

## TPV- Thin Prepress Veneers

The idea of placing porcelain on teeth without the necessity of reducing or preparing away tooth structure has been around for over twenty years. The challenge has been creating thin enough porcelain that provides a natural looking, beautiful result without making the teeth look bulky, pillowy, too big, or like chicklets. One prominent product, Lumineers, touts a contact lens thickness to their veneers. In my opinion, even that is too thick to achieve a natural look in most cases. My research and 20 year quest for a truly thin veneer designed to be placed on an unmodified, unprepared tooth has led me to a master ceramist who has developed a porcelain that is actually paper thin, yet remarkably strong and is absolutely gorgeous! The results rival the finest of traditional porcelain veneer cases.

This new porcelain veneering technique requires no removal of tooth structure, no anesthetic, and can totally transform a smile. Experience has shown that not everyone is a good candidate for the Thin Prepress Veneers or TPVs. The technique is best suited for patients who have either gapped, discolored, chipped, worn, or small teeth, as well as teeth that are slightly crowded. Patients who had extractions of bicuspid teeth along with orthodontics are also excellent candidates. TPVs are not recommended for teeth that have existing decay, crowns, severe crowding, large existing fillings, or are large flaring teeth. Patients with a thin upper lip are not good candidates as well. However, traditional veneering with tooth reduction can provide beautiful results for all of these conditions.

The success of each TPV case depends upon the results of the bio-esthetic prototype or mock-up. Before impressions are sent to the master ceramist, Dr. Hartley creates a mock-up using sculpting resins placed directly to your teeth. The esthetic proportions can be previewed by the look achieved with the resin mock-up. You and Dr. Hartley can then assess if TPVs are right for you. Viewing the mock-up allows you to give feedback for any modifications you might desire. Once the mock-up is approved, models and pictures are recorded and impressions sent to the ceramist. The mock-up is then carefully reproduced in truly thin, amazingly durable porcelain. The fabrication process for the porcelain takes a few weeks. During that time, you will be wearing a temporary set of resin veneers, copied from the mock-up, so you can adjust to the new shape and design of the eventual TPVs.

TPVs cost a little more than traditional veneers due to the difficulty in creating high quality porcelain to the degree of thinness required. It took 20 years to develop porcelain that could truly deliver a natural, beautiful looking result without having to grind away tooth structure. Thin Prepress Veneers, TPVs, have won me over, and they will you too! Call today for a consultation to see if you are a good candidate for this revolutionary new porcelain veneering technique.