Camera Settings for Dental Photography

Feature	What is it?	What Setting?
ISO	ISO defines how sensitive the sensor is to light. Low ISO demands a lot of light but is very crisp. High ISO can be used in low light settings, but is grainy.	100 is very nice, 200 is acceptable.
F-Stop (aperture)	F-Stop defines how large the aperture opens. It affects both light exposure and depth of field. Low F is (paradoxically) a large opening. It lets in a lot of light and results in a very small focal trough (great for blurring backgrounds in a portrait). High F is a small opening which limits light but creates a large depth of field.	Portraits (full face) f5.6-f8 Close up or arches f22-35 Mirror Shots f16-22
Shutter Speed	The shutter speed defines how long the shutter stays open. If the F-stop is high (small opening) the shutter must stay open longer to let enough light in. Long shutter speed shows motion blur. For dental photographs, the ideal is to keep the shutter as fast as possible while still letting enough light in.	Most dentists use Aperture priority which means the dentist chooses aperture for an ideal shot and lets the camera calculate the shutter speed that's required to match. 1/125 is a starting point if you're in full manual.
Flash Setting	TTL is "Through the lens" metering where the camera quickly tests exposure and sets if for you. Manual setting allows you to adjust the flash down if you're getting bright spots.	Most dentists use TTL. If there is too much flash, setting on manual and choosing ½ flash usually compensates well.
White Balance (WB)	White balance adjusts to make true white truly white. It is measured in Kalvin with warmer being more yellow and cooler being more blue.	Most dentists set WB to "flash" so the WB adjusts to flash temperature. If you're setting fully manual, 5300K is a good starting point.
Lens Length	Long lenses "flatten" the image and bring the subject closer. This is very flattering for portrait photography. Short lenses "widen" the image sometimes to a fisheye. A short lens is very good for getting wide angle shots, but looks distorted in dental.	100mm macro is the preferred lens for an SLR camera. If you're using a zoom lens, adjust to the highest telephoto (zoom in and step back). "Digital Zoom" is a crop feature in cameras and does not affect lens distortion.

Hallmark Dental Laboratory

info@hallmarkdental.ca
(902) 443-1211
fax (902)-443-7908