



Smile  
Art Lab

## Guide to Shade Taking with Digital Photography

This is a quick and easy reference sheet for ensuring the correct shade tab is matched with the patient's tooth.

A digital shade matching image provides us with a range of information surrounding the patient's teeth. This is why it's so important to carry out the matching process correctly.





- 1 Select the tooth you wish to match. Choose the tooth that is closest in shade to the one that is being restored.
- 2 Decide which shade tab best matches the natural colour of the patient's tooth by inverting the shade tab and sitting the incisal edge of the shade tab against the incisal edge of the selected tooth. Repeat this step with different shade tabs if more than one colour is present.
- 3 Ensure the patient's mouth is fully open to create a dark background and take a clear photo that captures the entire tooth, shade tab and surrounding teeth. Stand directly in front of the patient to capture the best angle as photos taken from the side are usually inaccurate.



**Please note:**

For anterior cases, we also recommend sending a photo of the stump shade using the same process. This will allow us to choose the most suitable material depending on the stump colour. A digital camera with a 100mm lens is highly recommended for intra-oral photos.

**If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out.**



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