A Conversation from the herbarium Listserv

Summary by James Mickley

- They are fairly durable, made of ceramic, and resistant to fading
- They can be bought from several sources, including Image Science Associates, Edmund Optics, and possibly Digital Transitions. They all seem to be the same, however. Edmund is currently the cheapest.
- The nano size in matte is what most seem to be using (17.5 x 20.7 mm)
- Watch for squares falling off, and be careful about losing the target itself. Might be best to permanently mount it with glue or tape

Price comparisons for nano ColorGauge made by Margaret Oliver on Nov. 11th

- Digital Transitions (Cultural Heritage site): $220 (http://dtculturalheritage.com/product/colorgauge-nano-target/)
- Edmund Optics: $245 (https://www.edmundoptics.com/p/colorgauge-nano-matte/29793/)
- Image Science Assoc.: $270 (http://www.imagescienceassociates.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=ISA001&Product_Code=CGNT&Category_Code=COLORGAUGE)

From: HERBARIA <herbaria-bounces@nacse.org> **On Behalf Of** James Mickley
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 1:02 PM
To: herbaria@nacse.org
Subject: [HERBARIA] ColorGauge Color Targets

Dear all:

We are thinking about getting one of the ColorGauge Nano color targets from Image Science Associates to place above specimens along with the ruler, so that we don't have to position a larger color card when imaging each specimen.

It looks like a number of herbaria use these, so we are wondering what your experiences are with them. Are there any issues with fading or longevity? Do you use the matte or the gloss version? Are there any other considerations that we should be aware of?

Thanks for your feedback, it's much appreciated.

Cheers
- James Mickley

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Dr. James Mickley
OSC Herbarium Curator & Instructor
Department of Botany and Plant Pathology
Oregon State University

From: HERBARIA <herbaria-bounces@nacse.org> **On Behalf Of** Yatskievych, George A
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 3:38 PM
To: James Mickley <james.mickley@oregonstate.edu>; herbaria@nacse.org
Subject: Re: [HERBARIA] ColorGauge Color Targets

[External Email]

James,

We use the Nanos, which unfortunately are much more expensive than the larger versions. The color chips are ceramic and are very resistant to fading. We get ours from Edmund Optics.

Cheers,

GY

George Yatskievych, Ph.D.
Botanist, Curator: Billie L. Turner Plant Resources Center, University of Texas at Austin
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From: HERBARIA <herbaria-bounces@nacse.org> on behalf of "Perkins,Kent D" <kperkins@flmnh.ufl.edu>
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 4:46 PM
To: "herbaria@nacse.org" <herbaria@nacse.org>
Subject: Re: [HERBARIA] ColorGauge Color Targets

Hi James,

This is a good question. I would like to know what the life expectancy is for these and what to look for when purchasing them. I never knew there was a choice between matte and gloss. There are targets that cost in the thousands!

We use a similar guide, the Digital Transitions ColorGauge Nano Target, with our Nikon / eBox system. This guide is postage stamp size (9/16″ x 13/16″) and very durable. It has "held up" really well for years. It was recommended by iDigBio and in one of the NYBG imaging specifications docs. That product doesn't seem to be available anymore. So, I am glad to see another source for what may be the same product, or a very similar one. The colors chips look "ceramic", as George mentioned.

I do see the X-Rite ColorChecker Classic Nano (MSCCEXTMN) available for $185.00 on Amazon.
https://www.amazon.com/X-Rite-ColorChecker-Classic-Nano-MSCCEXTMN/dp/B07TZSDGWR
That's almost $100 less.

We also use the X-Rite Mini ColorChecker Card P/N 50111: 2 1/4″ X 3 1/4″ for the Global Plants Initiative because it is the standard for that project. But, it is listed by X-Rite as out of production. There is a litle bit bigger one, X-Rite ColorChecker Classic Mini (MSCCMN-RET), listed on Amazon for $65.00.

We use the Tiffen Color Separation Guide with Grey Scale, 8″ Size, #Q-13 with our Sinar system. It is not nearly as durable as the nano target. We have to replace it frequently. We put it along the side of the sheet along with a ruler.

Speaking of scales, we use magnetic rulers along the edge of the specimen image. We purchase 6″/15cm black magnetic rulers, A-6206M from Arrowhead Forensics. 2″/5cm rulers are also available.

Kent

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---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Mare Nazaire <mnazaire@calbg.org>
To: "HERBARIA@nacse.org" <herbaria@nacse.org>
Cc:
Bcc:
Date: Fri, 30 Oct 2020 13:23:42 -0700
Subject: Re: [HERBARIA] HERBARIA Digest, Vol 207, Issue 9
Hi James,

We have purchased the Color Gauge Nano from Image Science Associates and, although expensive, we have liked the color gauge overall. However, we found that over time a chip or two would fall off of the gauge and then we would need to replace it - a very expensive endeavor! When this happened a second time I went with another color gauge option that was less prohibitively expensive.

~Mare

On Sat, Oct 31, 2020 at 12:51 PM James Mickley <james.mickley@oregonstate.edu> wrote:

> Dear Mare:
>
> Thank you, that's great to know. Were you moving the ColorGauge Nano or was it fixed in place? Does it seem like something that could be glued back on?
>
> What option did you get instead?
>
> Cheers
> - James Mickley

From: HERBARIA <herbaria-bounces@nacse.org> on behalf of Mare Nazaire <mnazaire@calbg.org>
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 at 12:56 PM
To: James Mickley <james.mickley@oregonstate.edu>, "HERBARIA@nacse.org" <herbaria@nacse.org>
Subject: Re: [HERBARIA] HERBARIA Digest, Vol 207, Issue 10

Hi James,

Well the first time it happened we were able to locate the missing square and gently glue it back in place. Then it happened a couple more times and each time the imager lost the square! Because those squares are so tiny, it was impossible to find. We decided to go with this one through B & H Photo, because, while a tad bit larger, it had a frame that holds all the squares in place:
https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1486402-REG/x_rite_msccextmn_colorchecker_classic_nano.html
And - it was less expensive! :-)

~Mare