

Color Inspection and Sorting

SensorApp



COLOR INSPECTION & SORTING

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About this document

Information on the operating instructions

- These operating instructions provide important information on how to use products from SICK AG. Prerequisites for safe work are:
 - ▶ Compliance with all safety notes and handling instructions supplied.
 - ▶ Compliance with local work safety regulations and general safety regulations for product applications .

The operating instructions are intended to be used by qualified personnel.

NOTE

Read these operating instructions carefully before starting any work, in order to familiarize yourself with the product and its function.

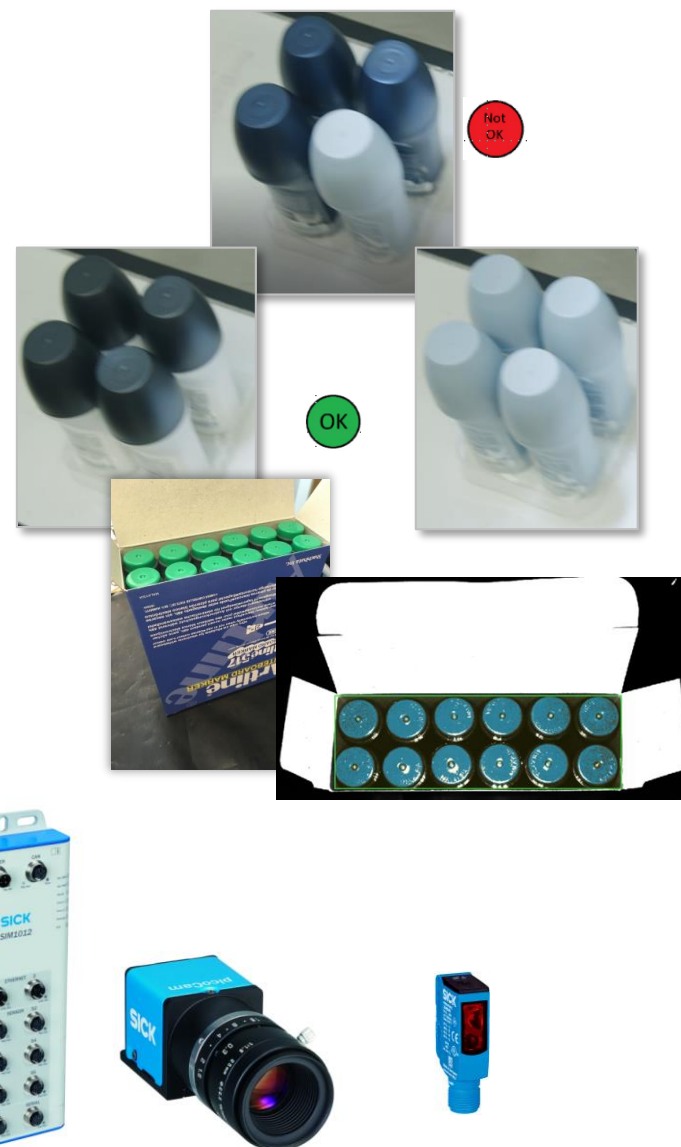
The instructions constitute an integral part of the product and must be accessible to staff at all times.

These operating instructions do not provide information on operating the machine or system in which the product is integrated. For information about this, refer to the operating instructions of the specific machine.

COLOR INSPECTION & SORTING OVERVIEW

The SensorApp “Color Inspection and Sorting”

- inspects unpackaged, primary or secondary packaged objects for color and size
- counts objects of different color and size
- detects the color or color gradations of objects, categorizing them into "good"/"mature", "bad"/"burnt"
- sorts out objects with anomalies (such as wrong color or size)
- detects the integrity and completeness of secondary packaging
- provides configurable result outputs via digital output and TCP/IP



COLOR INSPECTION & SORTING SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Hardware

The following devices/components support the use of the *SensorApp*:

