DENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY SETTINGS for Canon DSLR’s, 100mm Macro Lens, Ringflash

These recommendations should see you taking high quality photographs very quickly, you may then need to make minor adjustments for situations such as shade communication, this is normally by reducing the flash output by 1/3 or 2/3. You will probably need to refer to your camera and flash instruction manuals for how to modify these settings.

Focus Mode | MANUAL If you use autofocus then the magnification ratio will change constantly and therefore there will be no consistency with your photographs. It is best to dial in the required magnification ratio on the barrel of the lens and then focus manually.

Exposure | Manual (M) For reproducibly and efficiency you will need to tell the camera both the shutter speed and the aperture, therefore you will need to set the exposure mode to Manual.

Shutter speed | 1/200 This will prevent any blur caused by movement of either you or the patient.

Aperture | f/32 This small aperture opening will ensure maximum depth of field and therefore your image should be in focus. Use f11 for portraits.

ISO | 100 ISO measures the sensitivity of the digital sensor. The lower the number then the less sensitive the sensor is light and the less “noise” created. However if you are using a less powerful flash unit then ISO 200 or 400 will give more than good enough results.

White balance | FLASH The Colour Temperature of the image is hugely important. Custom White Balance using a Grey Card will give the most accurate colour reproduction, but as a good starting point and for most people the only setting needed will be White Balance set to “FLASH”.

Image quality | RAW & LARGE FINE JPG Although shooting in both RAW and Large Fine JPG will take up more memory I prefer it. The RAW image will act as a “digital negative”, the JPG can be edited, emailed, used on a practice website etc.

Ringflash | ETTL Evaluative-Through The Lens (ETTL) is a Canon EOS flash exposure system that uses a brief pre-flash before the main flash in order to obtain a more correct exposure. This gives excellent results in most cases, however modification to the Flash Exposure Compensation might need to be made to cope with use of Contrasters and metallic objects such as shade tab holders.

Flash Exposure Compensation | +1/3 For most views but may need to adjust accordingly, see Ringflash ETTL above.

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