

# Duplication of X-Rays by Scanning

MICHAEL B. ROGERS, DDS

**R**adiographs can be duplicated inexpensively using a standard flatbed color image scanner and color printer. The scanner must have a transparency adapter that fits over the bed of the scanner and is at least as large as the x-rays to be scanned. A good model is the Epson Expression 1680 Professional, which costs about \$1,150 and is available from Practice Works\* or most computer supply stores. It can scan images as large as 8.5" × 11.7".

The minimum hardware resolution is 1,600 × 3,200 dpi, and the PC should have at least 64MB of RAM and a SCSI or USB interface. Our printer is an Epson Color 800 inkjet.\*\* It is imperative to use the photo-quality paper recommended by the manufacturer of the printer.

\*1765 The Exchange, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30039.

\*\*Epson North America, 3840 Kilroy Airport Way, Long Beach, CA 90806.

## Procedure

Replace the scanner cover with the transparency adapter. Scan the radiograph at 75 dpi, and view and adjust the image as necessary using the scanner software. This method will produce better duplicates because any dark, burned-out areas will not appear on the scanned image (Fig. 1). Print as many copies as desired on photo-quality paper.

The paper costs about \$9 for a package of 100 sheets, or 9 cents per copy. By comparison, duplicating x-ray film costs about \$85 for a package of 100, or 85 cents per copy. Since the fixer and developing solutions for film duplication cost about the same as a color printer ink cartridge—around \$30—the bottom line is that scanning x-rays can save considerable expense for the practice. □

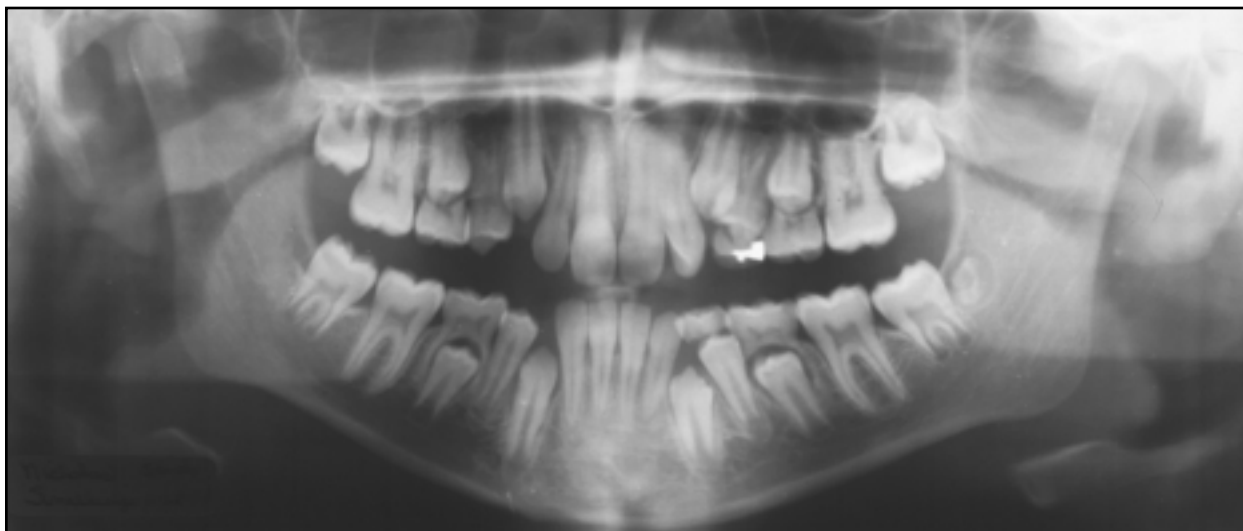


Fig. 1 Scanned images of radiographs (continued on next page).

Dr. Rogers is an Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Orthodontics, School of Dentistry, Medical College of Georgia, and in the private practice of orthodontics at 3545 Wheeler Road, Augusta, GA 30909. E-mail: bracesmbr@aol.com.



**Fig. 1 (cont.) Scanned images of radiographs.**