

Reader's Choice 2020



In a nationwide survey, we asked the readers of Dental Product Shopper to identify their go-to products in virtually every major category of dentistry. Here, we showcase a sampling of your most-loved solutions.

In the recent absence of in-person events such as trade shows, study clubs, and live training sessions, staying in contact with our peers is more important than ever—especially as practices across the country are aboard the same flight to safely navigate the ongoing pandemic.

There's good news to share—nearly 500 dentists, hygienists, and assistants took part in our annual *DPS* Readers' Choice survey to weigh in on the top-tier, go-to products they use to provide preventive, restorative, and cosmetic treatment to their patients.



"I usually do my anterior cases over 2 visits, and since my CAD/CAM system is laptop-based, I can do the design work in the comfort of my home."

-Jason Pujo, DMD

If you're looking to make a product change, you'll want to hear what these readers have to say. But no matter how you research new products, there's probably a key underlying reason why a product you've trusted for years is getting traded out in the first place. Maybe it isn't living up to its

expectations—for example, it's not fast enough, it's too difficult to use, or leads to poor clinical outcomes. For Dr. Jason Pujo, who practices in Dracut, MA, the reason was a bit more obvious.

"A couple years ago, my compact milling unit died. It would function sporadically, but after 3 attempts at diagnosis, it was found to have developed an issue caused by old age and could not be repaired," he shared.

So, after months of thoroughly researching 2 leading CAD/CAM solutions and asking his peers about their experiences—not to mention the pain of reverting back to conventional impressions for single-unit crowns—Dr. Pujo decided to choose a new go-to system. Now, he thoroughly enjoys using the Planmeca Emerald scanner and Planmeca PlanMill 40 S to mill same-day single-unit IPS e.max crowns and crownlays for his patients.

"The PlanMill is excellent and produces amazingly precise restorations that fit fantastically," he said. "And, coupled with the precision of the Emerald scanner, they rarely need any adjustment out of the mill." Choosing this CAD/CAM system, in particular, also has allowed him to expand into anterior restorations, such as milling veneers, 3-unit anterior bridges, and replacing old porcelain-fused-to-metal and zirconia crowns.

"I usually do my anterior cases over 2 visits, and since my CAD/CAM system is laptop-based, I can do the design work in the comfort of my own home. The truly open system that Planmeca offers allows me to send out my scans to any lab, and then re-import a design for milling," Dr. Pujo added.

Whether you're like Dr. Pujo and considering your options for CAD/CAM dentistry, or simply searching for a new composite, handpiece, or intraoral camera, finding out the products your peers rely on to provide quality patient care is as good a starting point as any.

Although the survey-winning products span dozens of treatment categories, we'll highlight a sampling of *DPS* readers' top picks for software, equipment, and cosmetic treatment, while offering the full list of winners online.

SOFTWARE

From website design and patient communication to digital hubs that tie the patient journey together from check-in to follow up, the software we use on a daily basis to get patients in the chair and run an efficient practice has evolved dramatically over the past several years.

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

For example, while Henry Schein One's [Dentrix](#) has been streamlining dental office operations for over 30 years, the practice management software has evolved alongside technology to offer not only electronic billing, insurance claims, and patient questionnaires, but also the ability to initiate patient imaging from within the software in just a few clicks.



From tools for patient scheduling and insurance claim tracking to paperless charting and digital image manipulation, Patterson's [Eaglesoft](#) features an Advanced Imaging Window that allows users to acquire, save, and enhance digital x-rays.

Carestream's [CS SoftDent](#) offers a unique Practice Central feature that provides custom views for team members to see their critical day-to-day tasks—such as which patients need medical history updates or who has an upcoming high-dollar-value appointment.



WEBSITE DESIGN

[ProSites](#) offers dental teams the flexibility to choose from an extensive library of over 200 pre-designed dental websites—including pre-written content, educational videos, contact forms, and more—or create their own practice vision with a fully customizable website.

[Officite](#) gives practices the freedom to make content and layout changes quickly and easily, or to stay in their comfort zone and send content to a skilled design team for updates.



For those making the first plunge into practice marketing, **The Online Practice** offers a Basic Package that comes with a choice of over 150 website designs, mobile optimization, an e-commerce store, professionally written content, and unlimited customer support.



