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Fabricating soft tissue for a stone implant model

A guide, contributed by:

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For implant models, a removable soft tissue is especially important for developing a restoration with the right form, function and esthetics. You want to be sure not to impinge on the tissue too much and also careful not to leave a gap between the crown and the implant. Implants can be placed at varying depths and that can make a huge impact on the tissue level. For these reasons, simulating the soft tissue can help ensure great results. Also making the tissue removable helps verify the ti-base and restoration are seated correctly when cementing on the model.

In my lab, I use both 3D printed and conventional models. I like the OI analogs because they work in both, they are stable and they hold the soft tissue in place securely. Here are the steps that I follow in my lab for a conventional model and some tips and tricks, as well.



1

The doctor will take an impression with an impression post. This is a closed tray impression but an open tray technique can also be used. The impression coping is seated in the impression.

2

Connect the analog. Verify that the components are seated completely.

3

Lightly spray the implant area in the impression with silicone before applying the soft tissue material so it will easily separate. I prefer to use silicone spray rather than using the liquid and brush supplied.

4

Syringe the soft tissue around the analog covering the connection between the parts and up just barely past the O-ring. I prefer to use Zhermack Gingifast Rigid to create the soft tissue. It is easy to trim and it's scannable.





5

Wait for the silicone to cure and, if needed, trim the interproximals before pouring the stone model.

6

Pour the stone model and once it is set, remove from the impression. Here is the initial model with the impression coping and soft tissue untouched.







7

Carefully remove the soft tissue careful not to distort or tear it. Again, I like this particular product because it is strong, flexible, and holds its shape.

Notice that the the soft tissue will need finishing work. This will help ensure proper seating.



8

With your handpiece you can use a small stone point to remove the flash on the underside and adjust the soft tissue to desired smoothness and emergence profile.







Snap the gingival tissue into the O-ring.

Finished model with soft tissue.

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