Value Guide
Arranged according to value. Value refers to the brightness of color based off a white to black scale. High value is bright white. Low value is dark gray.

Recommended Order:
B-1, A-1, B-2, D-2, A-2, C-1, C-2, D-4, A-3, D-3, B-3, A-3.5, B-4, C-3, A-4, C-4

Hue Guide
Arranged according to hue. Hue refers to the specific color, whether that be brown, yellow, gray, or red.

Recommended Order:
Reddish-Yellow (D-2, D-3, D-4)  
Gray (C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4)  
Reddish-Gray (B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4)

Modified Hue Guide
Arrange according to hue with the tabs’ necks removed. By removing the necks, the heavy, cervical coloring is eliminated.

Recommended Order:
Reddish-Yellow (D-2, D-3, D-4)  
Gray (C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4)  
Reddish-Gray (B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4)
Shade Selection Tips

- Have patient remove all lipstick and bright makeup.
- Cover patient in neutral-colored bib if they are wearing brightly colored clothing.
- Take shade selection at beginning of appointment to increase accuracy of shade.
- Reference the canines as they typically have the highest intensity of the dominant color of the teeth.
- First impressions are the most accurate when it comes to shade selection.
- Cross-check your shade selections with a team member before finalizing your decision.
- Only view the tabs for 7 seconds at a time to reduce eye fatigue. Reset your eyes between each shade evaluation to reset your eyes.
- Compare your shade selection under different conditions, such as with lip retraction, lips down, and from different angles.
- Provide detailed notes and high-resolution photography to ensure the best possible shade match.
- Send photos whenever possible.
- Include shade tab that is closest to the correct color in photo.
- Ensure consistent lighting in all operatories where shade is taken.
- Smile Line is a convenient tool that can be used to take dental photos. It easily attaches to any smartphone. You can use this device in conjunction with holding up a shade tab to get a high-quality picture without having to buy an expensive digital camera.

If you’re interested in purchasing the Smile Lite or Smile Lite MDP from Smile Line USA, you can find it at smilelineusa.com/product-category/dental-photography-shade-taking/.
Shade Selection Procedure

1. Using the value guide, select the value reading first.

Value is the most important dimension when it comes to shade matching for ceramic restorations. Place the shade tabs in the same plane as the patient's tooth. Squinting your eyes, move the shade guide across until you see no difference between the tooth and the tab.

2. Once you have your value reading, use the hue guide to select the color reading.

Typically, if a patient’s teeth have a warm value, they will be somewhere in the A or B ranges. If they have a cool value, they will be somewhere in the C and D ranges. Rapidly scan the shades and use the process of elimination to select the best closest shade. If you are stuck between two shades, select the closest shade match using the modified hue guide.

3. While holding the shade tab in the same plane as the teeth, evaluate their surface texture and glaze.

4. Once the value and basic shade is found, evaluate the characteristics of the entire tooth and translucencies of the incisal layer.

5. If doing an all-ceramic restoration, take a dentin shade from the stump or prep.