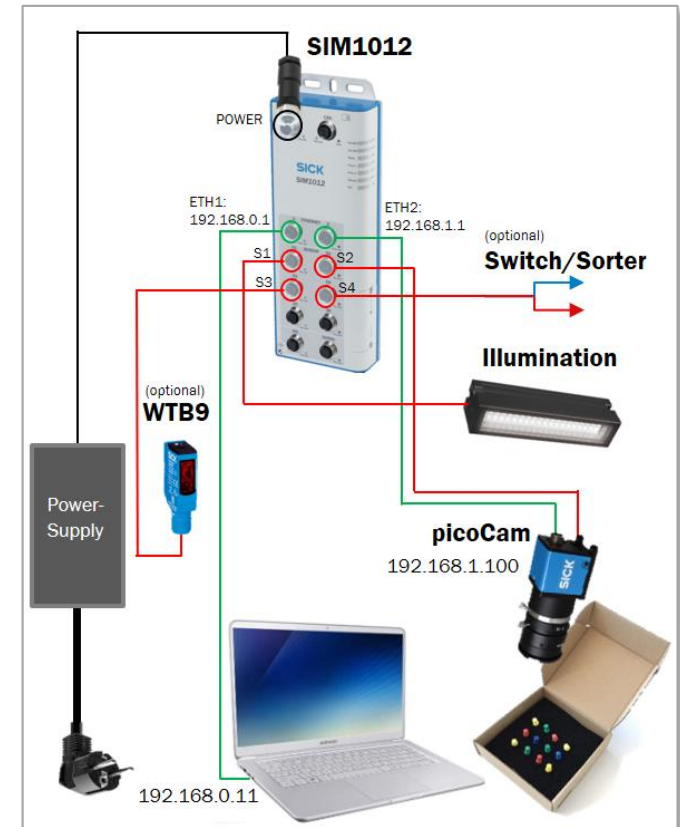
- SIM4000, SIM1012 or SIM1004 (in preparation)
- picoCam30xC; x= 1,2,3,4 MPx or midiCam60xC; x= 1,2 MPx
 - A C-mount lens must be selected according to
 - application requirements (object distance and field-of-view → focal length)
 - the optical class of the camera (e.g. 1/3" or 2/3")
- Illumination unit; the app offers two modes
 - illumination is constantly on
 - flashing via strobe signal (to be supported by illumination unit)
- A photoelectric sensor, e. g. WTB9-3P2461 1049049
- A list of ready-to-use cables can be found in the [SIMxxxx Cable Overview](#)
 - Note: Alternatively to the LAN-connector of the PC the USB3-port can be used by means of an *USB3/Ethernet-adapter* (configure the IP-address of the adapter to e.g. 192.168.0.10)
- Power Supply: Any power supply (24 V output, ≥ 9A/~200W) is suitable
 - A M12/4pin/T-coded/female connector is required to connect to the SIM
 - Recommendation: Power Supply MeanWell 9,2A GS220A24-R7B
 - Connector: RSonline 807-2918 (s. also SIMxxxx Cable Overview)

App-Installation

- The SICK AppManager software-tool (www.sick.com) is required for installing the app on a SIM device
- Be sure to have the latest FW on the SIM devices. The latest firmware can be found on the [SICK Support Portal](#)

Supported Web Browser

- Google Chrome is recommended



COLOR INSPECTION & SORTING

WORKING PRINCIPLE

Jobs and Objects

- Up to 12 different objects defined by color and size can be handled in a job
- Up to 10 jobs can be selected in the UI or by remote TCP/IP
- Objects can be defined by color and pixel size

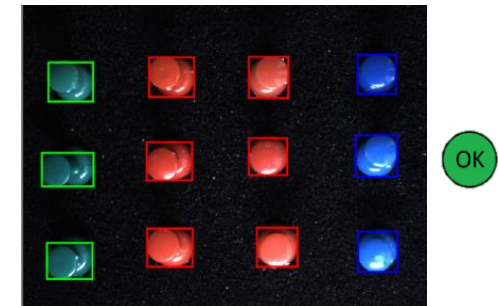
Rules

- Rules define how many of each object are expected

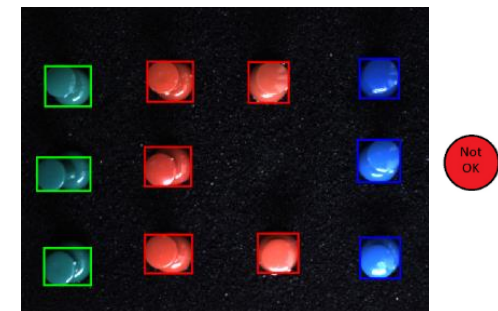
The screenshot displays two overlapping windows from the SICK software interface. The 'Object Definition' window is in the background, showing a list of objects (Object1 to Object7) and a dropdown menu for 'Object1'. The 'Sorting Rules' window is in the foreground, showing a dropdown for 'Object No.' set to 'Object 1'. It includes a 'Color' section with a color bar and a 'Size' section with 'Min Blob Size' (4000), 'Max Blob Size' (10000), 'Min Found Blob Size' (7494), and 'Max Found Blob Size' (7993). The 'Found Blobs' count is 3. The 'Sorting Rules' section has 'Min Good' and 'Max Good' both set to 3.