PATIENT COMMUNICATION

Just one of many [Lighthouse 360](#) features, [Patient FastTrack](#) allows patients to complete new patient registration forms, including



customizable questions and editable patient agreements, on their smartphones within minutes.

A robust patient relationship management solution, [Solutionreach](#) offers features like two-way text messaging, online scheduling, secure telehealth appointments, electronic billing, and customizable digital intake forms.

[Weave](#) allows the dental team to send patients Google or Facebook review requests with the click of a button, and then verifies the reviews are automatically posted online. Weave Payments, a full payment processing solution, offers multiple contactless payment options.



SMALL EQUIPMENT

Where would we be without our trusted handpieces, cameras, and loupes? These small yet mighty workhorses help enhance diagnostics, illuminate the oral cavity, and speed up restorations in a way that allows us to focus on quality patient care.

AIR-DRIVEN HANDPIECES

Handpieces in KaVo Kerr's [SMARTmatic](#) series feature ceramic sliders within the clamping system for secure handling, rust-free, stainless-steel construction, and an internal spray transmission to the Sprayclip for a quick changeover of instruments on all motors.

Dentsply Sirona's Midwest line of air-driven handpieces includes the [Midwest Stylus Plus](#), which features dynamic speed control in the head to help maintain cutting power while protecting against excessive speeds that can cause premature bearing wear.



Weighing just 32 grams, DentalEZ's [Solara QT](#) is equipped with sound-

dampening technology and lightweight control, as well as a small head size for easy access and maneuverability. It offers 18 W of power to quickly and precisely cut through tooth structure.

ELECTRIC HANDPIECES

An air-to-electric conversion system with a dual-motor option, KaVo Kerr's [**ELECTROmatic**](#) can be used with both high- and low-speed handpieces in the same procedure without having to disconnect and swap out devices.



NSK's lightweight yet powerful Ti-Max Z line of electric handpieces includes the [**Ti-Max Z95L**](#), a 1:5 increasing handpiece with proprietary Dual Defense technology that prevents oral fluids and contaminants from entering the handpiece head or being sucked back into the waterline.

Dentsply Sirona's [**Midwest E**](#) electric handpiece system offers an ideal balance of power and control during high-speed, low-speed, and endodontic procedures. An advanced touchscreen interface allows users to adjust speed, rotation, torque limit, and autoreverse.

INTRAORAL CAMERAS

The [**DEXcam 4**](#) from KaVo Imaging combines high-definition imaging with innovative acquisition software for highly detailed show-and-tell images that remain clear even when enlarged.

Carestream's [**CS 1500**](#) offers true autofocus, a wide focus range, and high image resolution of 1,024 x 768—allowing clinicians to easily view even the smallest cracks, caries, and lesions.



Making chairside intraoral imaging, case presentations, and treatment proposals easier, [**MouthWatch**](#) allows users to easily capture and share

live streams or store and forward diagnostic images, videos, and documentation.

LOUPES & HEADLIGHTS

Orascope's TruColor technology enables headlights in its Spark, Endeavour, and XV1 product lines to render colors more natural to sunlight, while its loupe options include the [OmniOptic](#), which uses a magnetic anchor built into the carrier lens of the frame to accommodate 4 magnification powers ranging from 2.5x to 5.5x.

The **LED DayLite WireLess Mini** from Designs for Vision weighs less than an ounce and features a modular design that clips onto an existing pair of loupes. Powered by a single rechargeable lithium-ion battery, it illuminates the oral cavity with 27,000 lux of neutral white light.



[SurgiTel features 3 lines of ergonomic loupes](#)—**Micro**, **Compact**, and **PrismPro**—that offer through-the-lens and front-lens-mounted options, as well as customizable features that promote an ideal fit and safe neck postures.

Weighing just 2 grams, the [Featherlight LED Headlight System](#) from Ultralight Optics offers 8 to 16 hours of battery life and features a natural warm beam of light designed for full illumination of the oral cavity.

COSMETIC

Cosmetic dentistry has taken off in recent years, with the average patient willing to shell out greater sums for cosmetic treatment options to make their smiles whiter, straighter, and/or more visually appealing.

IN-OFFICE WHITENING

Clinically proven to whiten up to 8 shades in one visit, [Philips' Zoom WhiteSpeed](#) uses advanced blue LED light-accelerated whitening and the option of 3 lamp intensity settings to address patients' individual sensitivity and stain levels.



