





What is claimed is:

1. A method of creating a paint sample card comprising: depositing a puddle of paint on a draw down card, the draw down card comprising: a top edge; a bottom edge opposing the top edge; first and second opposing side edges; a first surface for receiving a draw down sample of paint; a second surface opposing the first surface; a first side perforated line adjacent to the first side edge; a second side perforated line adjacent to the second side edge and parallel to the first side perforated line; and a central portion defined on the first surface within the first side perforated line, a second side perforated line and the top edge, the puddle of paint being deposited at the central portion near the top edge; placing the draw down bar on the draw down card, the draw down bar being positioned generally parallel to the top edge; sliding the draw down bar toward the bottom edge of the draw down card so as to spread the paint on the card, the draw down bar being slid such that the draw down bar maintains the same orientation relative to the first and second side perforated lines; tearing the draw down card along the first side perforated line to remove a first side portion of the card between the first side edge and the first side perforated line; and tearing the draw down card along the second side perforated line to remove a second side portion of the card between the second side edge and the second side perforated line.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the draw down card further comprises a bottom perforated line adjacent to the bottom edge of the draw down card.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising, after sliding the draw down bar toward the bottom edge to spread the paint on the card, stopping sliding the draw down bar once the paint has spread past the bottom perforated line but before it has spread past the bottom edge of the card and then tearing the draw down card along the bottom perforated line.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the first and second side perforated lines extend to the top edge.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising waiting for the paint to dry before tearing the draw down card along the first and second side perforated lines.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the draw down card further comprises a first hole located adjacent to the top edge and in the first side portion and a second hole located adjacent to the top edge and in the second side portion, further comprising: hanging the draw down card in a generally vertical orientation using the holes after the step of sliding the draw down bar toward the bottom edge; and then waiting for the paint to dry before tearing the draw down card along the first and second side perforated lines to remove the first and second side portions including the first and second holes.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the draw down card further comprises a guide marker comprising a straight line on the first surface adjacent to the top edge, wherein the step of placing the draw down bar on the draw down card comprises aligning the draw down bar or a portion thereof with the guide marker.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the draw down bar comprises a paint application portion having a first end and a second end, wherein the draw down bar is positioned such that the first end is between the first side perforated line and the first edge, and the second end is between the second side perforated line and the second edge.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising sliding the draw down bar toward the bottom edge of the draw down card such that the paint is spread across the first and second side perforated lines into the first and second ends.

10. A method of creating a paint sample card comprising: depositing a puddle of paint on a draw down card, the draw down card comprising: a top edge; a bottom edge opposing the top edge; first and second opposing side edges; a first surface for receiving a draw down sample of paint; a second surface opposing the first surface; a first side perforated line adjacent to the first side edge; and a second side perforated line adjacent to the second side edge, the first and second side perforated lines extending in a direction from the top edge towards the bottom edge; placing the draw down bar on the draw down card, the draw down bar being



analysis, the sample should be of a thickness adequate for evaluation and should also be of a uniform thickness. A quick method of preparing a fresh paint sample is to dip a finger into the paint and spread the paint on a piece of paper. However, besides being messy, such "finger smears" are often uneven, and this unevenness can lead to miscalculation by the spectrophotometer.

Draw down sample cards can be prepared to provide uniform fresh color samples. Such draw down sample cards can be prepared by applying a puddle of paint at one end of a sheet of paper and sliding a bar through the paint to spread the paint down the sheet. When prepared properly, the resulting sample will have a uniform thickness that is adequate for analysis. However, the preparation of draw down sample cards can be messy, with the paint sometimes running over the edges of the sheet as the bar is drawn down. When less paint is used, such that run over on the edges does not occur, there is a gap at the edge of the sheet. This unpainted margin around the edge of the sample interferes with visual matching and comparison of the sample to paint chips or other items, since the sample is not directly side-by-side with the item to which the color is compared, such as a paint chip, fabric, carpet, furniture piece, or other object. These unpainted margins can be removed, such as by cutting with a scissors, but this requires an extra step which is time consuming if done carefully, and can result in samples which are not uniform in size and/or have irregular edges and therefore appear less professional. An improved method of preparing paint samples would therefore be useful.

## SUMMARY

Embodiments of the invention include draw down sample cards for creating sample cards using fresh paint. The draw down sample cards may include a top edge, a bottom edge opposing the top edge, first and second opposing side edges, a first surface for receiving a draw down sample of paint, and a second surface opposing the first surface. They may further include a first side perforated line adjacent to the first side edge, a second side perforated line adjacent to the second side edge and parallel to the first perforated line, a bottom perforated line adjacent to the bottom edge and perpendicular to the first and second side perforated lines, and optionally a top perforated line adjacent to the top edge and perpendicular to the first and second side perforated lines. The first side perforated line extends from the top edge or the top perforated line to at least the bottom perforated line, the second side perforated line extends from the top edge or the top perforated line to at least the bottom perforated line, and the bottom perforated line extends from at least the first perforated line to at least the second perforated line. In some embodiments, the first and/or second side perforated line extends from the top edge to the bottom edge. In some embodiments, the sample card includes the top perforated line, and the top perforated line extends from at least the first side perforated line to at least the second side perforated line. In some such embodiments, the top perforated line extends from the first side edge to the second side edge.