Example:

Job No. 1 contains green, red and blue objects



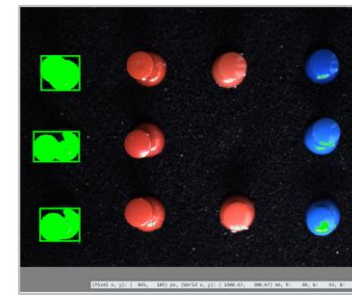
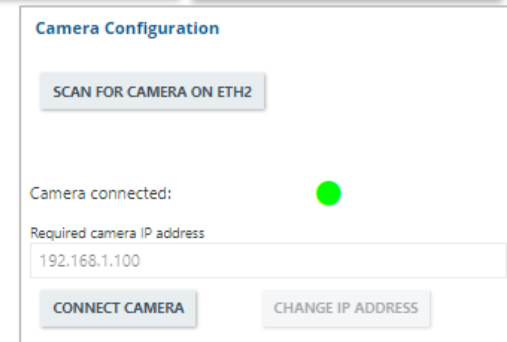
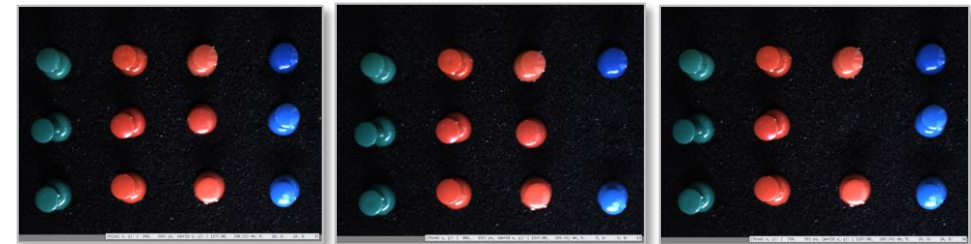
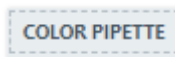
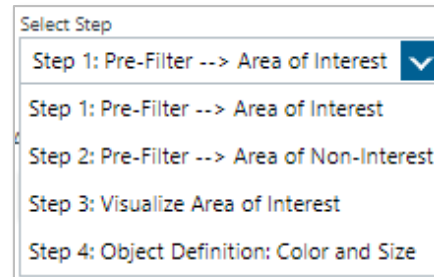
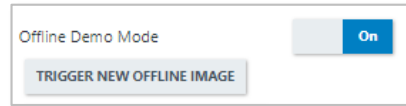
Ok-result with 3 x green, 6 x red and 3 x blue objects



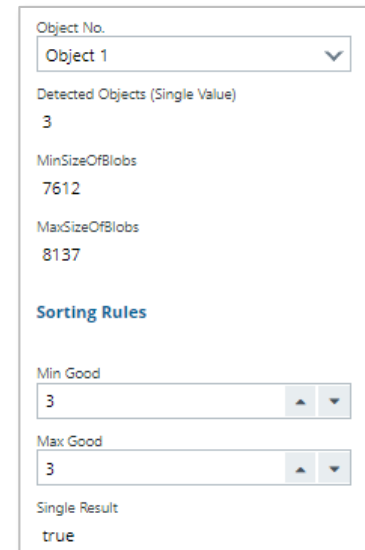
Not-Ok-result with 3 x green, 5 x red and 3 x blue objects

COLOR INSPECTION & SORTING FEATURES

- Demo-mode with inbuilt images helps to understand the function principle
- Easy adaption of IP-address enables a quick set-up of the camera
- Step-by-step guided object definition procedure allows quick task set-up
- Color definition by means of the pipette enables easy teaching of colors
- Flexible rules for each object enables a wide range of decision possibilities for a total result



