# Refinish Coatings Color Picker

A guide to
better color matching

Thank you for purchasing the Refinish Coatings Color Picker. Before you begin matching colors, there are a few steps you need to take first, as well as some information you'll need. Let's Begin.

- Step 1: Go to your App Store or Google Play and search for "DataColor Color Reader". You'll want to download this app to your smartphone. This is the app that you will use for the ColorPicker.
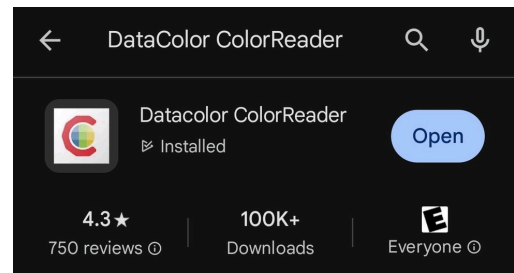

- Step 2: Once you have installed the Color Reader app, turn on the ColorPicker by pressing the red button on the top. The display on the side of the device should light up and display how much the device is charged. The charger is in the black case when you need it. Ensure the device has at least one and a half bars.

- Step 3: Open the app and follow the instructions given to you by the app until you have reached the screen that gives you the prompt to connect to your ColorPicker. Make sure that you have Bluetooth connectivity activated on your smartphone when using the ColorPicker. Once you have turned on your Bluetooth and checked to make sure your ColorPicker is still on(it will occasionally timeout and turn itself off if it hasn't been used for a few minutes) press the red 'Connect' button on your smartphone. Once the app has detected your device, it will ask you to confirm. The device will be called DC_Caran_ followed by the serial number on the bottom of the box(Red bottom, white sticker with barcode and number). Tap the button to finish connecting.

