

DISCUSSION

Joseph A. Lima¹ (written discussion)—A very informative paper was presented in *Chemtech* recently that describes the complex technology used to produce test strips. My concern is that many men are color-blind and would have difficulty comparing colors and making the interpretations necessary to read these strips. I believe it to be important to mention because indiscriminate use of the strips by people who are not aware of such limitations could present an obvious problem. I would be interested in hearing your comments about this particular problem and also would like to know the cost of the color comparison device that you mention, which I gather is meant to circumvent this color-blindness problem.

Paul R. Hemmes (author's response)—Color-blind persons have been found to be quite capable of using strips except in a few extreme cases or with a particular color change on a strip. What is actually being done when a strip is used is to compare the strip with a color chart. Thus, one is making a color comparison. Color-blindness is less of a problem when matching two colors held side by side.

In the medical diagnostic field, millions of diabetics worldwide use test strips to measure blood glucose levels. Many continue to use visual reading with satisfactory results. The use of a meter is not dictated by the problem of color blindness. Some people with perfect vision are uncomfortable making judgments of the match between the strip and the color chart. This is particularly true when the measured level is between two color blocks. Such people prefer the objective meter readout to their own color match.

The only meter for engine coolant test strips is available from Fleetguard, Inc. They should be contacted for retail prices.

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