

■ *Shofu's EyeSpecial C-II Digital Dental Camera – designed with an eye for the practical*

Digital dental photography is becoming more important in communication, shade selection, documentation and patient information and motivation. To successfully use photography in everyday practice, dental professionals should have some basic knowledge of photo optics and a camera designed specifically for dental use.

Shofu's EyeSpecial C-II has proved itself in our workplace. Thanks to its preset shooting modes, ease of disinfection, and simple operation even with one hand, we have easily and quickly integrated this camera into our daily workflows – a leap in quality for all involved.

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Digital dental photography has become indispensable to me in everyday practice. More often I press the shutter as my camera facilitates therapy planning, shade selection, reliable documentation and communication with patients and dental technicians. But this has not always been the case! For a long time, I used a single lens reflex (SLR) camera with all the necessary accessories in my practice. In a two-day course with Wolfgang Weisser, I had



Frontal image of a full arch with a cheek retractor, taken with the EyeSpecial C-II

learned the basics of dental photography. Motivated by this course, I initially used my digital camera, especially in interesting cases when I thought the effort was justified, and prepared everything for the shooting in advance.

SLR camera: unsuitable for spontaneous shooting

Over time, however, I realised this camera was very difficult to integrate into my everyday clinical environment. Whenever I wanted to take a picture of a particular situation, the flash was not ready, the battery was flat, or my second assistant was unavailable. After a while I began to lose interest in spontaneous shooting and at some point I stopped using my SLR. The only camera I still used sporadically was my intraoral camera, as it was always ready for operation and easy to handle. Any equipment you have to find, fetch, plug in and charge will not become an integral part of your approach in the long term. The effort will simply be too great.

About two years ago, I happened across the **EyeSpecial C-II**. On various internet forums I read that other dental professionals were very happy with this new Shofu dental camera. That caught my interest. And even though a few colleagues have repeatedly criticised the price, my investment in this camera has paid off: I use it frequently – at least four or five times a week.

An investment in longer-term success

With such a special camera I am able to differentiate my work and photos can help motivate my patients to feel more invested in their dental and oral health. For instance, when a patient who has received aesthetic maxillary crowns and veneers sees an image of the completed restorations, he/she may be inclined to have his/her mandibular teeth restored in the same way.



Frontal image of prepared mandibular teeth before restoration

Click – It's that easy to take good photos

So what properties of the **EyeSpecial C-II** have finally won me over? The most important factor is its ease of use and that its features and options have been designed specifically for dental imaging situations. I don't use it for atmospheric nature photography. I want to take precise, well-illuminated, high-resolution images in the oral cavity. A digital camera should quickly and easily produce high quality images even in confined situations – and this is what it does!

The **EyeSpecial C-II** is really simple and straightforward: I turn it on, select the desired shooting mode on the LED touchscreen and take a good photo – that's it! This dental camera is so compact and lightweight that I can easily hold and operate it with one hand. I can use my other hand to hold the cheek retractor or the mirror. I do not need anybody's help, which is a great advantage, especially when I am pressed for time. I can use it more quickly and effectively than an SLR camera in everyday practice; at the same time, it is so easy to handle that photography can also be delegated to my assistants, after some instruction.

To have enough light for good, shadow-free photos in the oral cavity, I need a high quality light source. The FlashMatic system with automatic flash settings ensures controlled illumination and true-



For optimal assessment of the tooth shade, the Isolate Shade mode uniformly displays the gingiva in grey

colour images. For additional lighting, I can use my operatory light.

Image sharpness is also excellent since this camera has been specially optimised for the focal distances used in dental photography. So, if I am unhappy with sharpness once in a while, then it's almost always due to the fact that the wrong distance has been chosen, meaning: it's my mistake ...

Tried and tested: is easily disinfected

Maybe these high-tech SLR cameras produce better digital images but I will only get perfect photos if I do everything right, including:

- study the whole matter beforehand
- know the proper camera settings
- have the right lens (zoom or macro?) and flash (lateral or ring?)
- have photo holders and help from trained team members because normally an SLR has to be operated with both hands to avoid shaking

Another practical drawback is the fact that an SLR camera is usually hard to disinfect. Of course it will rarely come into contact



The Isolate Shade mode for shade assessment

with patients, but to observe the hygiene chain, I have to take off my gloves before taking a photo and then I cannot touch the patient anymore.

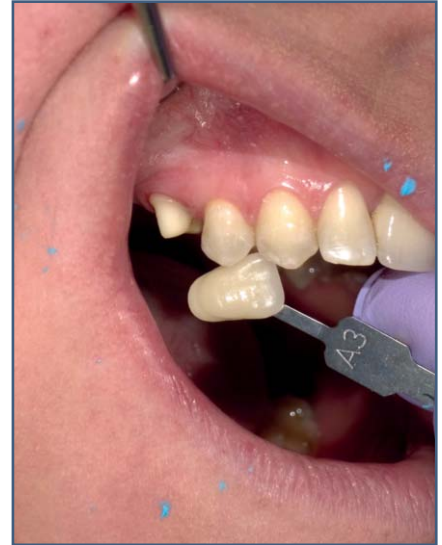
So, when using an SLR, I definitely need more time for my patient and here the **EyeSpecial C-II** comes in handy again. The body is water and chemical-resistant, so it can easily be disinfected, which means I can photograph even when wearing contaminated gloves; the camera will simply be disinfected afterwards.

Our patients are happy with the photo documentation we use for information and consultation on restorations and our dental technicians very much appreciate the high quality of our patient photos – which they don't receive from every dental practice. Colour reproduction does not have to be 100 per cent perfect here; it may be more important to dental technicians to get an overall impression of a patient and his/her oral situation. Our precise digital images also inform technicians about the structures of adjacent teeth and the patient's smile line. After all, the tooth shade is not everything!

And here is yet another aspect of communication: sometimes I use my digital photos on the computer to discuss interesting or difficult clinical cases with my wife, who works with me in our joint dental practice.

Brilliant digital photos without complicated settings

The **EyeSpecial C-II** is really foolproof. It allows me to quickly take a good or usually brilliant photo of any tooth at any time – without any expert knowledge or complicated settings. My camera does all the complicated technical stuff for me. I just need to properly stage the clinical situation and select the ideal shooting distance. The basic photography course I took a few years ago has helped me a lot in this respect. Now I know, for instance, at what angle and distance to take a picture of maxillary anterior teeth while pulling the lip upwards with the retractor and keeping the mirror dry.



Shade selection with a reference shade in the posterior region

I would recommend asking your Shofu sales representative to explain your dental camera, its functions and eight preset shooting modes before using it for the first time. After some brief instruction, digital dental photography will definitely become an integral part of your everyday practice without more ado.



Occlusal image of maxillary teeth, taken with a mirror

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