

Two Front Teeth: A Common Cosmetic Dilemma

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A common problem confronting cosmetic dentists is the optimal way to restore discolored central incisors. It is even more complicated when the two front teeth vary not only with the rest of the teeth but also with each other. The following two cases illustrate how new materials helped solve these aesthetic challenges.

CASE 1

A 30-year-old man was referred to my office for a consultation. His chief complaint was discolored bonding on teeth Nos. 8 and 9 (Fig 1). Ten years ago, following a childhood injury, tooth No. 8 was discolored, and bonding was performed on Nos. 8 and 9. Over the years, this bonding yellowed. Although he had aesthetic imperfections in his other teeth, specifically the color of the cusps and posteriors as well as the shape and position of the laterals, he was only concerned with the color of his two maxillary central incisors.

Ideally, we would treat four to ten porcelain veneers, so we discussed veneers and whitening. He was adamantly against any invasive procedures and expressed resentment toward the previous dentist who had "scored" both teeth before bonding. With this in mind, we agreed that noninvasive splint therapy whitening with Nite White Excel 16 (Discus Dental) would be beneficial before restoring Nos. 8 and 9.¹ Most everyone still wants whiter teeth.²

After 2 weeks of whitening therapy, his teeth whitened up to B1 (Fig 2). He was scheduled in 2 weeks to remove the old bonding and prepare Nos. 8 and 9 for veneers. After the bonding was removed, the teeth were prepped with the NTI diamond depth cutter 834016 (0.3-mm) and 834021 (0.5-mm) burs (Axis Dental). The diamond round end taper burs in coarse and fine, 850016 and 857012, were used for coarse reduction, interproximal slots, and finishing. Because the old bonding extended subgingival, Ultra Pak (Ultradent) No. 1 cord was placed (Fig 3).

Impressions were taken with Extrude polyvinylsiloxane (Kerr). After the teeth were spot etched, unfilled resin was used to coat the facial surface and Prodigy B1 enamel



Fig 1.—Pre-treatment, close-up.



Fig 2.—Post-whitening, close-up.



Fig 3.—Central incisors prepared for veneers with gingiva retracted.



Fig 4.—Prodigy B1 temporary veneers.



Fig 5.—Belle Glass veneers with Nexus Light and Neutral Try-In Gel.



Fig 6.—Central incisors isolated and etched.



Fig 7.—Central incisors before bonding.



Fig 8.—Belle Glass veneers in place.



Fig 9.—Flooding the contacts.



Fig 10.—Glycerin gel applied.



Fig 11.—Post-cementation of Belle Glass veneers, close-up.



Fig 12.—Pre-treatment close-up. Note color of old resin bonding and alignment.



Fig 13.—Different stamp shades taken of prepared teeth.



Fig 14.—Teeth primed for bonding.



Fig 15.—Veneers bonded in place with Variolink white and universal.



Fig 16.—Post-treatment, close-up.

was sculpted and bonded in place as a temporary measure (Fig 4).

Because the temporaries looked good without the opaquing benefits of any luting resin, we made the veneers in Belle Glass HP, a new

generation of heat- and pressure-processed polymer glass restorative. The resin was comprised of two parts. The dentin is BISGMA while the enamel is a blend of aliphatic dimethylacrylate and urethane

dimethylacrylate. The enamel filler 74% pyrex glass and the dentin 78.7% barium glass. The heat polymerization provided a higher degree of conversion, which meant 98%

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