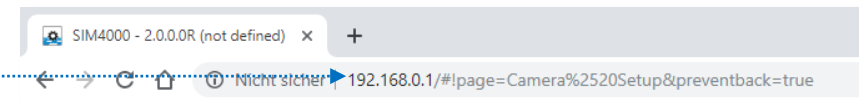
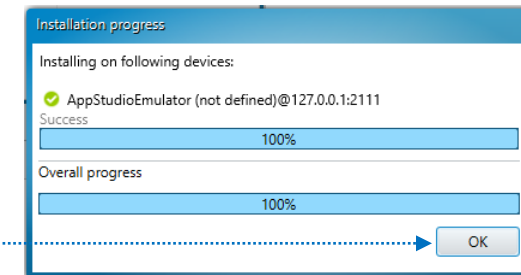
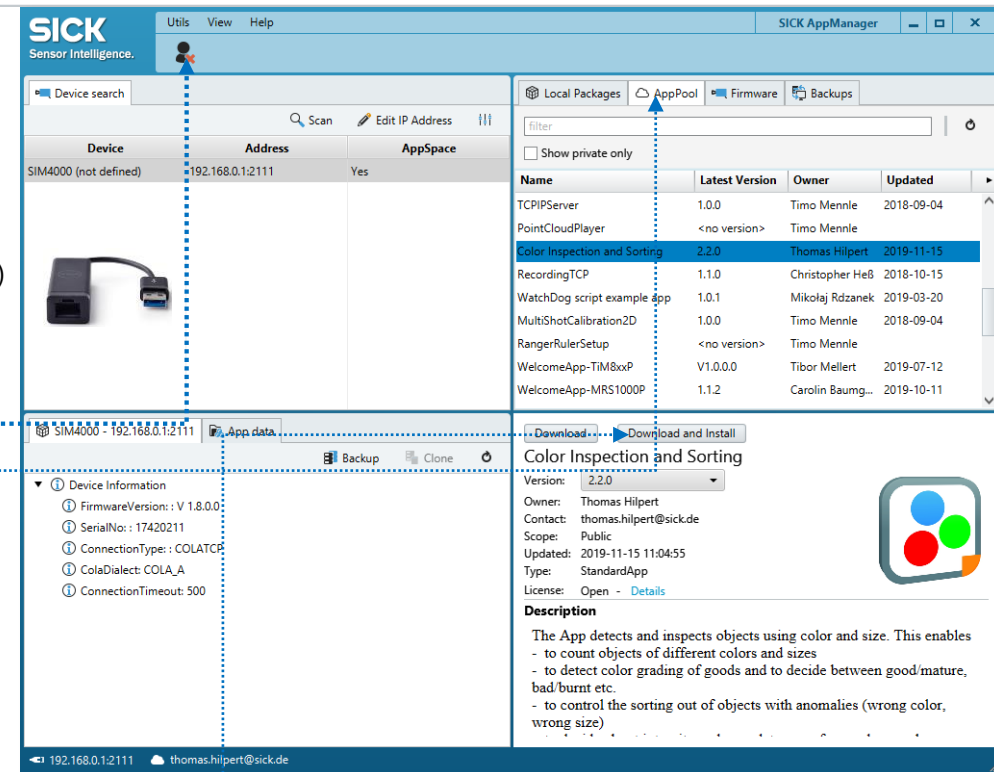
Total Result



COLOR INSPECTION AND SORTING INSTALLATION - SOFTWARE

The App must be installed to the SIM by means of the SICK AppManager:

- ❑ Prepare the SIM
 - Connect the PC and the SIM, use Ethernet port 1;
Hint: Use an USB3/ETH-adapter (s. section “System Requirements”)
 - IP-addresses of the SIMs are assumed as default addresses (as shown in the diagrams)
 - Connect the Power Supply to the SIM
 - Power-on the SIM
- ❑ Download the AppManager ≥ 1.4. from SICK.com
- ❑ Unzip & install the AppManager on your PC;
 - Note, that admin-rights might be necessary for the installation
- ❑ Start the AppManager, the SIM should be detected automatically
- ❑ Log-in to the AppPool with your SICK-ID
- ❑ Click “AppPool” and select “Color Inspection and Sorting”
- ❑ Click “Download and Install”, confirm installation
- ❑ Wait until the installation process is finished and click OK
- ❑ Start your internet-browser (preferably Google Chrome)
- ❑ Type-in the SIM IP-address: 192.168.0.1



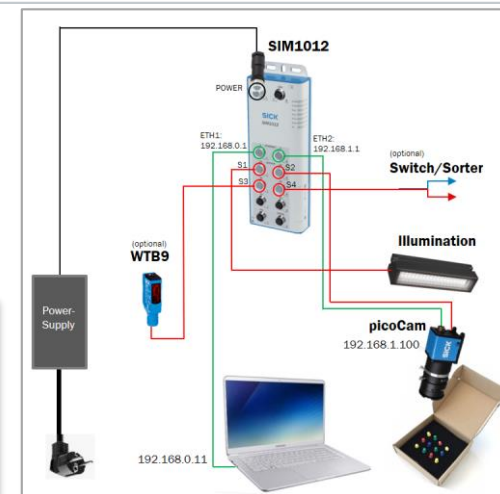
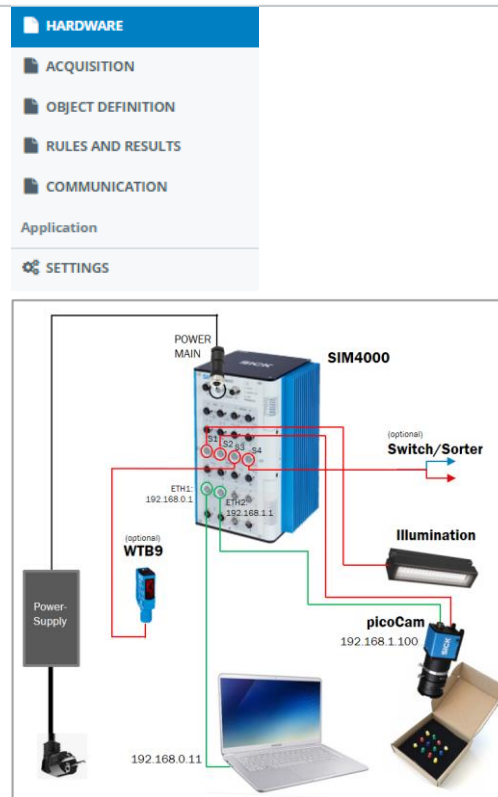
COLOR INSPECTION AND SORTING

