Nothing can be worse than spending 30 minutes fabricating a provisional, full of confidence about it, and then the patient says he/she does not like them. With the increase in patient demands for immediate esthetic results, provisional restorations need to mimic the final result in all aspects of shade, length, form, and position.

Shades of Material
If a patient is looking for a standard shade to blend with their natural teeth, the assistant can chose any of the materials listed for anterior or posterior provisionals (Figure 1). If the patient has chosen a whiter shade based on the Chromoscop Shade Guide (Ivoclar Vivadent, Inc) or the Vita 3D Bleach Shade Guide (Vident), the assistant must be well acquainted with manufacturers and shades.

Fabrication of Provisionals
Before fabricating the provisional, it may be helpful to lubricate the teeth with a separation agent. Liquid Strip by (Ivoclar Vivadent, Inc) is used not only for core buildups but also for easy removal of the stint. As the Sil-Tech (Ivoclar Vivadent, Inc) or coping type stint is loaded toward the facial, make sure that the tip of the material is not lifted until the indentions have been filled entirely. This will help with voids and bubbles. If a bubble or void is visible through the coping stint, an explorer can be used to puncture the site to extrude through the stint. Place a small drop on a 2-x-2 cotton gauze to check setting time. After 2 min-

Figure 1—If a patient is looking for a standard shade to blend with their natural teeth, the assistant can chose any of the materials listed for anterior or posterior provisionals.

Figure 2—After 2 minutes, gently lift the stint with a Black Spoon and remove.

Figure 3—The Total Assistant Bur Block.

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utes, gently lift the stent with a Black Spoon (Brasseler Total Esthetic Cassette, Brasseler USA) and remove (Figure 2). A glossy film or residue may be left on the preparations. Prep Quick (Ultradent Products, Inc) will help to minimize distortions in the final impressions.

**Provisional Trimming**

First mark the margins with a sharp No. 2 pencil. This will keep them from being wiped out. The Total Assistant Bur Block (Brasseler USA) (Figure 3) has all the burs needed to fabricate anterior and posterior provisionals. Start by using the large 557-carbide (Figure 4) to eliminate access at the margin that was marked with the pencil. Be very careful when trimming veneers (Figure 5); they are more fragile compared to crowns.

Whether you are using a diamond disc (Figure 6) or sandpaper disc, put it in only enough to engage. This will allow for a much greater radius to turn. Use a palm thumb grasp (Figure 7) not a pin grasp. A fulcrum is needed to do fine delicate movements with the instruments. Using the safe-sided disc, separate the provisional into individual units (Figure 8). Be careful when defining the depth of the facial embrasures because the provisionals might break. Develop gingival embrasures while carving the margin at an angle. Lingual margins can be a little more difficult to discern. It is okay to leave a little excess where it wraps along the incisal edge as it can be removed after being cemented to the teeth. Only remove the excess that would keep the provisional from seating. Always make sure there is a line of draw.

**Morphology**

It has been said, do not make the provisionals look too good or the patient will not come back. Remember these are plastic and they do not last forever. It is more important to have diagnostic information that can be provided for the laboratory. Anterior teeth are not shaped like shovels, but they are triangular. The lines of the teeth (Figure 9) follow the natural root morphology and give you proper contour of the anterior facial surface of the tooth.

**Emergence Profile: The Egression Silhouette**

Anterior teeth have 3 contours from the side view (Figure 10). The first angle is from the exit of the periodontium to the height of contour about 1 mm. The second angle is from the height of contour to the junction of the middle and incisal one third. The third contour is from the junction of the middle and incisal one third to the incisal edge. This will develop a nice curvature. Having a flat surface from top to bottom should be avoided.

From looking at the back of the provisional (Figure 11), line up the disc with the interproximal area. This is where the teeth can be divided. Allow for
a little depth. Gingival and incisal embrasures are needed to simulate the look of single units. The gingival embrasures are opened to avoid papillary trauma and promote better hygiene. While looking at the central incisors, visualize the mesial-proximal line angle and distal proximal line angle. Use the sandpaper disc on the inside surface. Angle the mandrel to follow the contour toward the cervical to these surface line angles. Use the 557-fissure (Figure 12) for the facial surface; remember there are 3 planes. Using the pen grasp, there are 3 lobes (vertical, mesial central, and distal) all are not on the same lobes. Remember teeth do not have one flat surface. Incisal plane is simulated to separate into 3 lobes by taking the 557-fissure bur into these lobes and rounding at the same time. A dry muslim wheel is then used to polish and smooth any uneven area of the provisional. After the provisionals are cemented, sometimes additional finishing is needed with an ET carbide (Brasseler USA) and Jiffy Polishers (Ultradent Products Inc).

Conclusion
A well-made provisional restoration is the key to an esthetic restoration. Understanding the patient’s expectations goes back to the consultation, fabricated in the esthetic mockup, duplicated in the provisionals, and communicated to the laboratory. These steps are critical to the overall achievement of a successful final result. Remember, patients do not know what they want until they see what they do not want.

Next issue, this column will focus on esthetic posterior trimming.

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