MOUNTING AND FILING/DISPOSING OF RADIOGRAPHS

3-21. GENERAL

Cardboard or plastic mounts for 16-film, full-mouth radiographs and bite-wing mounts are available as standard items of dental supply. Sections of these, or small paper envelopes, are used for protecting and identifying individual periapical or bite-wing radiographs. The film mounts are designed so that the film may be arranged in the same order as the teeth in the mouth. Thus, mounting not only protects and labels the radiographs, but also facilitates viewing and studying of the film, particularly in full-mouth examinations. See figure 3-20.

![Figure 3-20. Full-mouth radiographic mount.](image)

3-22. MOUNTING

In mounting radiographs, care must be taken to avoid marks from damp or perspiring fingers. Hands and fingers should be clean and dry. The film should be handled only on the edge. Under adequate illumination, the radiographs are removed one at a time from the hanger and placed carefully into the appropriate opening in the film mount. Radiographs are mounted so that the raised part of the embossed dot faces the dental specialist. In this way the radiographs are viewed from the facial aspect in correct anatomical order.

- Maxillary and mandibular radiographs may be identified by the anatomy of the teeth and surrounding structures. (See paragraphs 3-24 through 3-28 for anatomic landmarks.) Radiographs are mounted with apices of maxillary teeth directed upward and apices of mandibular teeth directed downward.
- The mesial aspect of a radiograph may also be determined by the anatomic features of tissues included on the film. If the mesial is to the right (when viewed from the facial side), it is a film taken on the patient's right side. If the mesial is to the left (when viewed from the facial side), it is a film taken of the patient's left side.

3-23. FILING AND DISPOSING

Dental radiograph holders or containers should be identified with the patient's name, address and other pertinent information, such as date and teeth, or area, included in the films.

- **The Dental Health Record.** Dental radiographs needed for future treatment or follow-up observation of a patient are kept in the dental health record.
- **Disposition of Radiographs.** Some radiographs may be kept for extended periods if the dentist deems necessary. These radiographs may serve as history with regard to future treatment of the patient.