INSTALLATION - HARDWARE

The App requires correctly connected hardware components according to the graphic shown in the **HARDWARE page.**

- ☐ Connect the camera to Ethernet port 2
 - The IP-address of the camera can be adjusted in **ACQUISITION** of the App, please use the address shown in the application graphic
- ☐ Connect the camera to SENSOR port 2
- ☐ Connect the illumination unit
 - Power controlled illumination will be permanently on
 - Strobe controlled illumination will be triggered by the camera via the SIM
- ☐ Connect the optoelectric sensor to S3, if required
Select the trigger mode to “*Digital Input*” in “**ACQUISITION**”
- ☐ Use S4 to send out the Total Result to a sorter or a switch
- ☐ Adjust the timing of S3 and S4 if required and save to a job (more about “jobs” in the following)
- ☐ Power-down and restart the SIM to ensure all devices are connected

Details about the pin usage of the SENSOR ports are described in besides **HARDWARE**-page.



Job No.
 Job No. 1

S3

Logic	Debounce Mode
Active_High	Time
Debounce Value / ms	
10	

S4

Active	Off
Logic	Activation Mode
Active_High	Time
Output Mode	Activation Value / ms
Push_Pull	200

SAVE HW CONFIG

COLOR INSPECTION AND SORTING

IMAGE ACQUISITION – OFFLINE DEMO MODE

The App can be operated by two methods

1. Offline-demo mode

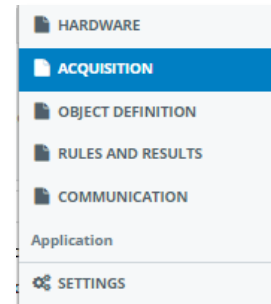
Only a SIM, but no camera/illumination /photoelectric sensor required for the offline-demo mode. This mode uses

- 3 pre-stored images
- manually saved live-images, use

SAVE LAST IMAGE

- ☐ Activate Viewer and trigger a new offline image
- ☐ Use manually stored live-images as offline images

Note: The Resolution Scale Factor is valid for the pre-stored images as well as for live-camera images, use 0,5 for the demo



Offline Demo Mode

On

TRIGGER NEW OFFLINE IMAGE

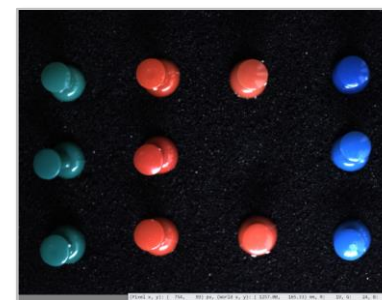
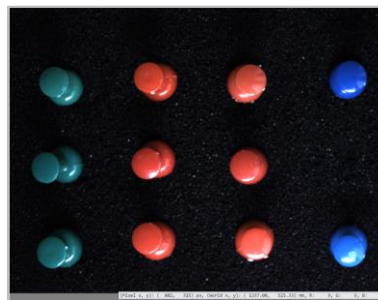
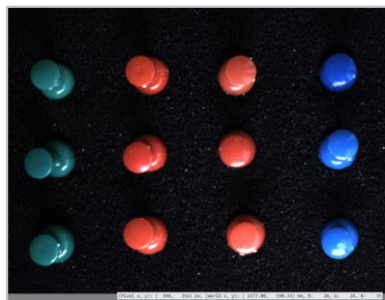
CHANGE OFFLINE IMAGE SOURCE

Activate Viewer

On

Resolution Scale Factor

0.5



COLOR INSPECTION AND SORTING

IMAGE ACQUISITION – LIVE CAMERA MODE

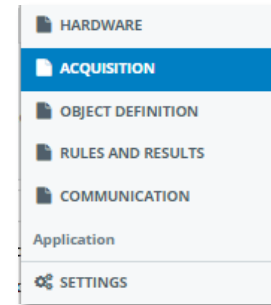
The App can be operated by two methods

2. Camera mode using live-images from a camera, requiring

- picoCam or midiCam and suitable lens
- Illumination (permanent or strobe mode, s. COMMUNICATION)
- Opto-electric sensor (optional)