- Step 4: Once you are connected, you will see a screen that says "Select one or more collections". It is important that you do not just tap Refinish Coatings. This will select all the sub-collections, and your readings will have three of the same color in different coatings. Instead, tap the drop-down arrow and select the series of coatings you are working in. We recommend using the Color Picker certified coatings included with your kit as these have a perfect nine to one ratio of clear coat to pigment which is imperative to the formulas working. For example, Tap "Refinish Coating 300 Series" to select it. It should be highlighted in red.
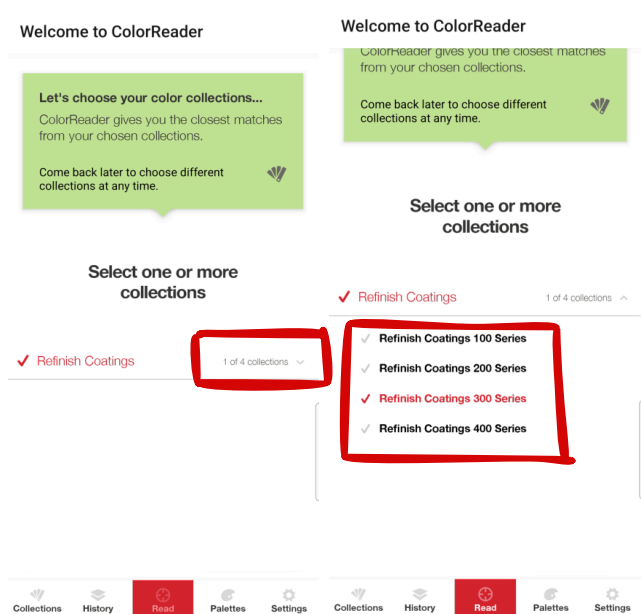
- Step 5: Your color reader will need calibration. A yellow Bar should appear at the top of the screen. Tap this button to go to the calibration screen. If you do not see the prompt at the top of your screen, you can also go to settings, scroll the bar on the top to calibration, and select it. You will need the calibration tile for this step. It will be inside the black carrying pouch provided, inside of the elastic band. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU KEEP THIS CALIBRATION TILE CLEAN AND OUT OF HARM'S WAY. If it becomes damaged or the resting spot for the device is compromised, it will not be able to calibrate correctly, and all of your readings will be off. Tap the calibrate button on your smartphone to calibrate the device. A green message letting you know it is calibrated will pop up with a small thumbs-up.
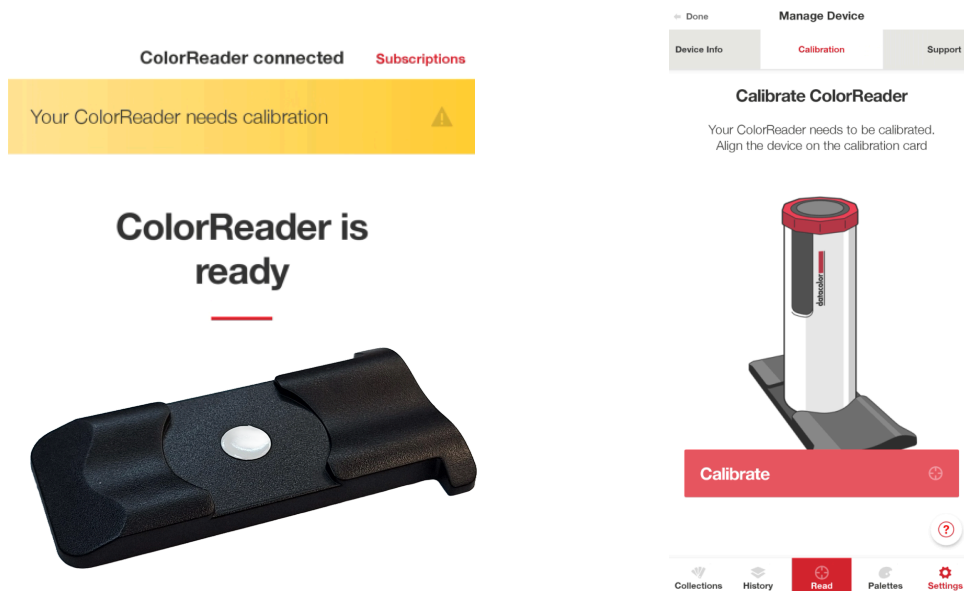
- Step 6: You are now ready to begin scanning your color. Place the sensor end of the device directly onto the color you need to read. You can either press the red button on the device or tap the "read" button on your smartphone. Scan different points of the same area and remember that it should be clean before you start. Dirt, as well as weathering, will affect the consistency of the color throughout. Scanning multiple times will help pinpoint the best starting color. At least one color should come up, but it will usually be three colors for you to choose from. The top one will be what the device has decided is the closest.

