Color-Helper™ Application Guide

Using The Color-Helper To Solve Every Color Challenge
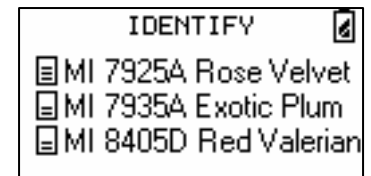
Copyright 2008, Color Savvy Systems Limited
Rev 0208

Matching Colors
With Digital Color Measurement

In many projects you know from the start what color you want. Inspiration may have come from anywhere. It may be a wall or a floor, it could be a favorite piece of furniture or accent, it could be from a picture in a magazine, or even a stuffed animal. Whatever the source, it's not a question of <u>what</u> color to use, but either a question of where and how to get that color, or, if you think perhaps that you might have found it, whether the color you have found is correct.
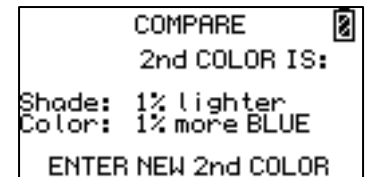
The Color-Helper has three powerful built-in functions for color matching challenges just like these:
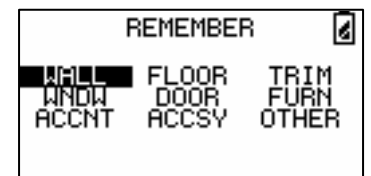
1. **Identify.** <u>If you have a sample of the color, you want</u>, the Color-Helper will identify the closest matching paint color in its internal database. The database includes over 13,000 colors from numerous manufacturers to maximize the chances of finding a good match. The Color-Helper also indicates how good the match is: 4 bars is best.

2. **Compare.** <u>If you have a sample of a color that might be close</u>, but you want to test it to find out just *how* close, you can measure in a starting color (the color you want), and then a second color (the color that might be close) in "Compare mode" and the Color-Helper will analyze the two colors and report how and why they are different.

3. **Remember.** <u>If you have a color that can't be moved</u> (like brick or siding on your home, or a kitchen countertop) it's impossible to take it to a store to find a match. For this situation, you would use the Color-Helper's Remember function to measure and record a color at one location and then recall and use that color in another location. For example you could Remember a color at home, and then recall it in a store using the "Compare" function to see how different they are.

Finding and Choosing Companion Colors
Using Ambiance™ Color Harmony Technology

The new color coordinating tool, the Color-Helper will help you choose companion colors quickly, easily and with complete confidence. The Color-Helper contains Ambiance color harmony technology that electronically classifies colors according to their color personality.   You start by simply measuring in a starting color. This can be a color that you already love or a color that you know will be part of the color scheme. Based on this starting color, the Color-Helper can provide three types of assistance to help you choose additional companion colors:
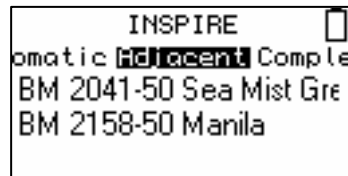
1. **Advise**. <u>If you already have a specific companion color in mind</u> but just aren't sure if it harmonizes, once you measure it in, the Color-Helper will tell you if that color is from the same personality group as the starting color (by displaying the "thumbs up" symbol). If not, the Color-Helper will suggest two alternative companion colors, similar in hue, that are.

2. **Suggest.** <u>If you know generally what you want</u>, say, purple, but you're not sure which shade of purple would be best companion color, the Color-Helper will suggest several purples (or colors in any of 9 other categories) that are in the same personality group as your starting color.

3. **Inspire.** <u>If you just don't know where to begin</u>, the Color-Helper will generate 3 sets of companion colors for you to consider, all from the same personality group as your starting color of course.

It's now possible for anyone to pick colors like a pro! You don't have to be an artist, a trained designer or a colorist. With a Color-Helper in hand, picking colors that look and feel good is as easy as "set and press".

Selecting a Color Database
Using The Color-Helper's Superpalette™

The standard Color-Helper is shipped with a Superpalette of colors installed.

The Color-Helper Superpalette

The Superpalette is a collection of standard colors offered by several of the major paint companies – well over 10,000 colors in all. Paint company palettes were chosen because they each include a comprehensive range of colors, and when combined, the collection of colors is so extensive that it becomes possible to identify even the most subtle differences in color and shade.

The Superpalette contains three types of information about each color:
- The name of the paint color (e.g., "Lime Ice")
- The manufacturer (e.g., Lime Ice is from Millenium). Each manufacturer is designated by a two letter code (e.g., "MI" for Millenium).
- The manufacturer's identification number for the color (e.g., Lime Ice is 7682W)

If you're choosing paint, and the Color-Helper suggests Lime Ice from Millenium, that doesn't mean that you have to go search for a Millenium dealer. Every major paint company has equipped their dealers with the capability to cross-reference. If Lime Ice is your color but you have a favorite brand, with few exceptions your brand will be able to get you the color that you need.

Limiting Results To One Brand

Sometimes, however, it's more important to work within one brand of colors, rather than tap the comprehensive power of the Superpalette.   The Color-Helper's "Select" function makes this easy.

When you put the Color-Helper in "Select" mode, a list of all available palette databases will appear on the screen. The first entry is always "All databases", followed by each of the individual company databases.   The screen also shows the two letter code for each manufacturer. By selecting "All Databases" or the colors from an individual manufacturer you can easily control the set of colors used by the Color-Helper when it calculates and displays results.