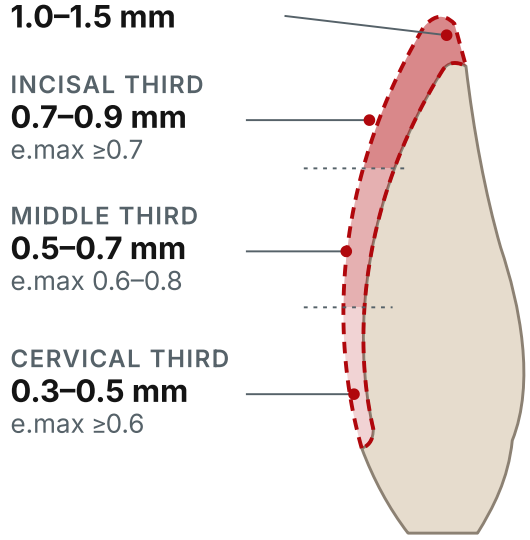
Veneer Prep Guide

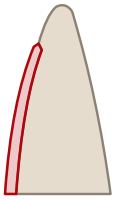
Let the final result drive the reduction: prep through a wax-up or mock-up, stay in enamel wherever you can and reduce more toward the incisal edge, where enamel is thickest.



Facial reduction by zone · schematic, not to scale

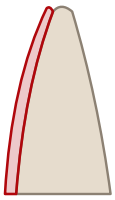
ZONE	FELDSPATHIC (MINIMAL)	IPS E.MAX PRESS
Cervical third	0.3–0.5 mm	At least 0.6 mm
Middle third	0.5–0.7 mm	0.6–0.8 mm
Incisal third	0.7–0.9 mm	At least 0.7 mm
Incisal edge, if covered	1.0–1.5 mm; about 1.5 mm for incisal effects	
Margin	Light chamfer, in enamel wherever possible	
Incisal margins	Away from static and dynamic contacts	
Start from	A diagnostic wax-up or mock-up; prep through it with depth cuts	

Incisal design options



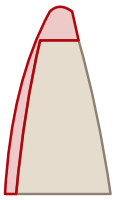
Window

No incisal coverage; the most conservative design.



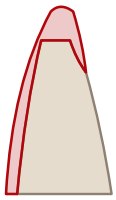
Feather

Veneer runs to the incisal edge; the edge is not reduced.



Butt joint

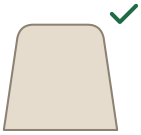
Flat incisal reduction; often preferred for worn or fractured teeth.



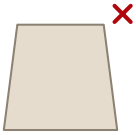
Incisal overlap

Reduction wraps to a palatal chamfer; often preferred for healthy teeth with enough thickness.

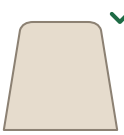
Do & don't



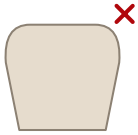
Do Rounded internal line angles



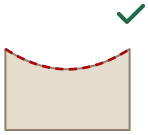
Don't sharp line angles and edges



Do Slight taper, one path of insertion



Don't undercuts or parallel walls



Do Smooth, continuous margin



Don't ragged or ditched margin

Where sources differ

- Average labial enamel is only about 0.3–0.5 mm thick at the gingival third, which is why cervical reduction is the thinnest.
- Bigger shade changes need more room: one widely used protocol goes to 0.5 / 0.7 / 0.9 mm for one to two shades and 0.8 / 1.0 / 1.2 mm for two to three.
- Ivoclar lists 0.4 mm cervical and 0.5 mm incisal for its thin e.max veneers.
- Zone values come from clinical literature and Ivoclar's e.max minimums rather than a single manufacturer document.

Based on: Ivoclar IPS e.max instructions for use and chairside guides; Winter (Inside Dentistry, 2013); Sisler (J Cosmetic Dent, AACD); Magne & Magne; reviews of veneer incisal designs.

General guidelines based on published manufacturer recommendations; contact Advanced Dental Laboratory for case-specific questions.

Questions before you prep? Send the scan for a design review: info@adlny.com · 212.889.8812 · adlny.com/send-a-case/