- Step 7: Before selecting your choice of color, you should check the Delta E. (Underlined in blue) This number is below the name of the color. The lower the Delta is, the better match this color will be. The higher the Delta, the more work you will need to put into that color. Generally speaking; below 2.0 will be a decent starting point, below 1.5 you will be very close, and below 1.0 you may not be able to tell the difference. Below 0.5 is considered by many to be a difference that is imperceptible to the naked eye. To get your formula, tap the color you want to use. You will see four options at the bottom. You want to select "Color Data" and look for the "Notes" section. Here, you will see the formula. There will be four colors, each in parentheses with an addition sign between them. Within the parentheses will be the Color Code, followed by the color name, and finally, the amount of that color you need. E.G. (320 Black - 0.10). We recommend you work in grams. This will give you roughly four ounces of paint each time.
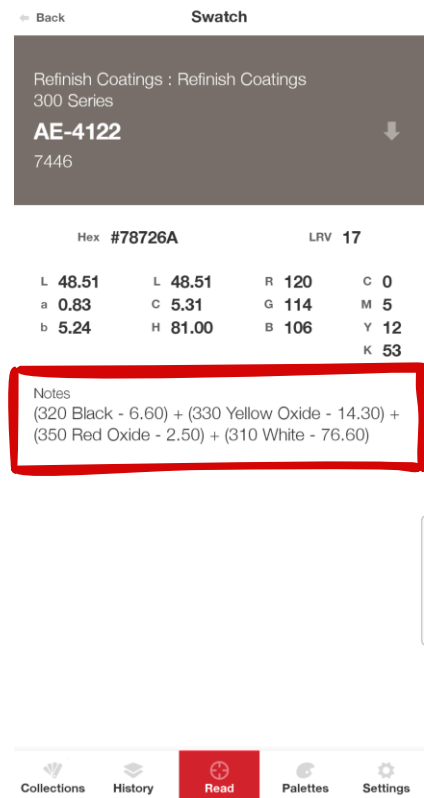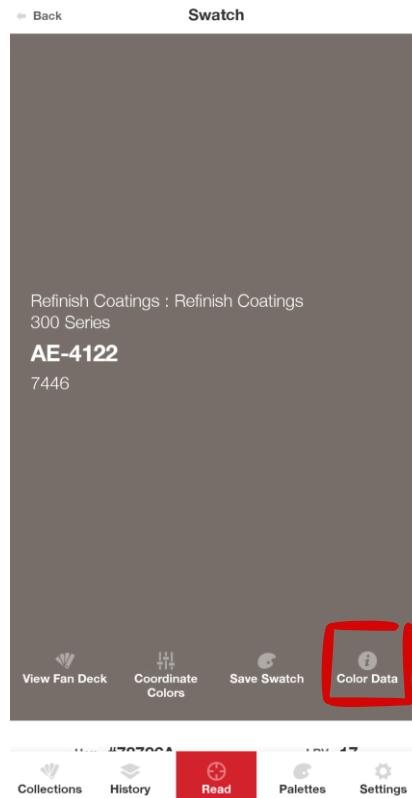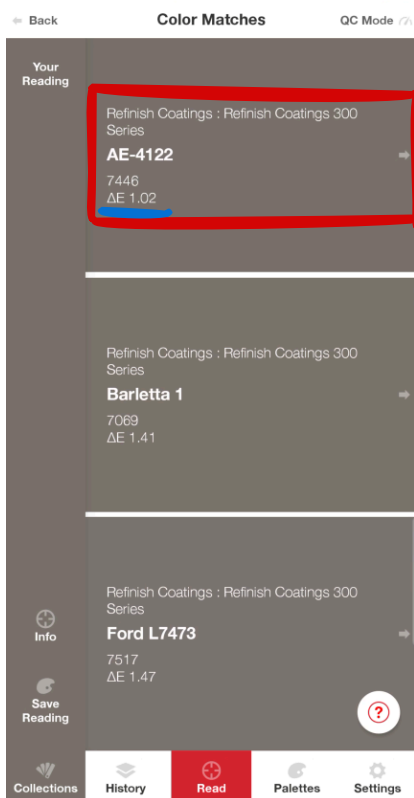
- Step 8: Mix your paints. Once you know which four colors you need, take these colors and vigorously shake them for at least one minute each. The pigments and other components inside must be thoroughly and evenly distributed throughout the entire bottle. If they are not, not only will your final color be off this time, but it will be off for all subsequent uses of that bottle. A pigment-to-clearcoat distribution of one to nine must be maintained. You will be able to hear the marbles inside rattling around like an ice shaker. Shaking up and down, twisting your wrist, and occasionally tapping the bottom edge of the bottle firmly against a solid object will help to release the sediment at the bottom of the bottle. Stir rods are also provided if you need them. Remember to thoroughly clean them after each use so as not to contaminate the other colors. More shaking/stirring equals better color matches. Remember to shake each bottle for at least one minute.

- Step 9: You will need to measure your paint on a scale. We have provided one as a part of the kit, which we have checked ourselves. Follow the instructions provided with the scale to calibrate it. Once you have calibrated the scale and ensured it is level, it is time to add your paint. If you are working outside or where there is air movement, use the provided windshield to keep the air from affecting the scale. Remember that not all scales are made equally. Many of the scales out there are not as accurate or as sensitive as what is needed for what we need them for. Tiny additions of colors will be necessary for some of our formulas and the scale you use must be sensitive to them. If you need a new scale or a second one, ensure you buy one that is both sensitive and accurate.

