Planmeca ProMax 3D Mid—An optimal volume size for every 3-D imaging application

Planmeca has introduced a new product to the recognised Planmeca ProMax 3D range. Planmeca ProMax 3D Mid provides an extended selection of 3-D volume sizes, combined with traditional 2-D panoramic and cephalometric imaging.

Planmeca ProMax 3D Mid offers the user an optimal volume size for every application requiring 3-D imaging. For example, for endodontics requiring high resolution, implantology requiring images with a smaller field of view, and for orthodontics requiring large image sizes. The volume sizes range from 34 x 42 mm to 160 x 160 mm. This wide selection of volume sizes allows optimisation of the imaging area according to the specific diagnostic task—always complying with best practice and the ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) principle to minimise radiation.

Additionally, Planmeca ProMax 3D Mid offers a new kind of panoramic imaging. The standard panoramic imaging program is optimised to expose only the teeth area to radiation, reducing patient dose. Optionally, the temporomandibular (TMJ) joints can be imaged with a program in which the TMJ imaging angles can be adjusted, as with regular TMJ programs.

"Planmeca ProMax 3D Mid clearly demonstrates our best achievement in imaging. It provides the most advanced visualisation of patient anatomies for a variety of diagnostics needs—never compromising the important principle of minimising the radiation dose when feasible," explained Auvo Asikainen, Vice President of the X-ray Division at Planmeca.

Planmeca ProMax 3D Mid is based on Planmeca ProMax technology. Planmeca’s existing 3-D imaging products in this range are Planmeca ProMax 3Ds, ideal for applications where a smaller field of view is sufficient, Planmeca ProMax 3D for general 3-D applications with a field size covering the mandible and maxilla, and Planmeca ProMax 3D Max for a variety of field sizes from a single tooth to the entire maxillofacial area.

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CEREC Omnicam: Powder-free 3-D scanning in full colour

This autumn Sirona presented its new CEREC camera in Europe. The CEREC Omnicam generates full-colour scans of intra-oral surfaces without the need for a powder coating on the teeth (Fig. 1). Operating the camera is simple and intuitive. Moreover, the imaging functionality and camera dimensions are ergonomically designed. Sirona, a technology and market leader in the dental industry, launched its new CEREC Omnicam camera in August at a special event in Las Vegas, USA. This exciting new product was recently unveiled to dental professionals in Europe at an informative product presentation attended by distributors and the media at the company’s new headquarters in Salzburg. At the launch, the generation of precise whole-arch scans in the shortest possible time using the camera was demonstrated.

Three features of the CEREC Omnicam stand out in particular: it supports video streaming; it digitises the structures of the jaw in their natural colour; and it does not require powder coating of the tooth surfaces. Instead, the user moves the camera head over the intra-oral surfaces with a smooth, flowing movement. The CEREC Omnicam is extremely resistant to camera shake. A virtual 3-D model is displayed in natural colour on the monitor of the CEREC AC. Thanks to this life-like visualisation, it is easy to distinguish between different materials (enamel, dentine, metal or composite) and identify the palatal and gingival contours. As a result, it is easy to navigate around the oral cavity and determine the preparation margins—even in subgingival areas. The extensive depth of field of the CEREC Omnicam delivers high-precision images, even in cases in which the camera has been placed directly on the tooth.

The ergonomic, lightweight camera feels comfortable in the hand. Thanks to the slimline design and the compact camera head, it is easy to scan inaccessible areas such as the distal surfaces of the posterior molars (Fig. 2).

In addition, the CEREC Omnicam boasts a patient-counselling mode. The dentist can record short video clips and present these to the patient via the CEREC AC monitor. This promotes effective communication and enables the patient to make important decisions based on reliable information. In future, CEREC AC will be available in combination with either the tried-and-tested CEREC Bluecam or the new CEREC Omnicam. Both cameras are easy to use and generate high-precision scans. The Bluecam and Omnicam differ in terms of technology and field of application. Whereas the CEREC Omnicam is particularly well suited to multiple restorations, the strengths of the CEREC Bluecam lie in its proven precision and extensive field of view, which makes it ideal for single-tooth restorations. The Bluecam generates a series of 3-D images, which are subsequently combined in order to create a panoramic image of the teeth. The benefits of the CEREC Omnicam at a glance:

Unrivalled handling:
- slim, lightweight casing and compact camera head;
- natural flowing movement of the camera over the tooth surfaces;
- anti-vibration function;
- extensive depth of field.

Powder free:
- fewer processing steps;
- short learning curve;
- the digital impression-taking process can be delegated to an assistant.

Colour visualisation:
- improved patient counselling;
- the natural colours of the virtual 3-D model enable the dentist to identify the various tooth surfaces clearly and determine the preparation margins.

Owing to the ongoing marketing authorisation procedures, the CEREC Omnicam is not yet available in China, Japan, South Korea, certain countries in the CIS and South America.

