

Shade Taking

Communicating tooth shade has always been a challenging task. Ambient lighting, lipstick, clothing and hydration can all effect the ability of the person taking the shade. We can help you achieve excellent custom shade-taking results. There are a few techniques available for good shade-taking results: using your eye, using Clearmatch (digital photography) or using SpectroShade Micro (spectrophotometer).

Methods for taking an excellent *Shade Match*:

Option 1.

Relying on your eye when determining a shade can be very quick and easy when choosing a shade for your posterior restoration. However, this is not recommended for your anterior cases due to slight variances in your vision, not to mention external factors (light, lipstick, clothing, etc).



Option 2.

ClearMatch (or other digital photography methods) are highly recommended. This allows the technician to see invaluable information such as characterizations and relative opacity. Without a shade tab, the photo cannot be used to determine the shade.



Option 3.

Numerous studies and reviews have determined the validity and accuracy of the SpectroShade. Results suggest that spectrophotometric analysis is more accurate and reproducible than the human shade assessment. *If you are interested in this method, call us!



Taking a correct or incorrect shade can be the difference between success and failure.



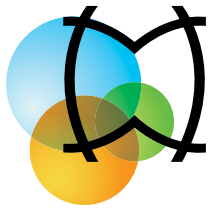
Do you want results like this...

OR like this...



These differences are why it is so important to get a refresher on your perfect Shade-Match!

Follow our **Custom-Shade-Match** tips on the reverse side.



Tips to achieve Custom-Shade-Match results

-○ Always take a shade at the very beginning of the appointment, before prepping or dehydration, which can occur after being open for only 1-2 minutes (sooner for smokers or patients who have bleached).
-○ Take a series of **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS** before prepping the teeth. Include a shade tab in the photo if desired. These can be emailed to info@moderndentalUSA.com.
-○ If patient has bleached their teeth, have them **DISCONTINUE BLEACHING** at least 3 days prior to taking a shade to allow teeth to rehydrate.
-○ Avoid direct light sources. An indirect, color-corrected, "**NATURAL DAYLIGHT**" bulb works best, next to natural daylight (5000k or 6500k available at Home Depot).
-○ Have patient stand or be seated at no more than a **45 DEGREE ANGLE**.
-○ Always put **SHADE TABS** on lingual side of teeth at same angle as natural teeth. Even if it doesn't match very well, this provides a more accurate frame of reference when comparing the shade of the tab to the shade of the tooth.
-○ When using several tabs, mark diagram on prescription where one shade starts and another one stops, as well as which part of the tab to match—body or incisal.
-○ Natural teeth usually have at least **3 DIFFERENT SHADES**: one for the gingival 1/3, one for the center of the tooth and one for the incisal. Use the tooth map on the prescription sheet to draw where these shaded areas start and end.
-○ If doing a veneer or thin anterior, make sure to note shade of prep after prepping or take a photo next to a **STUMP SHADE** tab. This is especially useful in non-vital teeth.
-○ Photos are invaluable for characterizations and to determine relative opacity.
PHOTOS ALONE CANNOT BE USED TO DETERMINE SHADE.