If the Crown Doesn’t Fit, Adjust it

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O
e of the longest-standing issues in den-
tistry is crowns that do not fit. Making a
crown fit perfectly between adjacent teeth
is hard work. The problem is knowing exactly where
the contact point is located to make the adjustment.
Guessing or eyeballing to adjust the crown is time
consuming and does not guarantee a good—let
alone perfect—fit. A poorly fitting crown is very
uncomfortable and could be problematic for the
patient. And an unsatisfied patient could be prob-
lematic for you.

Certain methods have been developed to com-
bate poorly fitting crowns, mostly by means of mark-
ing the interproximal surface to determine where
to adjust. For example, fitting a piece of articula-
tion film in between metal forceps (or just holding
it with fingers) is a pretty popular way to mark the
interproximal surface. Marking floss and contact
paint are also tools used to mark the interproximal
surface for adjustments. All of these methods make
it difficult to see when positioning the product,
plus they are messy and inaccurate. Again, getting a
crown to fit perfectly is hard work.

It was out of necessity that a dentist from Boston
came up with a new idea. His solution, presented to
Microcopy, could eliminate the problems caused by
guessing and checking and other methods of mark-
ing the interproximal surface. That solution has
been developed into Proxi-Chek. The basic design
of Proxi-Chek was inspired by another product of
Microcopy’s, Bite-Chek Articulation Film. Essen-
tially, the idea behind both products is articulation
film with an easy-grip handle. The initial concept
of Proxi-Chek was presented to us in the form of a
coffee stirrer. This dentist had finally created a way
to ensure a perfect fitting crown. He had created a
marking device that was designed to be simple. We
now had an opportunity to completely change the
way dentists thought about marking along the inter-
proximal surface. Now, it could be quick and easy, sig-
nificantly cutting the time to adjust crowns. Based
on the results, we decided to pursue this project.

Even before the first prototypes of Proxi-Chek
were developed, the idea behind it was well received
by dentists. However, Proxi-Chek met most of its
praise during the testing phases. Dentists were
impressed by the ease of locating the contact point
and the decreased time spent fitting the crown.
That was the goal; to make the process of adjust-
ing crowns easier while also fulfilling Microcopy’s
mission to provide exceptional innovations for safe
and simple dentistry. As the development of Proxi-
Chek progressed, patents were secured, a name was
chosen, marketing materials and packaging were
designed, product testing was done, files of paper-
work were completed for regulatory requirements
to meet FDA standards, and production plans were
developed to ensure the highest quality. Proxi-Chek
is made in the United States and designed, produced,
and packaged at Microcopy’s headquarters in Ken-
nesaw, Ga.

The combination of a unique innovation pro-
cess (MIPS), which Microcopy uses for product
development, and the unique relationship between
the dentist and Microcopy as a partner on the idea
for Proxi-Chek, paved the way for it to become the
first Dentalvation project. Dentalvation, an affili-
ate project of Microcopy’s, enables innovative ideas
like Proxi-Chek to be developed by the expertise of
the Microcopy team. Because Proxi-Chek is a safe,
simple, single-patient-use idea that can be sampled
and was presented by a dentist, it not only became
the first but it set the framework for future Dentalva-
tion projects. Microcopy seeks to find tools or inno-
ervations that help to make dentistry more practical.
Proxi-Chek is an embodiment of that idea and easily
fits into becoming a foundation for Dentalvation.

So what problem does Proxi-Chek solve, and
what makes it so special? You no longer have to
guess while adjusting a crown to fit it just right. The
problems caused by guessing and checking and by
other marking devices are no more. Overadjusting,
hard-to-see marks, and messiness from other mark-
ing devices have been eliminated. All the problems
caused by an oversized or misshaped crown can now
easily be avoided. The built-in handle ensures visibil-
ity in the area you are marking and provides enough
reach so that you do not even have to put your fin-
gers into the patient’s mouth. Plus, it includes a
bendable tip to better mark hard-to-reach posterior
molars. Additionally, it can mark the crown as well
as the adjacent teeth. So, in all, Proxi-Chek is the only
device that combines a precise mark of the contact
with simplicity to eliminate the guesswork to prop-
erly fit a crown. Essentially, it offers a solution to
the problems of marking proximity by employing
a unique design, simplicity, and affordability, mak-
ing it more convenient than the traditional ways of
fitting a crown.

For more information, call Microcopy toll-free
at (800) 235-1863.