Ultradent's [Opalescence Boost](#) optimizes in-office whitening with a unique chemical activator, dual-syringe chairside mixing, and red coloring to aid in placement and removal. The 40% hydrogen peroxide gel produces ideal results in approximately two, 2-minute applications.

Evolve's [Kör MAX](#) combines at-home whitening with one in-office visit to deliver ideal results to the widest range of patients. Whitening takes place at home for 2 weeks with 16% carbamide peroxide followed by an in-office Kör 34% Dual-Activated, Tri-Barrel Hydremide Peroxide gel.

TAKE-HOME WHITENING

Ultradent's **Opalescence** take-home whitening gel features potassium nitrate and fluoride to help maintain enamel health throughout the whitening process. The gel can be used day or night and comes in 2 concentrations and 3 flavors for maximum treatment flexibility. [Opalescence Go](#), which is delivered in prefilled, disposable trays that comfortably mold and adapt to any patient's smile, offers a convenient, ready-to-go whitening solution. The gel delivers dramatic results in as little as 15 minutes per day.



Offering 5 different formulations that can be recommended to patients for take-home application, Philips' [Zoom NiteWhite](#) and **DayWhite** systems provide superior whitening results using high-potency gels and custom-

molded trays.

CLEAR ALIGNERS

Comfortable, virtually undetectable, and easy to put on and take off, [Align Technology's Invisalign](#) aligners use proprietary SmartTrack material and SmartForce features that are clinically proven to achieve 75% more predictable tooth movement.



After receiving a dentist's prescription for custom aligners that includes digital impressions and photos, **ClearCorrect** creates 3D models of the patient's teeth and designs a treatment plan of gradual adjustment to achieve an esthetic smile.

A full-service clear aligner solution from Dentsply Sirona, [SureSmile](#) features robust treatment planning tools that enable doctor-controlled tooth movements, simulations, and alternative treatment scenarios in real-time.

Reader Spotlight

A graduate of Southern Illinois University, William Simon, DMD, practices general dentistry in Chicago, IL. He is an active member of the ADA, the Illinois State Dental Society, and the Chicago Dental Society. In addition to the relationships he holds with his patients and dental team, Dr. Simon is passionate about mentoring new dentists and improving access to care for those most in need.



What are the top 5 factors you consider when investing in a new technology?

1. Quality of care
2. Return on investment
3. Staying power
4. Position on Adopter's Curve
5. Manufacturer reputation

Which factors are most important when evaluating a restorative material?

Reliability, durability, ease of use, handling, and to a lesser extent, cost.

Do you tend to stay loyal to the materials and equipment you use?

There are so many dental manufacturers producing equipment and materials of equivalent quality. So, for me, the loyalty I have to a particular manufacturer often transcends to the products themselves. I am much more dependent on the relationships I have with these companies and the level of service that they provide than anything else.

How do you stay up to date on new products and technologies?

There are so many ways to communicate nowadays that I wonder if we are actually communicating at all! To stay well-informed, I try to keep my ears to the ground and my eyes forward, while relying on print and digital trade publications, peer reviews, manufacturer and dealer sales reps, trade shows, blogs, dental social media groups, and podcasts.



And the List Goes On...

Curious about what *DPS* readers choose as their go-to composites, adhesives, curing lights, milling units, cements, or power scalers? Here's the full list of winning products, which span virtually every product category in dentistry:

Impression Materials – Alginates
Dentspy Sirona - Jeltrate
Ivoclar Vivadent - Accu-Dent
Patterson - Algitec
Impression Materials – VPS
Dentspy Sirona - Aquasil
3M - Imprint 4 VPS
Kettenbach - Panasil
Bonding
3M - Scotchbond Universal
KaVo Kerr - OptiBond
BISCO - ALL-BOND UNIVERSAL
Glass Ionomers
3M - RelyX Luting
GC America - FujiCEM 2
GC America - FujiCEM Evolve
Cements (Temporary)
KaVo Kerr - TempBond
Premier - Next Temp
3M - RelyX Temporary
Cements
3M - RelyX Unicem/Ultimate