In some embodiments, the draw down sample card includes a first hole located adjacent to the top edge and between the first side edge and the first side perforated line and a second hole located adjacent to the top edge and between the second side edge and the second side perforated line. In some embodiments, the draw down sample card includes a guide marker comprising a straight line on the first surface adjacent to the top edge and parallel to the bottom perforated line. The guide marker may extend from a first end to a second end, the first end being located between the first side edge and the first side perforated line and the second end being located between the second side edge and the second side perforated line.

Other embodiments include systems or kits for creating paint sample card samples. The system may include a draw down sample card and a draw down bar. The draw down sample card may include a top edge, a bottom edge opposing the top edge, first and second opposing side edges, a first surface for receiving a draw down sample of paint, a second surface opposing the first surface, a first side perforated line adjacent to the first side edge, and a second side perforated line adjacent to the second side edge and parallel to the first perforated line. The draw down bar may include a paint application portion extending from a first end to a second end. The draw down bar may be sized for use with the draw down card such that the length of the paint application portion from the first to the second end is less than a perpendicular distance between the first and second side edges of the draw down card and is greater than a perpendicular distance between the first and second side perforated lines of the draw down card. In some embodiments, the draw down sample card also includes a bottom perforated line adjacent to the bottom edge and perpendicular to the first and second side perforated lines and/or a top perforated line adjacent to the top edge and perpendicular to the first and second side perforated lines. The first and second side perforated lines may extend from the top

edge or the top perforated line to at least the bottom perforated line.

Other embodiments include methods of creating a paint sample card. The method may include depositing a puddle of paint on a draw down card, placing the draw down bar on the draw down card, the draw down bar having a paint application portion having a first end and a second end and a longitudinal axis, sliding the draw down bar toward the bottom edge of the draw down card so as to spread the paint on the card, and tearing the draw down card along the first and second side perforated lines. The draw down card may include a top edge, a bottom edge opposing the top edge, first and second opposing side edges, a first surface for receiving the sample of paint, and a second surface opposing the first surface. The draw down card may further include a first side perforated line adjacent to the first side edge, and a second side perforated line adjacent to the second side edge and parallel to the first perforated line. The draw down bar may be positioned such that the longitudinal axis is perpendicular to the first and second side perforated lines, the first end is between the first perforated line and the first edge, and the second end is between the second perforated line and the second edge, throughout the step of sliding the draw down bar toward the bottom edge. In some embodiments, the draw down card further includes a bottom perforated line adjacent to the bottom edge of the draw down card and/or a top perforated line adjacent to the top edge of the draw down card.

After sliding the draw down bar toward the bottom edge to spread the paint on the card, the method may include stopping sliding the draw down bar and removing the draw down bar from the card once the paint has spread past the bottom perforated line but before it has spread past the bottom edge of the card. In some embodiments, the method further includes tearing the draw down card along the bottom perforated line and/or along the top perforated line. The method may also include waiting for the paint to dry before tearing the draw down card along the first and second side perforated lines.

In some embodiments, the draw down card includes a first hole located adjacent to the top edge and between the first side edge and the first side perforated line and a second hole located adjacent to the top edge and between the second side edge and the second side perforated line. In some embodiments, the method also includes hanging the draw down card in a generally vertical orientation using the holes after the step of sliding the draw down bar toward the bottom edge and then waiting for the paint to dry before tearing the draw down card along the first and second side perforated lines. In some embodiments, the method also includes the step of placing the draw down card on a board having a set of projections such that the projections are inserted into the apertures of the card before depositing the paint sample onto the card.

In some embodiments, the draw down card includes a guide marker comprising a straight line on the first surface adjacent to the top edge, and the step of placing the draw down bar on the draw down card includes aligning the draw down bar or a portion thereof with the guide marker.

Other aspects, features, and advantages will be apparent from the following detailed description, including the drawings and the claims.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF FIGURES

The following drawings are illustrative of particular embodiments of the present invention and therefore do not limit the scope of the invention. The drawings are not to scale (unless so stated) and are intended for use in conjunction with the explanations in the following detailed description. Embodiments of the present invention will hereinafter be described in conjunction with the appended drawings, wherein like numerals denote like elements.

