

## Crown 4W



A slow month meant Mike Santomauro had time to fabricate a crown for the *Challenge*; typically he fabricates about two or three crowns a day at his laboratory in Wyoming.

### **Technician and laboratory:**

Mike Santomauro, owner of Jackson Dental Services, a solo C&B lab in Jackson, Wyoming

**A slow month pays off:** Fortunately for Mike Santomauro, April was a slow month. “I said if I have time to fabricate a crown for **LMT**’s *Crown Challenge*, I’ll do it,” he recalls. As a one-person operation,

Santomauro finds it difficult to gauge the quality of his work compared to others in his field. “The *Challenge* is a good guide for learning where I stand in the industry,” he says. “If I had been eliminated in an early round, I would have considered taking different steps to better the quality of my work.”

**A global perspective:** Santomauro grew up in Australia where

he earned a degree in dental technology and, throughout his 22 years in the industry, has worked in C&B labs in Australia, Europe and the U.S. “One of the major differences between the Australian and U.S. workforces is that a degree in dental technology is necessary to work as a technician in Australia,” he says. However, Santomauro doesn’t think that constitutes the making of a great technician. “A degree teaches you the fundamentals, but creativity and artistic talent are innate qualities,” he says. “In order to produce an above-average crown, you need both—talent and education. That’s what determines the cream of the crop.”

**Off the bench:** Santomauro is a passionate skier and prior to owning his laboratory, he worked part-time at various jobs—including bartending, driving a ski bus and building houses as well as dental technology—in order to have the free time to hit the



“This is a very, very nice crown,” says one of our judges. All of our *Crown Challenge* evaluators like this crown’s well-adapted fit, ideal contours and glaze, and its natural anatomy and stain.

slopes in the winters. “I’m a skier at heart,” says Santomauro, who has skied in various areas around the world.

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