



Town & Country Dental Studios
275 South Main St.
Freeport, NY 11520
W-516-868-8641 F-516-868-1309
www.tncdental.com

CHAIRSIDE SHADE TAKING RECCOMENDATIONS

Taking shades can be challenging and is critical for case success. Here at Town & Country Dental Studios we always strived for an excellent shade match, especially when custom shades were scheduled and taken at our lab. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we currently cannot offer shade taking appointments. We have compiled this helpful document to assist your practice until we resume custom shade appointments.

1: TAKE THE SHADE FIRST, BEFORE ANY PROCEDURES.

All teeth change color during a procedure including adjacent teeth, resulting in the finished restoration being too light. Therefore, it's best to take your shades prior to any work on the patient.

If for any reason the shade isn't taken in the beginning of the procedure, have the patient return after 24 hours. If you have a SLR camera and you're unsure of the settings please call **Town & Country Dental Studios at 516-868-8641** to discuss. Please email any photos to CASEPHOTOS@TNCEDENTAL.COM.

2: TURN THE OPERATORY LIGHT OFF, NOT JUST POINTED AWAY.

Operative lights make things look yellow. Color corrected bulbs of (5500K, CRI of 100) is the best source for shade taking.

Set the chair at a 45° angle. At this angle there will be about 50% of your color-corrected florescent light, and 50% of the available secondary lights on the patients smile.

Have an assistant use a cheek retractor to hold back the patient's lips. Be careful not to cast a shadow and have the patient remove any lipstick if applicable.



3: POSITION THE SHADE TAB.

Value is the most important part of the shade. High value makes restorations stand out more than any other shade error. Try to take a shade of a specific tooth, not a general shade.

Most important position of the shade tab is the incisal of the shade tab against the incisal of the tooth being matched. Keep the facial surface of the shade tab in the same plane as the patient's teeth.

If possible, take a digital photo with of the tooth to be restored, the adjacent or contralateral teeth, and the two closest shade tabs in the photo. Please email any photos to CASEPHOTOS@TNCDENTAL.COM.



4: TAKE A PHOTO and STUMP SHADE.

Always take a stump shade of the prepared tooth for all anterior metal free cases. You can use shade tabs too if you do not have any stump guides available or any light curable composite that matches. Please email any photos to CASEPHOTOS@TNCDENTAL.COM.





5: TO ASSESS COLOR, WE LOOK AT THE 3 COMPONENTS OF COLOR:

HUE: The actual color. Munsell, who first articulated this system, divides colors into 5 principal hues: Red, Yellow, Green, Blue, and Purple.

VALUE: Where the color falls on a scale from black to white. Black is low value; white is high value. The human eye is most sensitive to value.

CHROMA: The saturation of the color. As an example, brick red has high chroma, while pale watermelon red has low chroma. Think of these components when shade-taking.





6: MORE TIPS:

The more shade guides you have the more likely you are to find a match. We recommend:

Vita Classic, Vita 3D Master and Vita 3D bleach guides, Chromascope, and Esthet-X.

Be sure to also have some bleach guides as well like an Ivoclar BL shade guide.

When taking a difficult shade, once you have some guides that are close, look at an 18% neutral gray card, and then glance back at the tooth and guide. The one that immediately looks the most accurate is the best one. Shade-taking accuracy decreases the longer one stares at the tooth.

Remember to use Color-correct bulbs (5500K, CRI of 100)

Neutral colors on the walls are also recommended.

Once you have some good choices get the patient involved as this will help at the crown seating appointment. Use a shade tab from any available guide that looks good. If you send the shade tab to **Town & Country Dental Studios**, we would be able to get a very close MATCH.

7: WHEN THE SHADE IS JUST TOO MUCH OF A CHALLENGE:

Sometimes if in a rush or the shade is just too difficult, we highly recommend a long term provisional restoration to have an easier option for you and your patient.





Town & Country Dental Studios
275 South Main St.
Freeport, NY 11520
W-516-868-8641 F-516-868-1309
www.tncdental.com

PATIENT SHADE INFORMATION FORM:

DENTAL PRACTICE'S NAME: _____

DOCTOR'S NAME: _____ TEL: _____

PATIENT'S NAME: _____

DATE: _____

PATIENT SHADE SELECTION AND NOTES:

HUE (Color): _____

VALUE (Dark to Bright): _____

CHROM (Color saturation): _____

ADD EXTRA NOTES HERE SUCH AS LUSTRE, TEXTURE, TRANSLUCENCY OR ANY FURTHER VISIBLE DETAILS. ALWAYS EMAIL ANY PHOTOS TO CASEPHOTOS@TNCDENTAL.COM.

NOTES:


