

# WHY EVERY DENTAL OFFICE NEEDS TO INSTALL DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHY



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I BOUGHT MY DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHY SYSTEM A LONG TIME AGO, AND IT'S BEEN THE BEST PURCHASE I EVER MADE. At the time I bought it, I looked at competing systems very carefully. I was looking for clarity of image, number one. I was also looking for an intuitive, easy-to-use software interface. And I was looking for reliability and versatility as far as networking within my office's computer systems.

Every other expensive piece of equipment I've bought — with the exception of my digital radiography system — is now outdated. I wouldn't even think of using the curing lights I bought six years ago, and curing lights are relatively expensive. I wouldn't use the camera I bought eight years ago. Eight years ago there were no digital cameras to speak of in dentistry. At that time digital cameras still did not compete with film cameras. I'm now on my third or fourth digital camera.

I'm still using the first digital radiography system I ever purchased. It's been upgraded, I won't deny that, but it's by far the most important and economical piece of equipment I ever purchased. Once I began to really get into using digital radiography, I discovered many more reasons why it was absolutely the right thing to do at the time and remains so to this day. Let me give you some of the reasons why.

First, there's the critical matter of diagnostic capability. I don't care what other dentists might say who are still trying to convince themselves they should stick with film technology, you can improve your diagnostic capability significantly using digital radiography. With digital, you're looking at an image that fills a 19-inch computer screen and not a film image the size of a postage stamp. Using the software-based digital radiography's image enhancement functions such as magnification, brightness control, and heightened contrast, you can bring out aspects of the X-ray that simply aren't visible on film, including such things as



The heart of a digital radiography system is the sensor, and there are several things to look for in a sensor when selecting a digital system. The first is sensor comfort. Clipped corners and a smoothly rounded sensor casing ensure patient comfort and accurate positioning





tiny fractures and imperfections that you might very well miss on film. Once you begin to practice using magnification for vision, you wouldn't practice without it. It's the same with the digital x-rays.

The ability to instantly display a large-screen X-ray image also means that you're able to involve your patients in diagnosis and treatment planning in a way that's just not possible with film. My patients appreciate it, and I'm pretty sure yours will too.

I want to make it clear that I'm not advocating that you run out and buy the first digital radiography system you see. In fact, there are some digital radiography systems that will actually not allow you to capture certain images you can with film, and there are others whose design features make them clumsy and difficult to use, and in some cases uncomfortable for patients. Here are some of the things you need to be looking for and some tips to help you avoid making a mistake.

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If the sensor is the heart of a digital radiography system, the software is the brain. It helps enormously if you buy a really smart system that will enable you to set in advance exactly the order in which you want to take your full mouth series and just how you want them "mounted."