FIG. 1 is a draw down paint sample card according to embodiments of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a sheet of multiple draw down paint sample cards according to embodiments of the invention; and

FIG. 3 is draw down sample card to which a fresh paint sample is being applied to the card according to embodiments of the invention;

FIG. 4 is a draw down sample card to which a paint sample has been applied, with edge portions of the card removed according to embodiments of the invention; and





sample. In some embodiments, the system or kit includes one or more draw down cards along with a draw down bar and a board having projections such as pegs spaced for use with the draw down cards when applying a paint sample. The board includes an upper flat surface which may be generally horizontally oriented during use. The board may be sized for use with the draw down cards and may include a clamp, projections, or other form of releasable attachment at the top end of the board which may be used to secure the draw down card to the board before the application of the paint sample. In some embodiments, the attachment is two or more projections which extend approximately perpendicularly from the upper surface of the board and may be spaced apart by a distance equal to the distance between the apertures of the draw down card and may be sized to fit within the apertures of the draw down card. The projections may be located so as to securely align the draw down card with the board, such that the draw down card lies entirely on the upper surface of the board with no portion of the draw down card extending past an edge of the board. After the application of the paint sample, the draw down card may be removed from the board by lifting it off of the projections.

In some embodiments, the draw down card may include additional perforated lines extending through the sample portion of the card. These additional perforated lines may be used to divide the finished paint sample card into multiple smaller paint sample cards. For example, the draw down card may include a central longitudinal perforated line extending from the top edge or the top perforated line to the bottom edge or bottom perforated line, which may bisect the draw down card into two equal portions. The draw down card may further include a central transverse perforated line, perpendicular to the central longitudinal line and extending from the first side edge or first side perforated line to the second side edge or second side perforated line. The central transverse perforated line may bisect the sample portion of the card into two equal portions. Together the central longitudinal and central transverse perforated lines may be used to divide the final sample card into four smaller sample cards. Any number of additional perforated lines may be used to divide the final sample card into any number of smaller sample cards at any time after the application of the paint sample, such as after the paint sample has dried.

An example of a draw down card according to embodiments of the invention is shown in

FIG. 1. The card 10 is a sheet having a first face 20 and an opposing second face (not shown). The margins of the card 10 are defined by a top edge 30 and an opposing and parallel bottom edge 32, and a first side edge 34 and an opposing and parallel second side edge 36.

The card 10 includes 3 perforated lines. Bottom perforated line 42 extends from first side edge 34 to second side edge 36 and parallel to bottom edge 32. First side perforated line 44 extends from top edge 30 to bottom perforated line 42 and is adjacent to and parallel to first side edge 34. Second side perforated line 46 extends from top edge 30 to bottom perforated line 42 and is adjacent to and parallel to the second side edge 36. First and second side perforated lines 44, 46 are parallel to each other and perpendicular to bottom perforated line 42.

The central portion of card 10 is the sample portion 50 and is defined by top edge 30, first and second side perforated lines 44, 46 and bottom perforated line 42. After paint is applied to the card 10, the majority of the sample portion will be entirely covered with paint, with paint extending across the card 10 from first side perforated line 44 to second side perforated line 46 and down to bottom perforated line 42, with only a small unpainted portion extending across along the top edge 30.

The remainder of the card 10 are edge portions which are removed from the sample portion 50 after the paint sample is applied to the card 10. A first side edge portion 54 is defined by the top edge 20, the bottom perforated line 42, the first side edge 34 and the first side perforated line 44. In alternative embodiments, the first side edge portion could extend to the bottom edge 32. A second side edge portion 56 is defined by the top edge 20, the bottom perforated line 42, the second side perforated line 46 and the second side edge 36. In alternative embodiments, the second side edge portion could extend to the bottom edge. A bottom edge portion 52 is defined by the bottom perforated line 42 and the bottom edge 32 and the first and second side edges 34, 36. In alternative embodiments, the sides of the bottom edge portion could be defined by the first and second side perforated lines 44, 46 rather than the first and second side edges 34, 36. In other embodiments, the card may also include a top perforated line that may extend from first side edge 34 to second side edge 36 or from first side perforated line 44 to second side perforated line 46.

