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Edition 1 2007
NCS Digital Atlas

The NCS Digital Atlas is a colour atlas that visualizes all the 1,950 NCS Original colours specified in CMYK and positioned in the NCS Colour Space. To make the NCS Digital Atlas, the NCS Palette Creative has been used to specify the colours. The NCS Palette Creative is a set of colour libraries which gives you access to the NCS colours in your different computer software, regardless of whether it is for your monitor, for your colour printer or for a printing press.

The NCS Digital Atlas contains the standardized 1,950 NCS Original colours and includes the 200 New Colours introduced in 2004. These colours have been placed in their right positions in the NCS Colour Space to get a clear overview of the colours. 184 of the colours lie in intermediate steps in the light area, and the size of the colour samples has been adapted to fit in their positions in the NCS Colour Triangles.

To get the most out of the NCS Digital Atlas we recommend that you work with it in combination with a colour tool from NCS 1950 Original Colour Sample Collection (e.g. an NCS Atlas or an NCS Block) as well as the NCS Palette Creative.

Colour Differences

Depending on limitations in the printing technique, differences can arise between the printed result of the NCS Digital Atlas and the nearest NCS colour sample. For technical reasons, variations between the monitor and NCS Original colour samples can also occur. When communicating colour, always refer to the NCS notation and an NCS Original colour sample to be certain to get the best colour accuracy.

Print-outs from different computer printers often vary a lot depending on the printing technique (e.g. laser or inkjet). The colour settings in the print-driver, the operation system and the application also influence the printed colours. Therefore it is important to adjust these settings to simulate a four-colour print on matt-coated paper. The best is also to work in CMYK mode in the application to avoid unnecessary colour conversions to and from RGB. Note that the colour on the screen may look slightly different comparing to the NCS colour sample because of the conversion from CMYK into RGB.

The NCS System describes the whole colour space, but does not guarantee that all colours in the NCS Digital Atlas can be produced in all imaginable materials and qualities by all manufacturers. In doubtful cases, we recommend that you consult the manufacturer of the material of interest before the colour is ordered. For NCS products and retailers, please visit the NCS web site www.ncscolour.com.
The NCS® System

NCS - Natural Color System® is a system with the help of which all possible surface colours (not fluorescent or metallic colours) can be described. That facilitates and guarantees exact colour navigation in design, communication and production. The NCS system is illustrated by an NCS Colour Atlas containing 1950 colour samples. Today, the NCS is one of the most widely used colour-describing systems in the world and has acquired international scientific acknowledgement. Besides, it is a Swedish, Norwegian, Spanish and South African national standard. NCS colour samples hold world-leading colour quality to provide exact colour match between different productions of colour samples, in order to make sure that the colour is always the same.

The letter S preceding the complete NCS notation (NCS S 1050-Y90R) means that the NCS sample is a standardized NCS colour sample issued by the Scandinavian Colour Institute, the NCS Quality Centre, and that it follows the NCS Quality Management system according to the Edition 2.

The variables in the NCS notations are built entirely on visually observable properties of the colours. In the NCS notation for the colour NCS S 1050-Y90R, the first two digits indicate the percentage of visual blackness in the colour. The next two digits indicate the colour’s chromaticness, i.e. how strong the colour is. The letter-number combination after the hyphen indicates the colour’s hue, i.e. which chromatic attributes are included and the relation between these. In this case, it is a yellow hue with 90% redness.

The NCS can also be illustrated graphically in a three-dimensional model, where the blackness and chromaticness are given in an equilateral triangle and the hue on a circle. A point in the triangle and a line on the circumference of the circle provide an unequivocal description of a colour. The colour NCS S 1050-Y90R is marked in the triangle and in the circle below. For more information, please visit: www.ncscolour.com.

The Natural Color System®,
- the key to your colour solutions

The visual NCS colour system makes it easy to visualize, design, select, communicate, document and manufacture any colour rationally, accurately and consistently. The NCS notation has a true visual meaning and can be understood and communicated globally.

NCS has created an exceptional tool for design, marketing, sales, communication and production, integrated in one system for multiple material industries. Simply: One system - one colour - one notation - any material.
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Natural Color System® - The international language of colour communication™

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