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Thanks to the slimline design and the compact camera head, scanning the posterior teeth is trouble-free.
3Shape introduces CAD Points—
A unique pay-per-design service
that opens up new opportunities
for dental labs

3Shape CAD Points

3Shape CAD Points provides a new way for medium-sized or smaller labs to offer a wider range of services with a minimal upfront investment. CAD Points gives labs pay-per-design access to 3Shape's add-on modules for designing customised abutments, implant bars and bridges, removable partial dentures and other advanced indications.

Dental labs can purchase CAD Points through 3Shape's Webshop or reselling partners and moments later can use their CAD Points to pay for creating a new design, according to predetermined CAD Point pricing. CAD Point functionality is integrated into 3Shape's Dental System, and users of the system can gain access to add-on modules for advanced indications using CAD Points. Through their status overview, users can easily keep track of their CAD Points, and they receive notifications when their CAD Points are about to run out.

CAD Points opens up new business opportunities

3Shape CAD Points represents an attractive and safe start-up package for many labs because it is cost-efficient and involves minimal investment risk. It also allows labs to experiment with new business models before investing in advanced indication functionalities.

Versatile, durable, convenient

CAD Points are not limited to a specific 3Shape add-on module and can be used with the various advanced indications included in the program. The points do not expire and users can purchase their CAD Points whenever they need them.

Contact

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Straumann and Align Technology announced in October that they had decided to discontinue their distribution agreements for the iTero intra-oral scanner in Europe and North America with effect from 31 December 2012.

The agreement for exclusive distribution in Europe was signed in 2009 between Straumann and Cadent, the developer of iTero, which was acquired by Align Technology in April 2011. The agreement awarding Straumann non-exclusive distribution rights in North America was signed shortly before the acquisition.

Beat Spalinger, Straumann’s president and CEO, explained the rationale behind Straumann’s decision: “We are convinced that intra-oral scanning will have a major role in daily dental practice thanks to its superior accuracy, convenience and patient comfort in comparison with conventional impression taking.

Furthermore, we are convinced that iTero is one of the best intra-oral scanners available. However, we have decided to step back from distributing this hardware for three reasons.

First, our experience over the past three years has shown that a single hardware brand limits our addressable market. Moving ahead, our CARES CAD/CAM system will be accessible to various intra-oral scanning systems, including the iTero scanner.

Second, our core business is in tooth replacement and restoration. We now have the digital workflow in place to enable us to produce high-precision prosthetics for dental implants, starting from an intra-oral scan.

As a result, we no longer need to sell intra-oral scanners directly and will focus our resources on driving our CARES business. And lastly, we have come to the conclusion that the business case for distributing scanners is not economically viable for us in the present economic environment.”

Align and Straumann are fully committed to providing continued support and services to existing iTero customers. The two companies are currently working together on plans for a smooth transition and will communicate details to customers once they are finalised. In the meantime, Straumann will continue to offer first-level equipment support in Europe for at least the next 12 months, after which Align will assume full responsibility for regional customer service.

Straumann is strongly committed to digital dentistry and the development of digital workflows as part of its CARES platform and product offering. The discontinuation of the distribution agreements with Align will not affect the launch of new CARES services and products.

However, it will have an impact on Straumann’s intra-oral scanning staff and further details in this respect will be communicated with the company’s third-quarter results on 30 October. Sales of intra-oral scanners constitute approximately one percent of the Straumann Group’s net revenue.

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CAMLOG Foundation calls for entries for its 2012/2013 research award

The CAMLOG Foundation is calling for submissions for its third CAMLOG Foundation Research Award. The award is presented biennially at the International CAMLOG Congress and is open to all talented scientists/researchers and dedicated professionals at universities, hospitals and practices under 40 years of age.

The submissions must have been published in an accredited scientific journal and can be submitted in either English or German. The articles must deal with one of the following topics in implant dentistry or a related discipline:

- diagnostics and planning;
- hard- and soft-tissue management;
- sustainability of implant-supported prostheses;
- physiological and pathophysiological aspects; and
- advances in digital procedures.

The contributions will be evaluated by the CAMLOG Foundation Board. The winner of the 2012/2013 CAMLOG Foundation Research Award will be given the opportunity to present his/her work to a wider audience during the 2014 International CAMLOG Congress. Furthermore, the authors of the three best contributions will receive attractive cash prizes of €10,000, €6,000 and €4,000, respectively.

The entry conditions and the mandatory registration form can be downloaded from the internet at www.camlogfoundation.org/awards. The registration deadline is 30 November 2013.

The CAMLOG Foundation is a foundation established under Swiss law. It engages in the targeted support of gifted young scientists, promotion of basic and applied research, and continuing training and education to promote progress in implant dentistry and related fields to better serve the patient.

As part of its scientific mission, the CAMLOG Foundation holds its international congress every two years.

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Research award 2010/2011 ceremony: Prof. Jürgen Becker—President CAMLOG Foundation, Dr Sönke Harder—2nd prize winner, PD DDr. Arno Wutzl—1st prize winner, and Prof. Fernando Guerra—Vice president CAMLOG Foundation.

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