As can be understood by reference to FIGS. 3 and 4, after a paint sample 300 is applied to the card 10, each of the edge portions 52, 54, 56 is partially painted and partially unpainted, with the outer edge of the paint lying between the perforated line and the edge of each portion. On the first side edge portion 54, the outer edge of the paint extends from the first side perforated line 44 to an area between the first side perforated line and the first side edge 34, except for an unpainted area adjacent to the top edge 30. On the second side edge portion 56, the outer edge of the paint extends from the second side perforated line to an area between the second side perforated line 46 and the second side edge 36, except for an unpainted area adjacent to the top edge. On the bottom edge portion 52, the outer edge of the paint extends from the bottom perforated line to an area between the bottom perforated line and the bottom edge 32, except for small unpainted areas adjacent to each of the first side edge 34 and the second side edge 36. These edge portions 52, 54, 56, can be removed from the sample portion 50 by tearing along the perforated lines 42, 44, 46.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 1, the card 10 further includes two apertures 60 which allow the card to be hung upon a pair of rods after application of the paint sample while the paint is drying and can also be used to stabilize the card during paint application. The apertures are located adjacent to the top edge 30 in the area of the card 10 which remains unpainted. In this embodiment, one aperture 60 is located in the first side edge portion 54 and the other aperture is located in the second side edge portion 56. In this way, after the paint sample has dried and the first and second side edge portions 54, 56 are removed, the sample portion 50 has no aperture which may be more visually pleasing. However, the apertures may alternatively be located adjacent to the top edge 30 in the sample portion 50, or the card may include a single midline aperture.

The cards 10 may be manufactured from a single large sheet which is perforated and divided into multiple cards 10. An example of such a sheet is sheet 100 shown in FIG. 2. The sheet may first be perforated along the lines of perforation which extend across the cards 10 and are aligned with the perforated lines of adjacent cards 10. Sheet 100 can then be divided by cutting into multiple cards 10. Alternatively, the sheet 100 may be divided first and then the cards 10 may be perforated. In the example shown, the sheet forms 8 cards 10 when cutting is complete. By cutting along line 130, the bottom edges 32 of the cards 10 are formed. Cutting along lines 135, 135', 135" forms the first and second side edges 34, 36 of the cards 10. Various alternative card orientations may be used to easily manufacture multiple cards from a single sheet.

FIG. 3 depicts a sample of paint 300 being applied to a card 10 using a draw down bar 200 and a board 400. In use, the card 10 is first placed on a firm, flat, and generally horizontal surface. In the embodiment shown, the surface is a board 400 which is sized to be larger than the card and includes two pegs 410 for securing the card 10 which are spaced to align with apertures 60. A portion of paint is then deposited onto the card, near the top edge 30 of the card, such as in the form of a puddle of paint. A draw down bar 200 is then contacted with the card 10 such that the paint application portion 210 extends from the first side edge portion 54, across the sample portion 50, and to the second side edge portion 56 without extending past the first side edge 34 or second side edge 36. The draw down bar is generally oriented parallel to the top and bottom edges 30, 32 and bottom perforated line 42, and perpendicular to the side edges 34, 36 and the side perforated lines 44, 46. The location at which the bar 200 is contacted with the card may be above (toward the top edge 30, relative to the paint deposit) or within the paint deposit. The draw down bar 200 is then slid toward the bottom edge 32 of the card 10 as shown in FIG. 3, spreading the paint from the paint deposit across the sample portion 50 of the card 10, while maintaining the same positioning and orientation relative to the side edges 34, 36 and the side perforated lines 44, 46 of the card 10. The draw down bar 200 is slid until the paint has spread past the bottom perforated line and is stopped before the paint reaches the bottom edge 32 of the card. The draw down bar 200 is then removed from the card 10. The card 10 having the paint sample is then dried, such as by hanging the card using apertures 60. After the card is dry, the side edge portions 54, 56 and the bottom portion 52 are removed from the sample portion 50, as shown in FIG. 4, and sample portion 50 may then be used for color matching.

An example of a draw down bar 200 that may be used in embodiments of the invention is shown in FIG. 5. The draw down bar 200 extends longitudinally and has a central paint application portion 210 surrounded by two end portions 220 at each end of bar 200. The length of the paint application portion 210 of the draw down bar 200 is slightly greater than the width of the sample portion 50 (from first to second perforated line 44, 46) but less than the width of the card 10. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 3, the draw down bar has a total length approximately equal to the width of the card 10. When complete, the final paint sample cards made from the draw down cards 10 are completely painted, except for the top edge in some embodiments, and are uniform in size and have regular, straight edges for a more professional look. In other embodiments

including a top perforated line, the top edge portion may also be removed, leaving a final paint sample card with no unpainted portion on the upper surface.

In some embodiments, the card 10 may have a length (from top edge 30 to bottom edge 32) of about 13 inches and a width (from first side edge 34 to second side edge 36) of about 10 inches. The sample portion 50 of the card may have a length of about 1 1/4 inches (from top edge 30 to bottom perforated line 42) and a width (from first perforated line 44 to second perforated line 46) of about 7 1/2 inches. However, regardless of the size, the size of the card and the location of the perforated lines is designed such that, when used with a particular draw down bar, the width of the paint film path is greater than the width of the sample portion 50 but less than the width of the card 10.

In the foregoing detailed description, the invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments. However, it may be appreciated that various modifications and changes can be made without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims. Thus, some of the features of preferred embodiments described herein are not necessarily included in preferred embodiments of the invention which are intended for alternative uses.

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