

First time submitting a Color Match Request?

Use this reference to help prepare for the color match request form you will fill out online at www.colorxpress.com.

To successfully complete the color match request form and process, you must provide a physical sample of your color (color chip or part), along with the following information:

- A desired product line (i.e. Cyclocac, Lexan)/grade.
- Any needed regulatory requirements (i.e. for food contact; National Sanitary Foundation (NSF); Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) and ECO standards).
- Your desired part/product surface (polished, matte, or texture).
- The primary light source you will use to evaluate your color match (daylight, fluorescent, etc).
- Opacity requirements.
- Ultraviolet testing requirements (if any).
- The thickness of your part or product (if you are requesting a transparent or translucent color).
- A physical sample of your target color is required. You may send a color chip or an actual part.

Full List of Required Information

Below is a complete list of information you will be asked to provide.

PROJECT DETAILS

- **Project Name or Number** (Your company's internal name/number)
 - To help you keep track of your request in your MyColorXpress account
- **Project Color Name**
- **Project Color Number** (Your company's internal number)
- **Is this a color match for an automotive product?** (Automotive matches require additional information)
- **The OEM** (if applicable)
- **The Molder** (if applicable)
- **Your Region** (Americas or EMEA/Europe)
 - The location where the color match will be performed. In some cases, a particular grade/color combination is only available in certain regions.
- **Whether the color match is being developed for a new product**

PRODUCT LINE/GRADE

- **Desired Opacity**
 - If you request a translucent or transparent match, keep in mind that only certain grades are available for those options.
 - If you **choose a transparent/translucent product**, you will also be asked to provide:
 - The thickness of the target sample you are sending. The thickness determines the appearance of transparent/translucent resins because the thicker the resin is, the less light can be transmitted through it. To achieve the right color, ColorXpress will create a match using the same thickness as your part.
 - The range of variation of thickness of the part, if applicable.
 - The desired color chip thickness.
 - The desired percentage of light transmission.

- **Product Line / Grade** (Cycolac, Lexan, etc)
 - Knowing which product line and grade you need is important for an accurate color match. If you do not know, you may contact ColorXpress or use the Find a Grade tool within the color match request form. The tool requires that you know and understand the compliance requirements for your product - i.e. for food contact; National Sanitary Foundation (NSF); Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) and ECO standards (TC099, TC001, Blue Angel).
 - Please note: if you choose a Geloy product for sheet extrusion, you will be asked to provide additional information such as the cap thickness, the substrate and acrylic cap (3 layer), if needed. Geloy resin can be processed in a variety of ways. The way you process the material will drive the way the color match is executed.
- **Visual Effect** (Visualfx* Resins)
 - Special effects resins are available in certain grades. When you select this as an option, the form will only display grade options available for your Visualfx* resin.

TARGET COLOR

Because light and age can alter sample paper chips, there can be significant differences between the same Pantone, RAL, Federal Standard color, NCS or Munsell number samples. For that reason, we ask that you send a sample chip or part displaying your desired color. (All submitted paper chips or samples will be returned.) Please note that a physical sample is not required if your target color is an existing SABIC color number.

You may provide one of the following as a sample:

- A Pantone Chip (Paper) & Number
- A RAL Chip (Paper) & Number
- A Federal Standard Chip (Paper) & Number
- An NCS Chip (Paper) & Number
- A Munsell Chip (Paper) & Number
- A SABIC Color Number (No physical sample is needed)
- A Part

Visual and Numerical Color Assessment

Many factors influence the perception of color including shape, texture and the substrate of your color target. To ensure the accuracy of your color, ColorXpress will visually assess the color and will take all of these factors into consideration.

In addition, you may want to request a numerical assessment ($L^*a^*b^*$). You will need to indicate any tolerance requirements you wish to apply along with the following:

- DL^*
- Da^*
- Db^*
- Dc^*
- Spectrophotometer Type
- Spectrophotometer Setup Details

In cases where the material for the sample and final resin color are different, a visual assessment is always recommended.

FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The functional questions ensure your match meets all of your requirements. Below are the questions you will be asked about your match:

- **The desired surface for your part/tool - Polish (Gloss), Matte, or Texture**
 - Surface texture affects light reflection and perceived color and is important when matching colors. ColorXpress will use the closest texture to your desired surface when determining a match.
- **The light source(s) you will use to evaluate this color**
 - ColorXpress uses your indicated light source to view the color match and to complete your color match correctly the first time.
- **Whether you will use a light booth to evaluate your color match**
- **If there is a UV test requirement**
 - This question is important to the formulation of your color.

The information you provide will help ColorXpress perform the best color match possible. Please be sure to submit your color target (chip or part) as soon as possible to ensure your color match request is processed quickly.

Americas

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