Camera Configuration

- ☐ **SCAN FOR CAMERA ON ETH2** to check for the IP-address of connected camera; if result is not identical to required address press **CHANGE IP ADDRESS**
- ☐ Select Camera Trigger mode:
 - SW-Trigger: Trigger new image manually by typing **SW IMAGE TRIGGER**
If a strobe based illumination is connected, a flash is activated
 - Continuous Mode: Select Frame rate accordingly
 - Digital Input: Camera is triggered by the photoelectric sensor connected at S3 of the SIM. If strobe mode for illumination is active, a flash is activated. The trigger signal can be delayed with *HW-Trigger Delay*
 - Ethernet: Send “TRG” via TCP/IP to the SIM (s. COMMUNICATION). If strobe mode for illumination is active, a flash is activated
- ☐ Select a job and save camera settings **SAVE CAMERA CONFIGS TO JOBS**
- ☐ Save last image to an internal ring buffer **SAVE LAST IMAGE**
 - use this image in offline demo mode



Camera Configuration

SCAN FOR CAMERA ON ETH2

Device: picoCam-302C, with IP 192.168.1.100

Camera connected: ●

Required camera IP address

192.168.1.100

CONNECT CAMERA

CHANGE IP ADDRESS

Offline Demo Mode

Off

Activate Viewer

On

Job No.

Job No. 1

Trigger Mode

Digital Input

HW-Trigger Delay [ms]

489

Shutter Time [μs]

20000

Framerate [fps]

2

Gain Factor

12

Resolution Scale Factor

0.5

COLOR INSPECTION AND SORTING

OBJECT DEFINITION –STEP BY STEP PROCEDURE

Define Objects by Region, Color and Size

General:

To get familiar with the app it is recommended to apply the offline demo mode, using the 3 pre-stored images. There are three kinds of colored push pins (green, red and green), which can be considered as three different objects.

- The app allows to specify in complete 10 different jobs (recipes). Jobs can receive individual names. Existing jobs can be overwritten, but not deleted.
- Each job can handle up to 12 different objects
Example: green push pins are an object
- Each object can be defined by color and size
 - Object color can be specified either by the color bar or using the COLOR PIPETTE. The color value correspond to the color bar.
 - The “Color Tolerance” defines a deviation range of the selected color. The higher the value, the higher deviations of the selected color are accepted.
 - Objects are considered as blobs and as such can be specified by min and max pixel sizes.
- **The menu „Select Step“ describes the recommended steps 1 to 4 to perform the object definition (details s. next page):**
 - Steps 1 and 2 are required to define a pre-filtering to decide between foreground (area of interest) and background.
In step 1 the area of interest will be colored in green.
In step 2 the detected area of non-interest will be colored in red.
 - Step 3 just views all detected/pre-filtered colored items
 - Step 4 defines color and size of objects

The screenshot displays the 'OBJECT DEFINITION' step in the SICK Color Inspection and Sorting app. The interface includes a sidebar menu with options: HARDWARE, ACQUISITION, OBJECT DEFINITION (selected), RULES AND RESULTS, COMMUNICATION, Application, and SETTINGS. The main area shows a 'Job No.' dropdown set to 'Job No. 1' and a 'Job Name' field with 'NoName'. Below this is a 'Select Image' dropdown showing 'Step 4: Object Definition: Color and Size'. An 'Activate Viewer' button and a 'TRIGGER NEW OFFLINE IMAGE' button are also present. The 'Color' section features a color bar, a 'Color' input field with '93', a 'Color Tolerance' input field with '9', and a 'COLOR PIPETTE' button. The 'Size' section includes 'Min Blob Size' (3500), 'Max Blob Size' (5500), and 'Found Blobs' (nil). A 'Select Step' dropdown shows a sequence of steps: 'Step 1: Pre-Filter --> Area of Interest', 'Step 2: Pre-Filter --> Area of Non-Interest', 'Step 3: Visualize Area of Interest', and 'Step 4: Object Definition: Color and Size'. On the right, an 'Object Definition' list shows 'Object1' selected, with a scrollable list of objects from 'Object1' to 'Object7'.

COLOR INSPECTION AND SORTING

OBJECT DEFINITION – PRE-FILTERING

Define Objects by Region, Color and Size

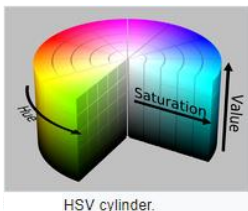
Step by Step-Proceeding I:

- Activate Viewer to “On”, TRIGGER NEW OFFLINE IMAGE
- Use “Select Step” for Steps 1, 2 and 3” to define foreground and background.

❑ **Step 1:** Set *Selection* value to achieve objects of interest highlighted in green. All push pins have contrasting values referring to the black background, so in our case the preferred HSV component would be “Value” *)

❑ **Step 2:** Set *Selection* value to achieve the background colored in red; use again “Value” *)

❑ **Step 3:** Now the Area of Interest can be visualized :



*) In the App the HSV-color space is applied, which is derived from the RGB color space. HSV stands for **Hue**, **Saturation** and **Value**:

- “Hue” is expressing the color in a wheel between 0 and 360°
- “Saturation” gives information about the purity of a color starting from 0 (grey) to 1 (pure saturated color)
- “Value” is referring to brightness, which corresponds to the grey value with black as “0” value.

