

The Evolution of a Porcelain Polishing Technique

Traditionally, many crowns and bridges have found their final resting position in the oral cavity following a simple glaze firing. A virtual plethora of ceramists have evolved into a new approach toward the finishing of their restorations that they find provides an extra touch of natural realism and vitality to their completed artwork: ‘seal with a light glaze bake;’ ‘remove the glaze surface’ and ‘polish with a highly effective polishing paste’ (*Briteness* from Dental Ventures of America, Inc.).

While we had been hearing of this technique for many weeks from our many new customers calling and requesting the product, we had never had a very satisfied customer approach us with photos and an explanation of what he was doing. Someone did just that at the recent IDS Meeting in Cologne. As it happens, a German Master Technician, Mr. Wolfgang Bade, had had a talented clinician from Italy mention how effective **Briteness* was and he began to use it immediately.

The photographs below depict the simple steps he takes to enhance the finish of his porcelain crowns.



First, the completed and shaped restoration is lightly glazed to seal the entire surface area.



Lastly, a brush disc or a cotton wheel is used to polish the crown's entire surface with *Britesness*.

According to Mr. Bade, the rubber wheeling could be eliminated. However, “If you want to achieve a very specific and special character on the surface, you should carry through with the rubber step!” According to the Zahntechniker Meister, this technique is a quick and extremely effective procedure.

Porcelain Polishing Technique of Mr. Wolfgang Bade,
Zahntechnikermeister; Bade Zahntechnik Laboratory; Schwerin,
Germany www.bade-zahntechnik.de

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After sealing, the crowns are **lightly** smoothed with the use of a white rubber wheel as shown above. Care should be taken to simply reduce the ‘high spots’ of the labial or buccal surface. The goal should be to create a natural appearing, rather uneven, or worn, surface.



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