

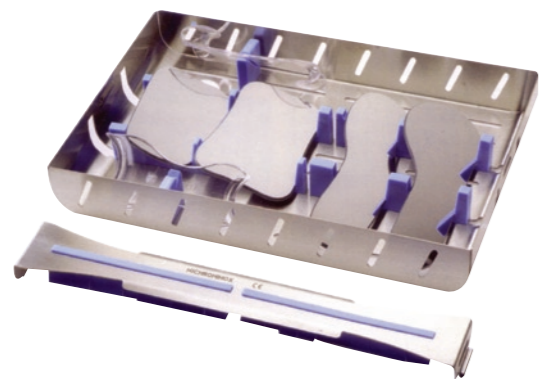
clinical cases

Dr Mulligan talks about his experiences using DB Orthodontics' photographic supplies.

Having been involved in digital photography for a number of years now, I have used various cameras and accessories to try and improve the quality of images produced. I am presently using the canon EOS 450D with a 105mm sigma macro lens. For illumination I alternate between the sigma EM140 DG ring flash for most situations, but prefer the canon twin light flash for real macro work.

I'm really happy with my present camera, but I have always struggled when it comes to accessories for manipulation of the oral tissues. I recently had the opportunity to play with a range of photographic products produced by DB Orthodontics and I was very pleased with the quality of the accessories themselves as well as the image quality they helped to produce.

One of the best bits of the DBO photographic kit was the rhodium mirror and handle system. Mirrors often get scratched during reprocessing and DBO also produces a range of stainless steel padded cassettes that protect against damage.



High resolution intra-oral photos depend on superior reflective mirrors. DB produces four styles that give fantastic access to all intra-oral regions (palatal large and small, lingual and buccal). The tough rhodium mirror surface is permanently bonded to a metal base that resists chipping.



Rhodium provides higher reflectance for sharper, precise images with 35mm and digital photography. Rhodium mirrors withstand repeated steam and autoclave sterilization. In addition the handle system grips the mirror with rubber compression preventing scratches whilst providing a highly reliable way of positioning the mirror at various angles. With other systems where the mirror handle is bonded to the mirror at a fixed angle, it can easily become an obstruction to ideal placement. In addition I have experienced failure of the adhesive between the handle and mirror after repeated sterilisation of other systems.



Retraction is key to good visualisation of the dental tissues and DB produce many different retractors. I personally favour their double ended stainless steel range for buccal retraction as crazing and opacity can become an issue with the plastic alternatives.



Having said this, I have used DB's "Retract Ezz" Photo Lip Retractor on several occasions without any deterioration in its appearance. It is specifically fabricated to withstand heat sterilisation of up to 143 degrees C. This product has an innovative design which comfortably retracts the sulcus to provide maximum exposure for occlusal photographs.



Contrastors are an excellent way to provide fantastic image quality by manipulating the background of macro photography. The DBO set are manufactured from black anodized aluminium and are autoclavable.

They provide contrast to your images and eliminate useless elements as well as providing a metric scale if required.



Dr Mulligan is a general dental practitioner in a large private practice in Royal Leamington Spa. He qualified for Birmingham University in 1999 and has subsequently developed his practice in the areas of implantology and digital photography.