



## Kelley Dental Laboratory

### Shade-Taking Tips

- Always take shade at the very beginning of the appointment. Teeth dehydrate very quickly which appears lighter.
- If patient has whitened their teeth, wait 7 days for shade taking to allow teeth to rehydrate.
- Remove any lipstick and cover brightly colored clothing with a neutral colored bid (gray, light blue or white).
- Avoid direct light sources. An indirect, color-corrected, Natural Daylight bulb works the best.
- Have patient stand or be seated at no more than a 45 degree angle.
- Keep colored exam gloves away from the tooth to be shaded. This too will influence the color of the teeth.
- Hold entire shade guide to mouth and visually scan all tabs. Once narrowed down, do not stare at tab for more than 10 seconds (the eye will fatigue and everything will appear to match).
- Teeth usually have 3 different shades: one for the gingival 1/3, one for the body 1/3, and one for the incisal 1/3.

- When taking photos position the shade tab next to the area you are trying to convey. Example: Incisal of tab to incisal of tooth and gingival of tab to gingival of tooth. Try to keep tab in the same plane of the tooth.
- Shade characteristics such as crack lines, incisal translucency, halo, etc. will aid.
- For all-ceramic restorations including zirconia, please provide a shade of the tooth structure after prepping, using a Stump Shade Guide. This gives the technician the most accurate representation of what the restoration will look like in the mouth.
- For shade adjustments, take photo of the restoration in the mouth with the adjacent teeth and legible shade tab in the photo.



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