

Crown 8Z

Technician and laboratory: Chris Parker, owner, THE LAB, a solo C&B operation in University Place, Washington

The little lab that could:

Parker's first career goal was to be a physical therapist but once he learned about dental technology, he knew it was a perfect way to combine his artistic abilities with his interest in anatomy. After studying dental technology for a year at Bates Technical College in Tacoma, Washington, he then studied with John Archibald of Archibald Associates, the in-house ceramist for Dr. Gordon Christensen in Provo, Utah for another year. "The hands-on instruction I received there was so valuable. I got to dabble in all kinds of different porcelains and materials. The whole world of C&B opened up to me, and I learned that ceramics is where my heart is," says Parker.

He started his business, THE LAB, in 2001, conveniently located next to his father-in-law who is a dentist. In addition, Parker's uncle and cousin are both dentist-clients and his family connections have given him a unique insight into the dentist's mind. "I've known my father-in-law for 16 years. I've watched his practice go through different stages and learned what dentists expect in terms of communication and professionalism from their labs," he says.

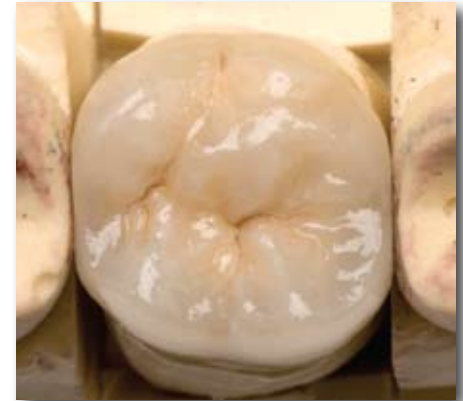
Referring to his business as, "the little lab that could," Parker believes his main selling point is that he's a one-man show. "My work doesn't pass through six or seven hands before it's completed. It all starts and ends with me, and I triple check everything under a microscope for exactness in every part of the process. My work is never generic, I layer all the anatomy and contours in with a brush and use internal staining. I love to recreate nature." **LMT**

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Recreating nature with ceramics is Chris Parker's passion.



One judge calls this crown, "exceptional," and others point out the beautiful occlusal anatomy and natural porcelain blend. The evaluators also give this crown high marks in the stain category.