



# Dental Mold Alternative Option: 3D Scanning & Printing

## Alternative Option

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If you prefer not to get a dental impression for your SmartPalate or you or your child cannot tolerate the process of getting a dental impression, a 3D scan & print is a viable alternative option. This process is simple, noninvasive, & relatively inexpensive. It requires one simple step on your end:

*Only Step: Find an orthodontist who has a specific piece of equipment that is capable of scanning a 3D image of the mouth/upper palate & has access to a 3D printer.*

*The following outlines helpful information you will need to know:*

## The Scanning Device

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The orthodontist must have an intra-oral 3D scanner, such as the "iTero" scanner, which can create a digital image of your upper palate & teeth & is often used to create Invisalign. A good place to start looking is with an orthodontist who specializes in Invisalign as they most likely have access or use this technology already. A local dental school or University may be a good place to check as well.

## How it Works

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The intra-oral scanner is a wand-like device with a special camera on the end that creates a 3D digital image of the inside of the mouth. The process is very simple & only requires the patient to be relatively still for a short period of time. The same general instructions for the dental mold that came with your dental packet (or can be sent digitally) should be followed to create an accurate 3D scan.

## After the Scan

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Once the scan is complete, the 3D digital image is sent to a 3D printer onsite, in a dental lab or another location with 3D printing capabilities. Turnaround time depends on each 3D printing provider but normally takes less than a week. The 3D-printed model of the upper palate/teeth should then be sent by mail to CompleteSpeech (see address below) & packed so that it arrives unaltered & undamaged.

## The Cost

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Pricing varies depending on the orthodontist, the lab, & location. In our research, the average price of the scan itself was \$100 with the 3D model physical printing cost around \$25. These are estimates based on our location & do not include any applicable insurance coverage or if your orthodontist will give you a discount. In order to receive an accurate & fair price we recommend contacting several of your local orthodontists directly with the information given above, with your insurance, & the dental mold instructions included in your dental packet.