

ARTech Laboratory, Inc.

Photograph Policy

Color: The most common source of frustration for you, your patients and us is the frequent color corrections needed due to inaccurate photos and color selections on the ARTech Work Orders. **Along with fully completing all information on the Work Order, the following information should remedy most of these problems. Please disregard the information printed on the color chart as it is outdated.**

We accept photos by email, if taken on our Color Chart background. **Depending on the time of year (winter for example) when the photos are taken, and the length of time it takes for fabrication, it might be advisable to take more photos closer to the completion date.** The patient needs to be mindful that we need to achieve a color that will blend both summer and winter. The color can be darkened, but cannot be “lightened” once the prosthesis is painted.

In the future, ARTech can only guarantee a color match if we are provided with patient approved photos taken on our color chart background for our artists to match. This requirement will remove much of the guesswork for you and us. **However, you and your patient must understand that the skin colors of most people change, sometimes dramatically, throughout the day due to temperature, medications taken, and even after eating certain foods, not to mention tanning from the sun or lightening from lack of sun.** Because of this, matching the photo does not necessarily mean that the prosthesis will always match the patient exactly. As an example, have the patient hold one hand above their head for ten seconds, then compare it with the other hand.

We need photos of both the “sound” side and the “affected side”, if an “affected” side is possible. We need to match the transition of the skin to the prosthesis. Sometimes the color on the affected side is slightly different.

The photos should be made only against our color chart background so the color can be adjusted if the artist has any questions. **Our color chart is available on line at www.artechlab-prosthetics.com. Print it off, take photos with it as the background, and then include it in along with the models you send to us.** If that is not possible, then try and take the photo on a background that can be included along with the models (blue paper towel, manila folder, towel, etc.)

We do not recommend photos be taken outside or under fluorescent lights. Photos taken with a flash in a room with a window is best. Take some photos close-up and some about four to five feet away with a zoom lens. **Please angle the camera in such a way that there is no glare or shadows on the photo background.** **Fill up the frame of the camera with the subject for at least one photo.** We need to see as much detail as possible. **One or two prints from different distances, positions and angles will be sufficient if the color is correct.**

DO NOT TAKE PHOTOS IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT. Please be careful that there are no shadows.

We will accept cell phone photos if taken on our color background. We now have a new photo program that allows us to adjust colors if the photos are on our color background sheet. We have had better success with this method than previously.

For hands, we need a dorsal view, a palmar view and a close-up of the fingernails **without polish.** Also, include a photo of the hands placed palms together (praying hands) with elbows resting evenly on a flat surface, from all four angles. This will help us determine finger length & wrist position, if there is any question. A view, front and back, of the patient standing with arms relaxed at side is also most helpful.

For feet, we need both top, bottom, both side views, and a close-up of the nails **without polish.** Take one photo after the patient has been sitting for 20 minutes and another after they have walked around for two or three minutes. This will also demonstrate how your foot changes color. For feet and toes, a photo of both feet, heels against a wall, will help with determining length for the sculpting process.

Ear and nose photos are a little more difficult. Hold the color chart with the closest matching colors next to the patient's amputation and take photos from both sides and head on for the nose and from both sides for an ear.

Myo, I-Limb, Michaelangelo Hands, Etc. If the device is not sent along with the impression of the hand, we will need photos of the hand with includes: close ups of tips and location of sensors. Please furnish us with the size and dimensions of Myos, I-Limbs, Michaelangelo hands, etc.

Model Policy

If your patient has had a previous prosthesis and would like the new one to be exact or very similar, please send the old prosthesis for the sculpting process. You can also send photos of the old prosthesis if an older prosthesis can't be sent.

Our success in achieving the satisfactory fit of any prosthesis depends greatly on the model position and accuracy. Please pour your impression while the patient is still at your facility so you can check for accuracy and quality. We can no longer begin fabrication for a prosthesis if the models are not adequate. It is essential that we receive a tracing of the sound side foot itself. Our molding process requires a stone denser than lab plaster. Dental stone with 9,000 psi is recommended. If that density is not available, please use the highest psi you can obtain. If we are required to use a lab plaster model, there will be an additional charge for duplicating in stone. The sound side model may be out of lab plaster since it is used mainly as a model for sculpting.

In our fabrication process, the model of the amputation site is modified to create the most intimate fit possible with the highest degree of flexibility our silicone offers. **Therefore, the prosthesis will have the exact position as the model sent. If the fingers on the model are too extended or flexed, the prosthesis will be also.** Impressions for fingers should be casted through mid-palm. The best position for a passive hand or finger is in a natural (relaxed) position when hanging by their side. **Hand and feet impressions should be casted approximately four to five inches past the desired trim line.** The best position for a Myo Electric hand is when holding a tennis ball. **Foot models need to be weight bearing with leg vertical, making sure the foot is not touching the sides of the container the alginate is in.** **Impressions should be made four to five inches above the desired trim line.** **This information also applies to silicone models.** **Silicone models should be taken using several layers of silicone.** **Please let the silicone set twice as long as the instructions call for.** Making shape adjustments to prostheses which have already been molded is costly in time and money. More importantly, it eliminates our ability to keep a timely schedule for all our clients.

Refer to the “Checklist” for the specific things we need for each type of prosthesis.

It will help us, and eliminate some re-makes, if you will mark on the work order where you want the trim line. **Or, you may mark on the actual stone model where the trim line should be.** Sometimes it is obvious, but sometimes it is not. This will save us from having to “guess” the length.