Kuraray - PANA VIA
Dentsply Sirona - Calibra
Bioactive Materials
BISCO - TheraCal LC
Dentsply Sirona - Dycal
Pulpdent - ACTIVA
Universal Composites
3M - Filtek Supreme Ultra Universal
Tokuyama - OMNICHROMA
Dentsply Sirona - TPH Spectra ST
Flowable Composite
3M - Filtek Supreme Ultra Flowable
Dentsply Sirona - SDR flow+
Shofu - Beautifil Flow/Beautifil Flow Plus
Bulk Fill
3M - Filtek Bulk Fill
Dentsply Sirona - Surefil SDR flow+
KaVo Kerr - SonicFill
Core Build-Up
Dentsply Sirona - FluoroCore
Pentron - Build-It
Premier - CompCore
Desensitizers
Kulzer - Gluma
Zest - MicroPrime G
Tokuyama - Shield Force Plus
Curing Lights
Ultradent - VALO/VALO Grand

KaVo Kerr - Demi Plus
Ivoclar Vivadent - Bluephase Style
Lasers
AMD Lasers - Picasso Plus/Picasso Lite Plus
Biolase - Waterlase/Waterlase Plus
DenMat - NV Microlaser
Caries Detection
KaVo - DIAGNOdent
KaVo - DEXIS CariVu
Carestream - Logicon
Isolation
Zyris - Isolite /Isodry/Isovac
DryShield
Kulzer - Ivory ReLeaf
Electric Handpieces
KaVo Kerr
NSK
Dentsply Sirona Midwest
Air Handpieces
KaVo Kerr
Dentsply Sirona Midwest
DentalEZ/Star Dental
Digital Impressions
Dentsply Sirona - Omnicam/Primescan
Align Technology - iTero Element
3Shape - TRIOS
Chairside Milling

Dentsply Sirona - CEREC MC/MX
Planmeca - PlanMill 30 S/Planmill 40 S
Glidewell - fastmill.io
Intraoral Cameras
KaVo - DEXIS DEXcam 4
Carestream - CS 1500
MouthWatch Intraoral Camera
CBCT
Dentsply Sirona - Galileos
Dentsply Sirona - Orthophos
Planmeca - Planmeca ProMax 3D/Viso
Sensors
DEXIS - DEXIS Platinum/Titanium
Dentsply Sirona - Schick
Carestream - RVG 6200
2D Imaging
KaVo/Gendex - GXDP 300/GXDP 700
Dentsply Sirona - Orthophos XG
Carestream - CS 8100
Planmeca ProMax 2D
Headlights
Orascope
Designs for Vision
Ultralight Optics
Loupes
Orascope
Designs for Vision
SurgiTel

Microscopes

Global Surgical

Seiler

Carl Zeiss

Leica

Practice Management Software

Henry Schein One - Dentrix

Patterson - Eaglesoft

Carestream – CS Softdent

Website Design

ProSites

Officite

The Online Practice

Patient Communication

Lighthouse 360

Solutionreach

Weave

Implants

Nobel Biocare

Straumann

Zimmer Biomet

Abutments

Straumann

Nobel Biocare

Zimmer Biomet

Whitening - In-Office

Phillips Oral Healthcare - ZOOM!

Ultradent - Opalescence Boost

Evolve - KöR Whitening
Whitening – Take-Home
Ultradent - Opalescence PF
Ultradent - Opalescence Go
Phillips Oral Healthcare - NiteWhite ACP/DayWhite ACP
Clear Aligners
Align Technology - Invisalign
ClearCorrect - ClearCorrect
Dentsply Sirona - SureSmile
Prophy Angles
Young Dental - Vera
Young Dental - Young Classic
Henry Schein - Acclean Disposable
Prophy Paste
Dentsply Sirona - Nupro
Premier - Enamel Pro
Preventech - NEXT
Prophy Handpieces
Dentsply Sirona - Midwest RDH
Dentsply Sirona - Nupro Freedom
Young Dental - Young Hygiene Handpiece
Power Scalers
Dentsply Sirona - Cavitron
Hu-Friedy - Piezon
Coltene - Biosonic Suvi
Henry Schein - Acclean Ultra
Varnish (In-Office)

Ultradent - Enamelast
Colgate-Palmolive - PreviDent
3M - Vanish 5% NF
Dentsply Sirona - Nupro Fluoride
Sealants
3M - Clinpro
Ultradent - Ultraseal XT Plus/XT Hydro
Dentsply Sirona - Delton Sealants