

# How Becoming a Preat Validated Milling Center Benefited My Lab

By Gabie Dobrikov, Director of Operations, Dani Dental Studio

**We knew at some point we were going to start milling custom abutments in-house** in order to provide a faster service to our clients. We had the demand, but we didn't know what to expect as far as procedures and processes when partnering with large companies and implementing FDA regulations. Since the FDA classifies abutments as a Class II medical device, we knew parameters were going to be strict. We had to make sure our team was going to be capable of adhering to the regulations without taking too much time and focus away from production. Maintaining creative design freedom and receiving the blanks quickly as to not hinder production were also high on our wish list.

**Figure 1**

Preat team presenting Dani Dental Studio with recognition as a Preat Validated Milling Center

**Figure 2**

Digital Dental milling machine

Digital Dental has created a sleek, streamlined, custom abutment milling machine. Their machines allowed us to take better control of our turnaround times with their 30-minute milling cycles. As a result, we now provide swifter service to our valued clients. We utilize our 3Shape scanner to scan the models, and we design the abutment using their simplified software and vast design library.

To shine light on Preat and Digital Dental's advanced supply chain management and logistics, Preat can deliver Ti-Blanks to Digital Dental within two business

days. We are rather spoiled though, as we are only 25 minutes away from Digital Dental, so we receive the needed blanks in record time. What makes Preat so special to work with is their extensive catalog of 510(k) cleared Ti-blanks. Partnering with Preat allowed us access to 99% of implant systems on the market. We can purchase Ti-Blanks with two screws, scan bodies, and tools for the machine from Digital Dental. The ordering process is quick and easy. Not only is the milling time short, we now have the capability to service far more doctors than we thought we ever could.



**Figure 3**

Screwing in the titanium blank and preparing for milling

**Figure 4**

Removing the milled abutment from the milling machine

**Figure 5**

The milled abutment removed from the machine



The implementation process was straightforward. Digital Dental was able to install the machine the day it was delivered. The training our team received on the machine, quality management system, and processes for milled abutments, was easily comprehended, and we know we can call them at any time with questions. Though Preat's implementation process required a bit more paperwork, the contracts and documents were straight to the point and easy to understand. As the process to become a Preat Validated Milling Center includes a milling validation, we would advise setting aside a little over half a day with the technicians who will be running the machine, so they are able to get a good grasp of the process. From installation to the final milled product, it is important they fully understand the machine. When deciding if milling custom abutments in-house is right for you, make sure you have the demand for it.

Now what every lab owner loves to hear: it's more cost efficient to mill your own abutment in-house than to outsource. Not to mention, we are in control of the entire design and milling process from start to finish. We have reduced our custom abutment manufacturing costs by 40%-50%, and we are loving those numbers. The unresisting fit achieved with designing and milling your own abutments is worth both the machine and the little extra effort to get the machine up and running. We can ensure our clients receive a quality restoration that requires fewer chairside appointments, and are milled to the exact specifications of the patients' emergence profile and gingiva contour. We are fortunate to provide chairside assistance services to our clients, which has tremendously boosted custom abutment and implant demand. Our implant and hybrid managers work side by side to deliver results that exceed our doctors' expect-

tations, which has led them to increase their volume of work with us.

The convenience and control we have over the custom abutment in-house milling process has made production more efficient and timelier. If you have been contemplating in-house milling, we would highly recommend getting started with Preat and Digital Dental. Working with them has truly been a great experience and we cannot wait to continue growing together. ■

*It's more cost efficient to mill your own abutment in-house than to outsource.*

**Figure 6**

Final milled abutment with two screws: one for restoration fabrication and one definitive use

*For more information, visit: [preat.com](https://preat.com)*