

Unit 204 (CH4) Colour and Lighten Hair Activity 20

The international colour code system

For this activity you will require a permanent shade chart.

The international colour code (ICC) system is so-called because it is a universal numbering system. This means that you can pick any manufacturer's shade chart and use it!

The basics!

Down the side of the shade chart you will typically see the numbers 1–10 (although this may vary and some shade charts start from the number 3). 1 on a shade chart is the darkest colour with 10 being the lightest.

Using a shade chart, list the names given to the colours next to the numbers provided.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

Base colours

These colours are referred to as the base colours (depth of the shade). When you are working on a client's hair, you will need to match up the client's hair colour to these base colours to determine how light or dark their hair colour is. The base shade always refers to the number in front of the point or slash.

Double base

If you have a shade chart that has a number 66/0 or 66.0 this means that it has a double base. These colours are often used on hair that is resistant to colour where you need a double whammy of colour! By using these colours you will ensure full coverage, especially on 100 per cent resistant white hair.

Colour tones

If you look across your shade chart, you will see an array of numbers combined together. These colours will have numbers after the point/slash. These are the tones of the colour. Each manufacturer may have different numbers for their tones and it is important to remember this if you are working from different shade charts.

Using your shade chart, write in the tones next to the numbers provided, for example 'Ash'.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

It is vital that you begin to understand the tones so that you can mentally visualise colours in your mind without having to always refer to a shade chart. This will become easier with a lot of practice and experience.

Primary and secondary tones

When you are looking at the number of the colours, you will see that you sometimes have a colour that is, for example, 8.03 or 6/34.

- You have learned that the number before the point/slash is the depth of the colour (how light or dark the colour is).
- The first number after this is the *primary tone* of the colour, which is a strong tone.
- The second number is the secondary tone, which is the weaker tone.

So, if the colour is 8.03, the 0 is telling you that there isn't a primary tone, and the 3 is a weaker (softer) golden tone. For 6/34, the primary tone is gold and the secondary tone is copper (though remember this will vary from manufacturer to manufacturer).

In pairs or groups, identify the depth and tone for the colours listed in the chart below.

Number	Depth of colour?	Primary tone?	Secondary tone?
7/34			
5.4			
5/01			
6.73			