In the demo case we prefer “Value” for the pre-filtering, as there is a strong contrast in brightness between the black image background and the colored push pins.

OBJECT DEFINITION

Select Step
Step 1: Pre-Filter --> Area of Interest

Activate Viewer

TRIGGER NEW OFFLINE IMAGE

Pre-Filter Settings --> Area of Interest

Filter Image To Use
Value

Selection
50 255

Detected area of-interest items (foreground = green)

Select Step
Step 2: Pre-Filter --> Area of Non-Interest

Activate Viewer

TRIGGER NEW OFFLINE IMAGE

Pre-Filter Settings --> Area of Non-Interest

HSV component to be used for pre-filtering
Value

Selection
0 49

Detected area of non-interest (background = red)

Area of Interest

Select Image to Show
Value Image

Show AOI

COLOR INSPECTION AND SORTING

OBJECT DEFINITION – COLOR & SIZE

Define Objects by Region, Color and Size

Step by Step-Proceeding II:

- ❑ **Step 4:** Define region of interest (ROI), color and size of objects.
 - a) Select Object 1 and click “Object Active”
Note: Only active objects are listed on RULES and RESULTS
For the demo-mode ROI should not be activated
 - b) Use the COLOR PIPETTE to define the target color of an object (e. g. green push pin)
 - Set Min/Max Blob Size initially to a huge range
 - See next page how to work with the COLOR PIPETTE
 - c) Repeat a) and b) to determine further objects, e. g. red & blue push pins.

OBJECT DEFINITION

Object Definition

Object1

Color

Object Active ☒

Use ROI for this object ☐

Min Blob Size

1000

Max Blob Size

100000

Found Blobs


-

MinFoundBlobSize

MaxFoundBlobSize

How to use the ROI-option (region of interest):

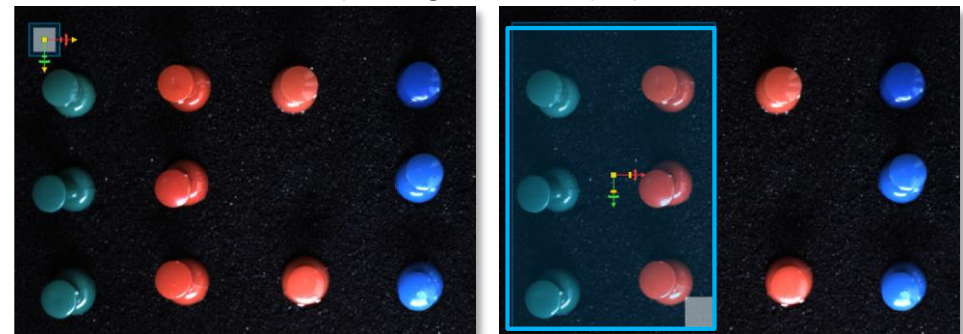
Use the ROI option for an object, if only a certain region of the image is of interest. Per default the entire image is relevant.

- ❑ Click **EDIT ROI FOR OBJECT** and  appears in the left image corner
- ❑ Span a field of interest
 - Change the size of interest by pulling the grey field in a corner to the required size
 - Move the ROI-frame by pulling the grey center square to the required area
- ❑ Press again **EDIT ROI FOR OBJECT** to finalize the ROI



Use ROI for this object ☒ **EDIT ROI FOR OBJECT**

Span a region of interest (ROI)



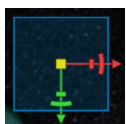
COLOR INSPECTION AND SORTING

OBJECT DEFINITION – COLOR PIPETTE

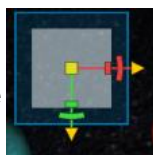
Define Objects by Region, Color and Size

How to define the color using the Color Pipette

COLOR PIPETTE

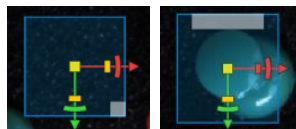
- ❑ Clicking the “COLOR PIPETTE” results in
 - the viewer switches to color mode
 - that the icon  appears in the viewer

- ❑ Direct the cursor into the frame of the icon, resulting in a grey frame, which indicates the region of interest



- ❑ Keep the cursor in the grey field and move the icon to the region or object of interest (Fig. 1)

- ❑ Reduce the grey frame to the required region of interest by clicking on a corner or on a side and draw them to the required shape/size. Correct the position, if required, as shown above (Fig 2).



