

Incognito™ Appliance System means digital workflow

By Dr. Evangelista Giovanni Mancini



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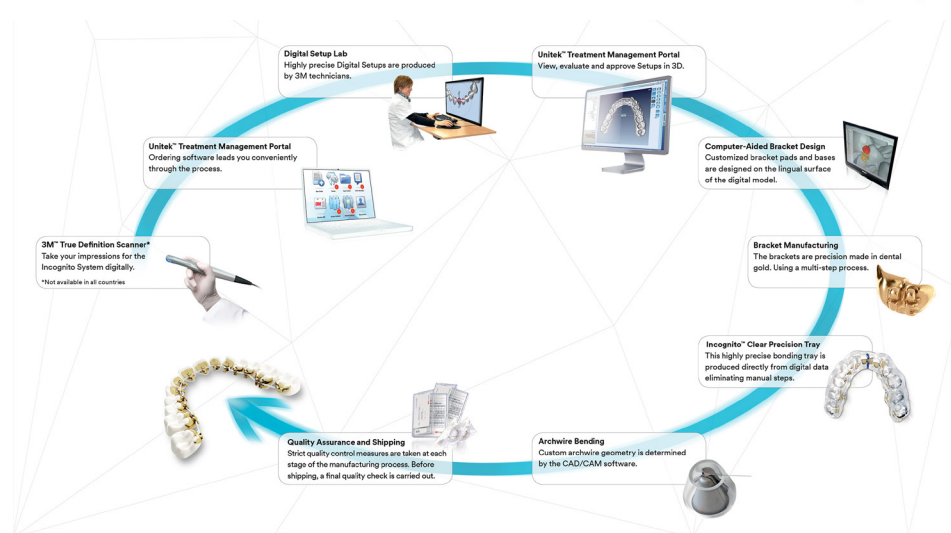
Today, clinical orthodontic practices are experiencing the process of digitization. We need only think about two important and indispensable tools, photography and radiology, to know this is true. Both have irreversibly switched from traditional analog to digital formats.

Technological changes are no longer happening between one generation and the next. The current generation of orthodontists is experiencing the continuous availability of digital technology in photography and radiology procedures. This evolution affects equipment and software, the components of production tools and their clinical usability.

There are distinct advantages to digital procedures, including an increase in the quality of the images (photos and x-rays), ease of storage, multiple possibilities for processing, ease of transmission and sharing, and last but not least, access from our PCs. From my experience, these positive characteristics can be found in every phase of the Incognito™ Appliance System digital workflow.

