REALITY’S CHOICES

1. Demetron Shade Light
   sds/Kerr

2. Shade Wand
   Authentic Products
The ability to communicate with the lab concerning shades is the main use for these instruments. You hold the light in front of the patient’s mouth and compare the teeth to the shade tabs. This supposedly negates the effect of different lighting on color perception. If your lab uses color-corrected lighting, these lights should allow both of you to see the same shade identically.

So do we really need one of these instruments? Even if your office has color-corrected overhead lighting, these instruments will probably be of some value and use with the “hard shade” cases. On the other hand, if you have conventional fluorescent or incandescent lighting, their value rises.

Note that full-spectrum, color-corrected overhead lighting, when compared to normal fluorescent bulbs, has also been found to increase the productivity of people. Therefore, we recommend that, at the very least, patient treatment areas should be illuminated with color-corrected lighting. Its only drawback is cost, which is significantly more expensive than the price of conventional indoor lighting.

Shade matching lights in general are tricky to use. They all tend to produce too much glare, which can throw off even the most earnest attempts to record an accurate shade. This glare is one of the reasons we continue to recommend using color-corrected fluorescent lighting in your ceiling fixtures.
Description
Grayish plastic, with essentially two sections. The top section, where the bulb resides, is more or less square, with sides measuring 4.7in/12.0cm. Within the top half of this section is a rectangular opening measuring 3.2in/8.1cm wide x 1.2in/3.0cm high. It is through this opening that you view the patient's teeth. On the patient's side of this section are two very thin fluorescent bulbs that illuminate the dentition from above and below the opening. On the operator's side is the activation button, which is centered below the opening, plus red, yellow, and green LEDs that tell you the status of the battery. The location of the activation button makes it very ambidextrous and easy to activate with your thumb. However, this button is blue and can distract you when taking a shade. On the left side is the plug for the battery charger.

Weight
14.6oz/413.9g

Bulb Color Temperature
6500° Kelvin

The bottom section is the vertical handle that is 4.8in/12.2cm long and accommodates the battery pack that is also used in the L.E.Dematron I curing light. This handle and indeed, the entire unit have no sharp edges and should fit most hands. If you have this curing light and its battery charger, you don't have to buy the transformer. Otherwise, you will need the transformer, which is basically a plug-in battery charger. The battery snaps in and out of the unit just like the battery of various other devices.
The Demetron Shade Light has a big advantage of being cordless, which increases its convenience factor many fold. In terms of actually utilizing it, looking through any type of opening has always been rather limiting. However, the rectangular opening with this instrument is much better than the round ones of those that we have previously reviewed. Its bulb is rated at 6500K, which is as close to true north natural daylight as you can get. However, the glare factor notwithstanding, this light is not very bright. To illuminate teeth for shade matching, you need to place it fairly close to the patient, although the directions indicate you should hold it 2.0in/5.1cm-3.0in/7.6cm from the patient. This is not a problem unless you have an assistant holding a shade tab. Even then, it gets in the way of patients being able to see their shade options.

In addition, you are supposed to wait for at least 30 seconds after activating the light before trying to take a shade. This information is in the directions, but probably should be stenciled on the side of the handle as a reminder. Furthermore, the name of the product is printed in blue directly below the opening. This printing could be a distraction when taking a shade. And, of course, it is more than double the price of the other product in this category.

The Shade Wand is a simple, inexpensive device that was created by a laboratory technician to help dentists take shades. It puts out plenty of light, maybe too much. But due to its size, you can move it farther away from the patient to reduce the glare. Its coiled electric cord has a 15 foot reach, allowing you to mount the Shade Wand on a wall between treatment rooms, if necessary. It comes with mounting hardware.

**Cost:** $189.00

**Replacement bulbs:** $25.00

**Bulb life:** 6 years

**Warranty:** 90 days

**What if it needs repairs?** Send it back to Authentic for repair. If it is still under warranty and it can’t be repaired, you will be sent a new one.

**Is there a loaner program?** No

**Description**

10in/25.4cm plastic tube housing a fluorescent fixture with white rubber covers over the ends. A 6in/15.2cm dual, full spectrum fluorescent tube is inside, but is covered with an opaque gray lining inside the tube except for a slit opening 0.75in/1.9cm wide running the length of the tube. Turn on the light by pushing the on/off button which is under the white rubber cover on one end (the electrical cord is attached to the other end) and hold up the light close to the patient’s mouth. The opaque neutral gray lining the tube protects your eyes from the glare of the light and allows you to rest the cones of the retina between glances at shade guides next to teeth. The coiled electric cord has a 15 foot reach, allowing you to mount the Shade Wand on a wall between treatment rooms, if necessary. It comes with mounting hardware.

**Weight**

7.3oz/207.0g

**Bulb Color Temperature**

5500° Kelvin