

**Rite-Lite 2 High CRI (Posted 7/3/15)**

FirstLook Shade Matching Lights



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**Manufacturer/Distributor** AdDent

**Web Site** <http://www.addent.com/>

**Prices** \$398.00 w/ filter  
\$298 w/o filter

**Warranty** 1 year

**Description** Third version of the Rite-Lite LED shade matching light, which was originally introduced in 2007. While this new model continues with the "tri-spectra" feature of the second generation Rite-Lite 2 (see *The Ratings*), its "high CRI (color rendering index)" is stated to show colors more naturally. The other unique feature of this third generation is the polarizing filter that attaches to the light magnetically. More about that below.

The light itself is a virtual clone of its predecessor except for the magnets securing the filter. It is clad in satin-finished aluminum with two sections. The top section is round, contains 12 LEDs, and has an outside diameter of 2.1in/5.3cm. Within this round section is a circular opening with a diameter of 1.2in/3.0cm. It is through this opening that you view the patient's teeth. On the patient's side of this section are the 12 LEDs that illuminate the dentition from all directions. These LEDs sit in a base of matte black metal.

The small, black rubberized activation button is on the left side of the light as the top section transitions into the handle. Even though the position of the activation button is primarily designed for right handers, the small size of the unit will not cause left handers any problems activating it, which requires only light pressure. All evaluators of the second generation version felt activating the unit was easy.

The bottom section is the vertical cylindrical handle that is 3.8in/9.6cm long and 0.8in/2.0cm in diameter. It attaches to the top section with a screw-type connection. Two conventional AA batteries power the unit and install simply into the recess at the top of the handle when it is unscrewed from the top section.

Note: It employs a voltage regulator to keep the light output constant throughout the life of the batteries. When the batteries lose power, the LEDs blink to notify the user that it is time to replace them.

All evaluators of the second generation except one really liked the design. Several evaluators commented that patients were also fascinated with it.

It weighs barely 6.5oz/184.3g even with the filter. This weight is actually lighter than some electric handpieces. All evaluators of the second generation thought the weight was acceptable. One evaluator commented that it was comfortable to hold.

All evaluators also thought the size was acceptable. Two evaluators appreciated its compact size, with one feeling the circular opening was wide enough while the other wanted a larger viewing area.

To use it, push the black button once and the six LEDs emitting 5500 degree Kelvin light are activated. Pushing the black button a second time deactivates the 5500 degree LEDs and activates the 3200 degree LEDs. Finally, push the black button a third time and all 12 LEDs are activated at the 3900 degree setting.

It also comes with a pack of small, rectangular pink cardboard sheets that, when placed lingual to the teeth that you are shade matching, will presumably neutralize oral cavity's color interference.

As noted previously, the color temperature of its first setting is still 5500 degrees Kelvin, which according to the manufacturer, has a CRI of 91+ (sunlight is 100). This compares to the 85-89 CRI of the second generation model. While 91+ does not seem to be a quantum jump over 85-89, there really is a marked difference in color rendering, with the 91+ definitely showing colors more naturally.

The other two settings mimic indoor ambient light, which of course is what most patients are exposed to most of the time. The 3200 degrees Kelvin setting simulates incandescent lighting, while the 3900 degrees Kelvin would be similar to typical mixed incandescent/fluorescent indoor lighting. The colors under these two settings are also more vivid compared to the previous model.

All evaluators of the second generation model except one felt that it helped with shade taking and matching. One evaluator still used the S500K setting the most, but two evaluators found the other two settings helped with characterization and customization. Another, however, was still not quite sure how helpful the extra settings were over a single-setting shade light.

Now to the polarizing filter. It is a circular, grey plastic disc that looks like a flat lens from polarizing sunglasses. There are four, small, round magnets evenly spaced near the edge of the disc. These magnets attach to four similar magnets embedded into the face of the light in between the LEDs. Having the filter attach to the light via magnets is clever and allows easy engagement/disengagement.

The filter effectively eliminates the gloss of teeth and presumably gives you an enhanced way to observe the shade and translucency/opacity of the teeth you are trying to match. You are supposed to take the shade with and without the filter to get the best chance of picking the correct shade.

We were not able to evaluate the clinical usefulness of the filter for this preview, but it will be a central feature of our upcoming full evaluation. In the meantime, at \$100, it's a fairly expensive accessory, but if it helps to match crowns to teeth, it will be worth it.

The directions are on a folded, single, plain paper sheet in English. They are clear, concise, and easy to understand, although it would have been nice to have some photos to go along with the text.

If you don't already have shade matching light, this model is a definite improvement over the 5 Star second generation version and, since it sells for exactly the same, buying it is a no-brainer. If you already own the second generation model and find it to be helpful, then sell it on eBay and turn around a buy this one. If you already have the second generation model but you don't use it much, then the improvements with this model may change your mind.

However, as we have pointed out in other shade matching light reviews, this category of products still requires the "human" factor in matching teeth to shade guides. Although this model appears to be superior to others in this category, it would be unfair to consider it anything else but another tool to help you with your shade matching tasks.

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Name: Alice Volpe

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