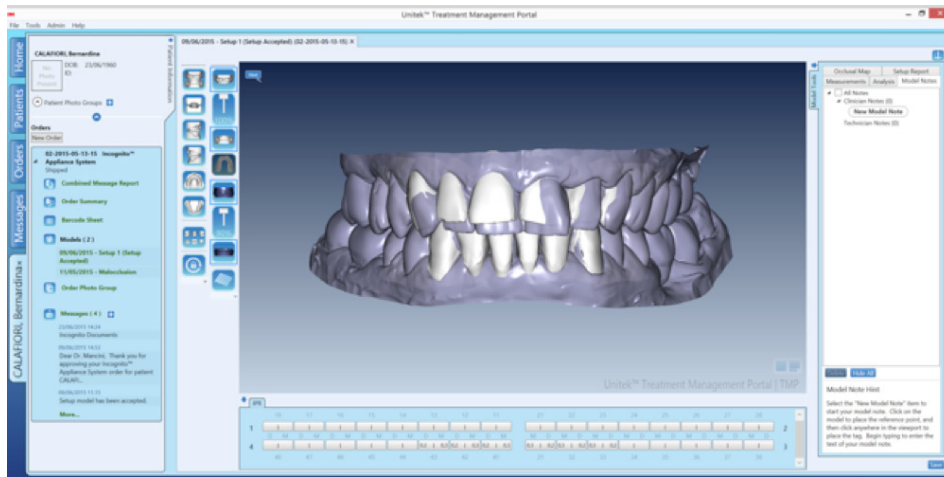
Unitek™ Treatment Management Portal

Digital workflow for precise treatment results



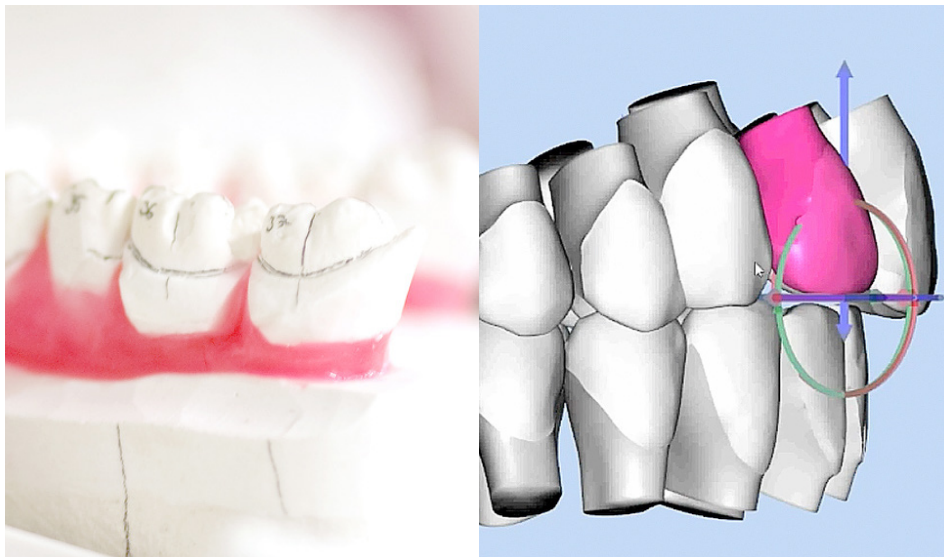
Let's start by looking at the Unitek™ Treatment Management Portal I TMP. The Unitek TMP can be considered a type of “app,” which is a very useful tool in our daily work. The main objective of Unitek TMP is to facilitate and improve the Incognito System prescription. For instance, it allows us to record and archive cases. With this state-of-the-art tool, we can upload patients’ clinical photos and data; we can accomplish the orthodontic setup through real measurements of the dental arches; and we can communicate better and faster with the laboratory. By opening Unitek TMP, we can check every single step, from production to shipping.





3D digital setup

The Unitek TMP offers the convenience of a 3D digital setup, which is not just a way for the orthodontist to view the initial conditions and the end of therapy for our patients. It also gives great support in the analysis of the orthodontic treatment goals. And, it allows us to communicate effectively with the lab and make appropriate changes when necessary.

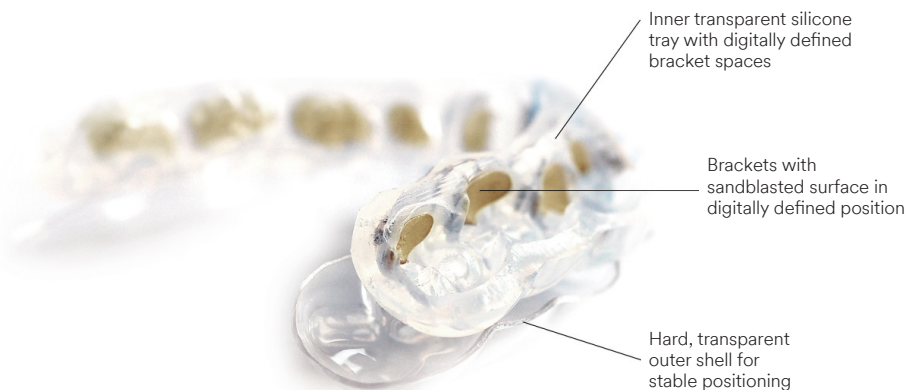


Keep doing what we successfully did in the past but with digital tools

For the laboratory, the digital setup is a vital instrument that allows it to achieve maximum precision while defining the Incognito System lingual appliance.

It is thanks to the digital setup that we can get the Incognito™ Clear Precision Tray.

3M™ Incognito™ Clear Precision Tray



To me, the Incognito Clear Precision Tray means accuracy, ease of bracket positioning, successful bonding procedures, shorter time in the chair, and increased “comfort” for both the orthodontist and patient. The tray has been through significant changes. For example, it appears that the surface of the base is even more precise. This reduces the possibility of accidental debonding and avoids excess material on the edges of the bracket. The removal of the tray itself is even easier.

The advantages of Unitek TMP, digital setups and the Incognito Clear Precision Tray can be further enhanced by using the 3M™ True Definition Scanner to create an impression and then three-dimensional computer models or real models (if printed). In my view, the availability of the scanner guarantees there is no way back to a traditional clinical orthodontic practice. In the first months of use, I am seeing remarkable advantages for the patient: no more discomfort, no more gagging/vomiting. This alone should be enough to promote its adoption.

The training phase for the scanner is crucial. The clinical procedure calibrates the movement of the intraoral sensor, and no longer requires us to look at our hands for direct vision. Instead, we watch the monitor while the sensor captures the sequence of dental images. The successful capture rate is directly related to the skill of the operator, which is why training is so important. Yet this new skill is generally achieved in a reasonably short period of time.

I appreciate the ease of communication and data transmission between the 3M™ True Definition Scanner and Unitek TMP, along with the accuracy of the digital impressions. These enable a quick start to the initial stage of production and a much shorter wait time before delivery of the equipment.

It's true that today's orthodontic practice is evolving toward the use of digital tools that offer many advantages. The positive characteristics of the “digital age” of orthodontic practice can be found in every phase of the Incognito Appliance System digital workflow.

