurements determine the general placement, length, and width of the teeth. The gumline of the upper front teeth usually follows the curve of the upper lip and the incisal edge follows the lower lip. Color is the first thing our patients see. When in doubt, try the lighter color. Most people get used to it. Or they may regret it later. But there's always exceptions.

Experienced denturists understand that subtle variations in the shapes and lengths of the six front teeth can either

result in a happy patient that refers more happy patients or hours of complaining and making adjustments, a complete re-do, or worse yet, bad reviews. Everyone's a critic and they all have an audience on social media.

DESIGNING SMILES

Let's first examine the dynamics of an attractive smile. The mandibular anterior teeth are straight, even, and white. The maxillary bicuspids are usually a rounded or blunted point. Therefore, the different options of smile design are primarily confined to the maxillary six anterior teeth.

LENGTH OPTIONS



Option 1
Even Incisors



Option 2
Short Lateral Incisors



Option 3
Long central Incisors, Short lateral Incisors

FLAT CUSPID FAMILY



But where do we begin? Is it an immediate? Can we use their terminal teeth for guidance? But what if they have no teeth or they don't like their current denture? Do they have old photos of their natural teeth? Do they have a family member, usually a son or daughter, with nice natural teeth they like? Can they collect pictures of their favorite smiles?

If they don't know where to begin but want a systematic approach to a new smile- please check out the Lorin Library

Smile Style Guide, determined by science and confirmed by nature.

There are three shapes of central and lateral incisors: square, square-round, and round. There are three shapes of cuspids: flat, pointed, and round. Many times the flat cuspid is associated with age. All possible combinations of these teeth would result in twenty-seven smile designs but I've eliminated the unnatural nine designs where the lateral in-

POINTED CUSPID FAMILY



ROUND CUSPID FAMILY



isor is more “square” than the central incisor. The remaining esthetic combinations make up the eighteen basic smile designs. In addition, there are three length combinations – even across, long centrals, and/or shorter laterals. When in doubt about the shape of the central and lateral incisors – start square. That way you can round it later without shortening, but first check with a black Sharpie.

Small individual characterizations (slight spaces, a forward lateral incisor, one lateral more rounded than the other, prominent centrals or cuspids, etc) can give a smile charm and make dentures beautiful yet natural.

Each variation can be easily discussed with the patient, computer imaged and enhanced, and/or demonstrated at the try-in. It’s only natural that when patients participate in choosing their smile they own their smile. And are happier with themselves and with you. Isn’t that what we all want?

Now it is readily available to everyone as a public service from Dr. B Dental Solutions on Denturewearers.com.

<https://denturewearers.com/choose-your-smile/>

LORIN LIBRARY

Don’t take chances. Browse our smile library until you find the one that you like best.

1. Start with the cuspids, the third tooth from the center. Choose between the Flat, Pointed and Round categories.

2. Then choose the central and lateral incisors, the four middle teeth. The combinations progress from square to round, from 1-6.

3. Once you have chosen the smile design, you can further individualize the appearance by lengthening the central incisors (the two front teeth) and/or shortening the two lateral incisors (the two front side teeth).

4. Designing a more youthful, beautiful smile has never been easier. Once you have found your ideal design, you can confirm your chosen smile with digital imaging and/or at the wax try-in. ■

Author:

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Lorin Berland was a denture technician before becoming a dentist. In all that time, dentistry was improving, but denture care products were not. Dr. B spent 35 years listening to his patients to develop all the revolutionary products to treat the common yet serious issues affecting the daily lives of denture wearers- Oral Infections, Sore Spots, and Dry Mouth.





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