

ABOUT THE COVER



by Nancy A. Norling, DDS, AACD Accredited Member (AAACD)
and Lance A. Hancock

Heather, a vibrant 27-year-old respiratory therapist, and Lance Hancock, a dental laboratory technician, were excited about their upcoming wedding in Napa Valley wine country. Heather considered enhancing her smile and, with the wedding date set, she decided this was a good reason and a good time to do it.

Years ago, Heather's two central incisors had been bonded to conceal two large enamel defects that left her teeth with large pitted and discolored concavities. The bonding had been replaced many times and the staining was becoming visible once again. Because she wanted a more permanent solution, one that would also make her teeth "fuller and more even," Lance strongly suggested restoring her teeth with porcelain veneers. However, Heather was concerned about losing tooth structure and that the new teeth would appear unnatural.

Therefore, several options were discussed: Simply replacing the bonding; orthodontics to correct the slight rotations, followed by replacing the bonding with new composite restorations or porcelain veneers; using "prep-less" veneers to fill out her deficient buccal corridors; or restoring #5-12 with a combination of the above. Orthodontics was ruled out because the wedding was in just two months, and Heather was opposed to any orthodontic treatment, even if time allowed. Following a comprehensive examination, a diagnostic preview was designed to demonstrate her smile if veneers were placed on #4-12. Having seen many "before and after" restored case images—and knowing that her fiancé would be responsible for her new veneers—Heather decided to proceed with treatment, feeling absolutely certain that her new smile would be beautiful!

Our goal in restoring a smile is to be as conservative as possible and achieve the desired results with as minimal reduction as possible. Although we were unable to correct Heather's left-of-center midline position, we did correct the slight cant, making the centrals more symmetrical. Teeth #4, #5, #12, and #13 were restored with "prep-less" veneers; prior to the impression taking, the only alterations were made using a fine sandpaper disc over the height of contour on #5 and #12.

Heather was placed in acrylic temporaries, which enabled her to verify esthetics and function, as well as indicate if any changes were necessary to reflect the desired look. The delivery appointment went smoothly.



Preoperative.



Postoperative.

Ten Empress veneers (Ivoclar Vivadent; Amherst, NY) were seated with little or no adjustment needed. The final result was a beautiful smile for an absolutely beautiful bride on her wedding day!

When asked if she would do it again, Heather replied, *"Without question—I couldn't be more pleased. My family and friends can't believe the difference it has made, not only by enhancing my smile but also my entire look. I even get compliments from complete strangers and I love it!"*

For more on this patient's clinical treatment, please turn to page 72.

Credits: Dentistry by Nancy A. Norling, DDS, AAACD (Minneapolis, MN). Ceramic artistry and clinical photography by Lance Hancock, Westlund Dental Studio (Eden Prairie, MN). Cover photography by Jill Doherty, www.jilldoherty.com (Berkeley, CA).

