

DIGITALLY SCANNED DIAGNOSTIC STUDY MODELS

Diagnostic study models are casts of the teeth and gums. They are made of a resin type material obtained from a digital scan of the teeth. Usually the models are “mounted” on an instrument called an articulator which is a mechanical hinge simulating the movement of the lower jaw against the upper.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are diagnostic study models needed of my teeth?

- To allow your dentist to observe how your upper and lower teeth fit and function together – this would not be visible by looking directly in your mouth.
- To allow your dentist to study wear patterns of your teeth.
- To enable your dentist to plan your dental treatment.
- To help your dentist communicate your treatment options.
- To facilitate communication with a dental laboratory.
- To provide a permanent record of your teeth, allowing documentation over time.



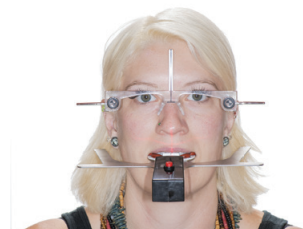
Digital Scanner



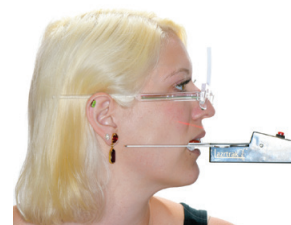
Color Scan

2. What is involved in making diagnostic study models of my teeth?

- A Digital Scan:
A camera on the end of a wand will “capture” a three-dimensional image of your teeth and gums.
- A Bite registration:
A digital scan showing how your teeth fit together is taken by biting down and capturing the resulting image.
- A Facebow Record:
A plate with registration material is placed against your top teeth and positioned to capture the relationship of the upper jaw to your jaw joints and facial midline.
- A Dental Laboratory:
In the dental laboratory the diagnostic study models of your teeth are mounted on an instrument called an articulator which mimics the movements of your jaws using the face bow transfer and bite registration.



Dentofacial Analyzer Frontal



Dentofacial Analyzer Lateral

3. What are the advantages of digitally scanned diagnostic study models?

- There is no impression material involved that can cause gagging in some people.
- Your models can be kept forever digitally and are easily stored.
- Communication between team members involved in your treatment is easier.
- By capturing a three-dimensional scan of your face and combining it with the scan of your teeth your dentist is able to see how your teeth fit in your face.



Mounted Diagnostic Casts

4. What if I choose not to have diagnostic study models made of my teeth?

Your dentist may not be able to see and understand how your upper and lower teeth function when you chew. An accurate diagnosis for your dental situation will be difficult or impossible. As a result, planning and communicating treatment options to you and the dental laboratory may be difficult or impossible.