Shade Numbering, Shade Sorting, and Shade Tapering

Shade numbering, sorting, and tapering are used in many industries, but particularly the textile industry.

**Shade Numbering**

The shade numbering feature, such as that present in EasyMatch QC and EasyMatch OL software and the ColorFlex and MiniScan XE Plus firmware, performs calculations on the sample data and assigns each sample a shade number based on how close its color is to the standard. This data is presented only as the shade number (i.e., 555, 455). It appears in a field similar to the one shown to the right, obtained using the MiniScan XE Plus.

**Shade Sorting**

The shade sorting feature calculates a shade number for each sample based on how close its color is to the standard, but ALSO has the ability to sort all samples into shade groups and provide data on which samples belong to each shade number. All the samples in a particular group may be used together in producing an end product with certainty that the parts will match. For example, shirt sleeves made from fabric placed in the “444” shade group may be slightly off-color in relation to the standard, but the sleeves can still be used in making a shirt provided the shirt body combined with it is also characterized as “444.” Shade sorting performs one extra step and groups samples for you by shade numbers. Shade sorting is available in EasyMatch QC software by adding the 555 Shade field to your Color Data Table. Then, with all the samples you wish to sort displayed, click on the 555 Shade column (or row) header to sort the samples based on the shade numbers.
Samples Sorted by Shade Number

Shade Tapering

The shade tapering feature, such as that available in EasyGroup software, is also known as color sequencing. The software performs calculations that arrange the samples from lightest to darkest or dullest to brightest and report them in this order so that each sample is as close as possible in shade to the samples next to it. The picture below from EasyGroup shows a group of tapered samples.

References


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