The use of tooth-colored composite materials in today’s dental practice is a given. The improvement in our ability to confidently bond to both enamel and dentin has certainly been a paradigm shift for our profession. The improvements in composite materials to meet the different requirements needed for posterior restorations and anterior restorations have been a challenge.

The biggest issue is creating a composite that can handle posterior wear and meet the demands of anterior esthetics in the same material. I have found that Harmonize by Kerr works remarkably well in both uses. Conservatively restoring anterior teeth to a high level of esthetic with composite material is commonplace in my practice. In my experience, the non-sticky malleability of Harmonize™ Universal Composite is a pleasure to work with and I am always satisfied with the end results. When restoring just specific areas of a tooth, matching the existing structure is a big part of creating a restoration that has a true “chameleon” effect and looks natural.

**Case 1**

Case 1 is a class IV in tooth #8 to restore the incisal, distal corner. I used a selective etch technique to prepare the tooth, and then followed with an application of OptiBond™ Universal adhesive and cured with the Demi™Ultra curing light. A layer of Harmonize dentin shade A-3 was applied lingually and cured; I then followed with Harmonize enamel shade A-2 with additional curing. The restoration was contoured using 12 fluted carbide burs and ProGloss™ disc and cup polishers. Polishing paste was not needed. The translucency and luster blended beautifully. **Total time: 20 minutes**
Case 2
Case 2 is tooth #11 with a failing composite restoration and recurrent decay. The composite and decay were removed without anesthesia using a CO2 Solea® Dental Laser. OptiBond Universal was applied and cured with the Demi Ultra curing light. Harmonize dentin A-3.5 was applied and built up from the lingual, followed by enamel A-3 shade. Trying to blend a transition color from an existing porcelain crown on the bicuspid toward the natural color of the lateral is challenging. The surface was finished with fluted carbide burs and ProGloss polishers. No additional polishing paste was used. The final luster and surface texture created using Harmonize resulted in a very natural finish. **Total time: 40 minutes**

Case 3
Case 3 illustrates multiple teeth restored with Harmonize. Diastema closure with restoration of class IV defects was carried out using a total etch technique followed by OptiBond Universal, which I routinely use for its minimal film thickness as well as its clear appearance. The base restorative material was Harmonize dentin shade A-1 followed by enamel B-1 and a final layer of Harmonize Translucent Blue. We finished shaping the material using twelve fluted carbide burs; and then we used disc and cone-shaped ProGloss polishers to create the desired luster. We corrected the gingival height discrepancy using a diode laser. **Total time: 45 minutes**

Case 4
Case 4 demonstrates the use of Harmonize to restore multiple anterior teeth. Utilizing Harmonize dentin A-2, enamel A-1, and translucent shades with OptiBond Universal as the adhesive, teeth #7, #8, #9, and #10 were restored and finished with fluted carbide burs and ProGloss polishers. The patient's smile was restored in a single **one hour** appointment.

About Dr. Scott Coleman
Dr. Coleman is a clinical adjunct professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and has been practicing dentistry in Houston since graduating first in his class in 1984. He has lectured internationally on dental techniques and technology as well as publishing articles in numerous publications. He is an Eagle Scout and a licensed pilot and scuba diver.

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed in this article are those of Dr. Coleman. Kerr is a medical device manufacturer and does not dispense medical advice. Clinicians should use their own professional judgement in treating their patients. Dr. Coleman is a paid consultant of Kerr Corporation.