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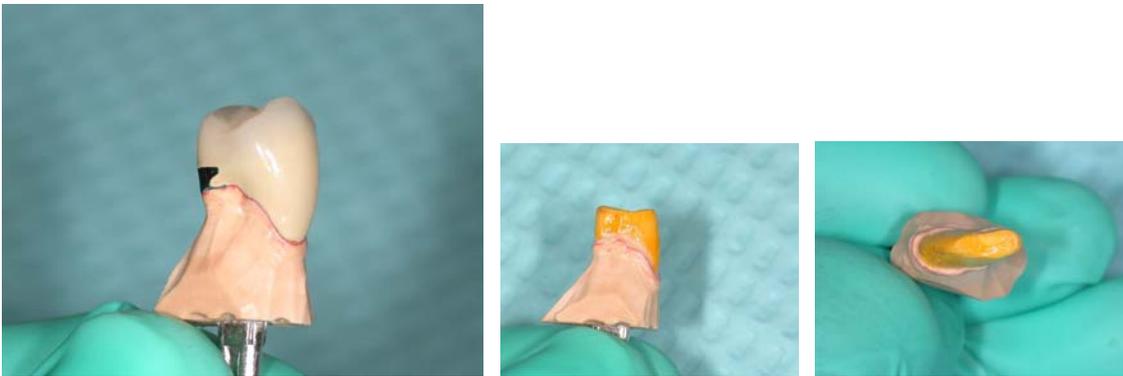
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If you haven't looked at it yet, go to the "crown preparation" slideshow to see how we got here. This is a couple of weeks later, the lab has made a crown from porcelain baked onto a gold/platinum framework, and the assistant has removed the temporary crown and cleaned up the tooth. No anesthetic was required for this appointment, but some teeth do need to be anesthetized since the tooth is washed and dried with cold water and air.

The photo on the lower right shows the permanent crown slipped partially onto the prepared tooth during the try-in stage.



Below you can see what the lab was working with. The stone model or "die" is used to fabricate a wax pattern which is cast in metal, then porcelain is baked over this framework. You can see (lower left) that the crown precisely fits the die around the edges, or margins. The side and top views show the narrow, tapered shape of the prepared tooth (the "prep"). The cement holds the crown in place mostly by friction, so the shape of the prep is very important. The reason most crowns come off is usually because the prep is too tapered or too short; unfortunately there's not much we can do in the latter case, except surgery to expose more tooth.



The crown is adjusted so it fits snugly between the adjacent teeth, but not so tightly that you can't floss it. The bite is checked--this is easier if you're not numb. It's possible to detect a crown that's "high" by a very small amount; most people can detect .004" thickness fairly easily. The fit around the gumline isn't adjustable, and if the impression was distorted so the crown doesn't fit accurately, a new impression and crown are required. Fortunately, this doesn't occur very often. The final step is cementation of the crown, shown below left. The tooth is isolated with cotton rolls, cement is mixed and placed in the crown, then the patient bites gently on a wooden stick to push the crown into place.



The final photo above right shows the finished crown, which in this case blends nicely with the adjacent crowns. Placing a crown on a single front tooth is much more challenging esthetically, and sometimes requires a return trip to the lab in order to get the color just right.