

## ESTHETIC TOOTH SHADE SELECTION

The accurate shade is the basis for a true-to nature restoration.

- Tooth shade
  - determined on the cleaned, moist unprepared tooth or adjacent tooth
  - shade should be taken under natural lighting conditions
  - patients should not wear brightly colored clothes or lipstick during shade selection
  - observe individual characteristics
  - determine incisal and cervical shades
  
- Stump shade
  - critical for the selection of the ingot shade
  - correct value (brightness) of the final shade is determined by the ingot material
  - affects color saturation (chroma) and final restoration
  
- Final shade is a combination of the following
  - stump/die shade
  - ingot
  - staining or layering procedure
  - cementation material

Tooth color is very complex. Not only are there multiple colors in one tooth, but there are many variations in depth of the color. Some tooth colors are on the surface, some are just beneath the surface, and some are deep within the tooth. Color is influenced by reflectivity and texture—how shiny a surface is changes the color perception of that surface. Even contours can alter color perception by creating lines and spots of reflection. But the most difficult issue for general dentists is translucency and opacity. Teeth transmit light besides reflecting light—and to make a tooth look natural, the dentist has to master this understanding of degrees of translucency. There are differences in translucency between one tooth and another, and even within the same tooth there are great differences, and the way tooth translucency interacts with tooth color is very complicated and takes time and effort to master.

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