My father has been practicing dentistry for more than thirty-five years. He told me back in the "old days," many lecturers would shy away from doing a single central incisor and just do both teeth. Considering how common the single central circumstance is, it appears that the technician who masters the task will be in great demand.

Modern technology with higher quality materials, digital photography and better shade options enable the technician to create single central restorations that melt into the environment. Unlike doing two or more teeth, where the dentist and technician have the freedom of altering contours and shades to the patient’s desire, when doing a single central the task is one of working within the limitations and restraints of the existing dentition. A technician who welcomes limitations and restraints gets the chance to exercise his or her true creative ability, and use his or her knowledge of color, form, texture and digital photography.

**CASE PRESENTATION**

01 The first task in this type of case is to obtain a clean clear image of the tooth in the surrounding environment. The criteria for this image is proper focus, a wide depth of field.
Once the contacts are adjusted the technician can now begin the detail work of creating proper form. Colored pencils are a great tool to help guide the technician in the right direction of contour and surface treatment (Fig. H).

When finalizing the form and surface treatment it is important to check the restoration from every angle so as not to miss any details (Fig. I).

Once every angle is checked and the first bake and contouring is complete, we can glaze the restoration and add some minor details. It is these details which help differentiate a great restoration from a mediocre one. Some of the details include a halo, and line angle adjustments.

We accomplish this by mixing a low fusing ceramic to our layered ceramic with a 60/40 mix (Fig. J).

Once glazed and polished we can go to the mouth for our try-in, hoping the steps we took yielded an accurate restoration (Fig. K).

To check our work we can convert an intraoral image of our restoration to black and white to confirm value (Fig. L).

With accurate form, value, and surface texture the single central becomes less of a challenge. The goal of the single central is to blend harmoniously into an existing site and not to overpower the surrounding dentition (Figs. M - O).

It is through working within the restraints and limitations of the existing site that the technician can exhibit maximum creativity when completing this rather common occurrence in dental practice.