xDNA™

Reasons to Upgrade to the MA98

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The new MA98 instrument gives companies much more than basic information on whether the sparkling, special effect surfaces of parts meet their customers' specifications. The instrument helps manufacturers to save significant time and money by providing critical, in-depth data that can be used to improve and correct existing processes and implement new processes.

X-Rite's new MA98 instrument represents the logical evolution in technology over the MA68II, which has been the workhorse in the color measurement industry for effect paints and surfaces for the past 10 years.

Customers have been pleased with the MA68II's proven record as a robust and consistent instrument for measuring effect paints for quality control, but they have said the instrument was very limited in:

- helping to implement new processes,
- indicating root causes to manufacturing problems, and creating standards for a special effect paints or metallic flake surfaces that every company in the supply chain can accept.

Comparing the versatility of the MA98 with the MA68II is like comparing the data that a technician can derive from a digital micrometer with a go-no go gage. A go-no go gage is a reliable way to tell if a part meets specifications, but the gage has severe limitations in indicating when and why a process is drifting out of control. On the other hand, a digital micrometer can yield a great deal of information that is useful in determining the state of a process.

So it is with the MA98. The technology for measuring color and appearance has leap far ahead of the instrumentation available 10 years ago, just like any other electronically based technology. The MA98:

- accurately measures characteristics of a surface that no other instrument on the market even detects, which is especially important with the growing number of new sparkling effect coatings that are being introduced every year;
- provides a unique profile of an effect paint or surface that all companies in the supply chain can accept, saving time and money during the implementation of a new program where several companies need to produce parts that must match perfectly in color and appearance;

- greatly assists personnel with determining if a manufacturing problem is due to processes or formulation changes;
- provides solid data for engineers and chemists to determine whether their existing process and formulation can be adjusted enough to match the color and appearance of a standard;
- is lightweight and ergonomically designed for comfortable operation by personnel who need to take repeated measurements during their shifts;
- uses three internal sensors that signal to an operator when he or she has applied the proper amount pressure against the test surface for reliable and repeatable measurements – which is particularly important in measuring small or curved surfaces;
- takes measurements according to the ASTM WK1164 and the DIN standards for effect pigments, satisfying the requirements by OEMs of their suppliers;
- provides a number of time-saving conveniences that are improvements over prior technology, including replaceable lamp modules that do not require recalibration of the instrument, in creased lamp lives, multilingual instructions for use, large high-resolution color graphic display for viewing data and job instructions, USB and wireless links were available and rapid measurement rates.
- provides data that is compatible with databases generated by prior versions of X-Rite instruments, ensuring a consistent history of measurements without need for modification of the information.


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