

The Full Face Photo

There are three common ways we can capture and translate an absolute reference to "level" with the face:

- Bite fork
- Bite stick
- Photograph

Since every patient has some asymmetry in their facial features, the best outcome will result from "harmonizing" with the asymmetry we observe.

In my experience, bite forks and bite sticks will inadvertently 'force the hand' of the lab technician by dictating the Level position. They also obscure the view and impede patient's ability to smile naturally. Of the three, only photography allows all the features of the face to be viewed simultaneously-- the natural smile in its natural environment—allowing the technician to assist in determining the best way to harmonize with the face.

Therefore, if we are going to do everything we can to properly manage our reference to Level, my recommended protocol is:

1. For esthetic purposes, prioritize the Full Face Photo. Invest the time and attention to make this photo as 'perfect' as possible. For guidelines, follow my Photography Guide.
2. For all anterior cases, do the full diagnostic protocol. This allows us to design the case once, trial in temps, and make necessary adjustments in the final restorations: it gives us two chances to get it right.
3. Both technician and dentist can then analyze, collaborate, and agree upon Level on each case. This can be done through the 3D previews I send by email, and by TeamViewer on request.

If you have anything to add, ask, or discuss, please reach out to me.

Thanks again,
Amos