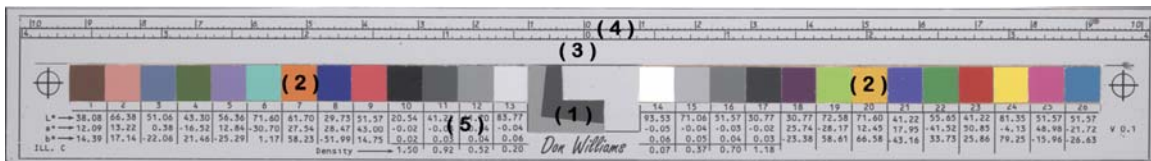


Below is a test version (v 0.1) of the *Golden Thread* target. It was first introduced at a Digital Library Federation (DLF) sponsored workshop in April of 2005. Its benefit lies in its design. It is intended as a workflow friendly solution for the cultural heritage community to 1) track technical imaging performance (i.e. technical metadata) and image-by-image quality control and 2) act as an unambiguous science based standard to visually document digital image code values back to the color and resolution features of the original object; a ‘Golden Thread’ if you will. Made to fit discreetly along the side of and imaged with objects being digitized, its small footprint should add little extra image data to finished file sizes. This version is most consistent with Octavo size books or 8x10 sized photographs and is meant to catalyze thought on other version designs and sizes. The pictured size below is 8” long x 1” high.

For reflective objects this single target will enable one to monitor and measure:

- 1) Visual and measured resolution (i.e., MTF or SFR) and color misregistration
- 2) Color & neutral response characteristics,
- 3) One-dimensional illumination uniformity, and
- 4) Sampling rate and object size. (English and metric)



Each color and neutral patch is also documented with human and machine readable text (5) on the target itself with their $L^*a^*b^*$ values (Illuminant C) so future users of the digital image file can accurately reproduce the analytical colors and tones of the original object without having to search for the meaning of any particular patch. While not intended to be part of the finished delivered image or file, the target should be part of a repository’s archived image file. Of course, input device color profiles can also be built from this information. The feature sizes of the target were designed with scans of greater than 300 dpi in mind. Early testing indicates that the characters describing the $L^*a^*b^*$ value are machine and human readable at this sampling rate. The target features are compliant with existing ISO digital imaging standards for imaging performance (ISO/TC42).

For consistency in this first phase, the color patch selections are from the same 18 colors and materials from the popular Munsell Color Checker. The neutral values have been expanded to 8 patches from 6 patches. The visual Status A density values of the neutrals are also documented on the target. Depending on collection characteristics, the patch colors could be changed to better reflect a collection’s predominant spectral traits.

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