- Step 10: Add the paint to your jar according to the formula. Your additions must be precise and accurate. Deviations from the formula can cause your color to look off. Making the small adds asked of by the formulas can be difficult at first and will require practice. If you continue to struggle with small additions, we have micro dispensing bottles with very fine tips that will make it easier to control exactly how many drops come out. It may also be worth making larger batches of colors when starting, such as two hundred grams of a given formula until you are more comfortable(you will need larger containers than what is provided for this. We offer larger jar sizes if you need them and they are reusable by thoroughly cleaning them). Larger batches of paint will be slightly more forgiving than small ones. This is especially true in lighter colors where slightly too much red or yellow can throw your color off. If you decide to use your containers/cups, they must have flat bottoms and straight walls. If they do not, pigments will get stuck in the raised blister logo or on the steps of the wall. Red Solo cups are an example of a container that <u>will not work</u>. Once all of your colors have been added, stir the paint gently and thoroughly. Check the edges of the bottom of your jar as well for any colors that may not have been mixed in yet. If they are not mixed in completely, this will affect the final color. The wide, soft spatula provided is excellent for this.

- Step 11: Spray your color out onto one of the vinyl swatches provided until the color is opaque. You can check to make sure the color is opaque by placing the flashlight of your phone directly beneath the sample of vinyl. It is not yet opaque if you can see the light coming through. It is essential that your color is as opaque as the background color of the vinyl can and will influence how your color looks. By making it opaque, we block out the background color, in this case white. Continue spraying until the sample is opaque. Let each layer dry before adding another and make sure your coats are not too heavy. Compare this sample against the original in natural light(or light at a color temperature of roughly 5000K) to avoid metamerism. Consider factors like glossiness and texture as these can change the way the color looks. Make your spray-out taut against the item you are trying to color match; this way, they will be at the same viewing angle and affected by the light in the same way.

An example of holding your sample taut with your spray-out to maintain the same viewing angle and to keep the lighting the same. In this case, on the edge of the door panel. Finding an area of your repair you can keep taut can help, but this is not always necessary, especially if you cannot find a way to do it. Remember that perfect is often the enemy of great.

Comparing a sample that is not opaque to one that is using the flashlight of his phone.

A note on Gloss: Included in your kit are two bottles of gloss adjusters. One of 628, a dulling additive, and 629, a brightener additive. These are used to adjust how dull or bright(glossy) your paint is. These should be used at a maximum of 10%. This means that if you have one hundred grams of paint, you can add at most ten grams. You should also start at only 1% or less. Adding 10% for your first add will put you at an extreme that you will have to start over from. It is better to start low, and add more as needed until the desired sheen is reached.

- Step 12: Adjust the color as needed. Your color will likely not perfectly match right off the bat. Adjusting the color can sometimes be tricky if you're not experienced with color matching so consult the color matching guide provided in the kit for some tips and methods as well as general color theory information. Consider giving yourself a mulligan by separating your paint into thirds. By doing this, even if you mess up your first adjustments, you still have two-thirds of your original mix to work with. If you're having trouble or feel like you need extra guidance, you can always call us and we'll do our best to give advice. If you feel satisfied with your first mix, feel free to skip this step.

- Step 13: Apply your final color. Make sure your paint is properly crosslinked and the region you are applying paint to is properly cleaned and prepared for the paint.

   Congratulations on successfully using the ColorPicker for the first time. This entire process can take time to adjust to and you will likely need to practice a few times before it starts to feel natural. Patience is key to this process. Take your time and don't rush through it and you should start being able to match colors quickly and efficiently. If you have questions about refinishing steps not covered in these instructions we have step-by-step YouTube videos on these steps with good visual demonstrations. Alternatively, you can give us a call for any technical advice you need.
You can contact us by phone at (216) 398-5100 or email us at jerry@duramend.com.

Use the remainder of the space provided for your own note taking below.