

## Michael Miyasaki DDS, LVIM

*Dr. Michael Miyasaki is LVI's Vice President of International Operations. A 1987 graduate of USC School of Dentistry, he developed a highly successful reconstruction practice in Sacramento, CA. Following his passion to teach and mentor other dentists, he became associated with LVI in 1996 where he now works full time. Michael practices in the LVI faculty practice, lectures and publishes articles on the latest aesthetic, occlusion and materials available.*



# PRODUCT REVIEWS

## AESTHETIC SOLUTIONS

*This issue will deal with two aesthetic challenges and their simple solutions. The first product, KerrHawe's CompoRoller™ draws on such a simple solution that it will leave you wondering why you didn't see the painting on the wall before. And our second product, AXIS Dental's Achromat and Achromat-HP esthetic fiber post system, offers an aesthetic solution to handle the post and core difficulties of teeth to be restored with aesthetic non-metal restorations.*

## Why Didn't I Think Of That?



*KerrHawe CompoRoller™*

**E**ver slap yourself on the forehead and say, “Why didn’t I think of that?” Here’s one of those instances—a dental tool that seems so obvious. When we paint a wall we don’t apply it with a flat metal spatula because it would take too long to cover any significant area and it would leave us with a rough surface in need of smoothing. Typically we would use a rolling brush because it offers a broad surface to cover the area more quickly and to spread the paint evenly. Now think about this, how do you apply your composite? We use a flat metal “spatula” or a brush which creates the problems mentioned previously.

So how do you get a paint roller in someone’s mouth? Slap your head time. KerrHawe has come up with the CompoRoller™ that works on the same principle as the paint

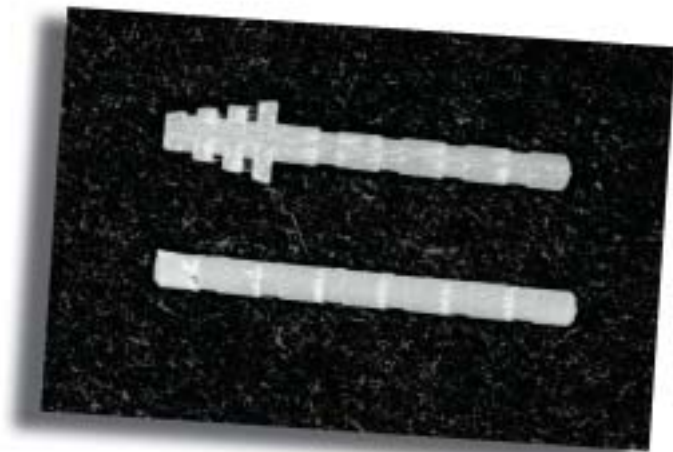
roller. You take a lightweight, ergonomic, two-ended instrument handle and “rollers” made from KerrHawe’s proprietary non-stick thermoplastic elastomer material and you are ready to ‘paint’. The tips are single-use and disposable that snap onto the ends of the handle and they come in two different shapes—cylindrical and conical. So with one handle you can have one end with the cylindrical shape and the other with the conical.

Time to go to work. With your new instrument in hand you are able to spread your direct resin composite material over a broad surface quickly and easily without pulling and dragging the composite. The CompoRoller’s rolling action minimizes the amount of air incorporated into the restorations which should ultimately enhance the physical proper-

ties of the restorations. (Direct resins restorations run the risk of having voids incorporated into the material by the patting motion used with spatula-type instruments. Obviously, these voids could ultimately decrease the physical strength of the restoration). Okay, teeth are not all flat surfaces and this explains the two different roller shapes, cylindrical and conical, conical for the large flat areas and conical for the occlusal surface contours. The multiple shapes of these tips allows you to quickly apply the composite in even layers on the different surfaces of the teeth while minimizing the time needed to finish and polish the restorations because the material works with the thixotropic properties of the materials.

Okay, now remove the palm of your hand from your forehead and order a kit—KerrHawe’s CompoRoller.

## Achromat and Achromat-HP Esthetic Fiber Post System



**B**roken teeth and endodontically treated teeth are the aesthetic dentist's nightmare. At LVI we teach techniques to handle the discoloration of the teeth, but what about the post, if one is needed? Posts are used to help retain the final restorations when there is insufficient remaining tooth structure to do so, but use of the metal posts of old created many problems. One is that these posts often caused further discoloration of the core of the tooth which would show through our highly aesthetic and translucent restorations. Another problem with these posts is that would often lead to fracture of the root. A common scenario which plays out in dental offices everyday is the patient who calls saying they have crown that has just come out and they'd like to come into to have it replaced. You look at your schedule and thinking it's just a quick re-cementation tell them to drop by. You know what happens from here. Your patient arrives with crown in hand, post protruding proudly from

crown and attached to the post is part of the root. You know you now have to squeeze a much more time consuming procedure into no time in your schedule. Why did this happen you wonder? Think about this, the post was placed within 3-4 mm of the apex of the root where the walls are very thin. Perhaps you thinned the walls further to try to get a wider post in the root. With the everyday forces transferring down through the non-flexing metal post material into the thin apical end of the root it fractures. Another similarity is having an implant fail. No one wants this to happen, but if there was a failure anywhere I'd prefer it to be in the abutment or restoration and not the implant body itself. Another difficulty seen with metal posts is that you have to get a core of some type to attach to it. So you place metal primers and a resin material over the top hoping that the core material attaches to the post and that the core material also blocks out the post's color. Or, in another scenario you have a core cast to the

post and now have even more difficulty with the aesthetic color issues. We've discussed the many problems with metal posts and here is a solution.

AXIS Dental Corporation has their Achromat and Achromat-HP Esthetic Posts. Achromatic means it's neutral with no hue. These are posts made of glass resin fibers with incredible strength. So you have a post that is aesthetic and tooth-colored and works great under our translucent aesthetic restorations. These posts are bonded to the tooth and root not cemented meaning extra retention. Being non-metal their elastic modulus is very similar to dentin to prevent the root fractures I mentioned earlier, and being non-metal they cannot corrode like metal posts. When it comes to diagnostic radiography, though they are metal-free, they are still radiopaque. A nice feature of the Achromat-HP post with the retentive "arrowhead" design is that you can countersink the post into the coronal portion of the tooth creating a more retentive post and providing better force distribution. And, finally, they are designed so that the core material placed on them bonds to their serrated and machined surfaces.

Take a look at these products.  
After you do I'd love to  
hear your comments.  
Your suggestions always  
are welcome-please  
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