- ❑ Finalize Color definition by clicking somewhere outside of the icon, resulting in green pixel for detected blobs (Fig. 3)
- ❑ Vary the Color Tolerance value to achieve max. blobs of the specified object (Fig.3 → Fig. 4)

Recommendation: Set Blob size limits initially to a high range and adjust then both values according the indicated min/maxFoundBlobSize values, bounding boxes should still appear. .

Fig. 1

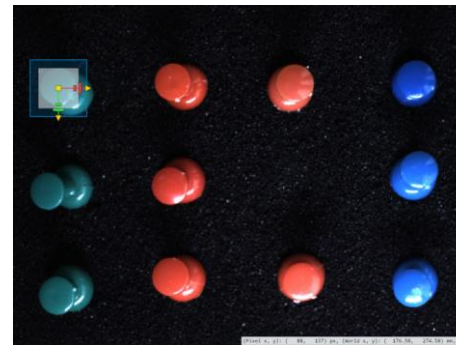


Fig. 2

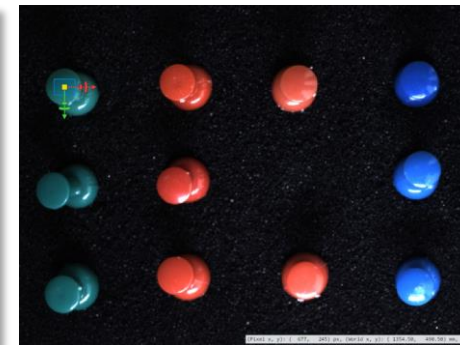
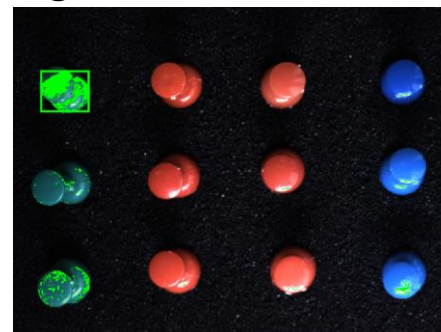


Fig. 3



Color Tolerance
2

Size

Min Blob Size
4500

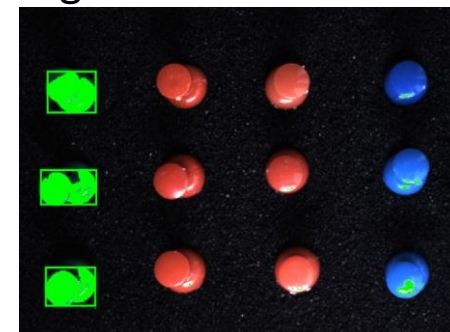
MinFoundBlobSize
4882

Max Blob Size
6000

MaxFoundBlobSize
5114

Found Blobs
3

Fig. 4





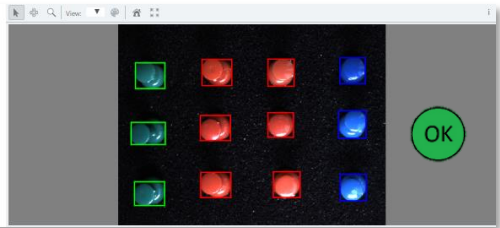
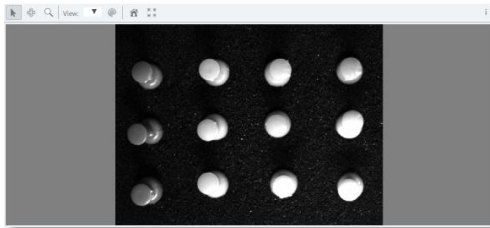
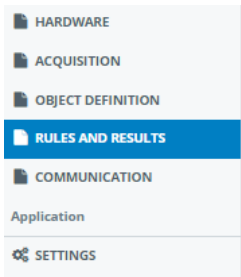
Color Tolerance
6

COLOR INSPECTION AND SORTING

RULES AND RESULTS

Define Sorting Rules for each object

- ❑ For each active object a *min Good* and *max Good* number of expected objects can be defined.
Select the objects of interest (only 4 objects can be listed simultaneously, be sure that no other objects are activated accidentally)
- ❑ Activate Processing and Activate View
- ❑ Trigger new image in case of Offline Demo mode
- ❑ If all rules are fulfilled, the *Total Result* is , else 



Object No.
Object 1 **Green** Needles

Detected Objects (Single Value)
nil

MinSizeOfBlobs
5062

MaxSizeOfBlobs
5386

Object No.
Object 2 **Red** Needles

Detected Objects (Single Value)
nil

MinSizeOfBlobs
4190

MaxSizeOfBlobs
5615

Object No.
Object 3 **Blue** Needles

Detected Objects (Single Value)
nil

MinSizeOfBlobs
4557

MaxSizeOfBlobs
4901

#	Active Objects
1	Object 1
2	Object 2
3	Object 3

Sorting Rules

Min Good
3

Max Good
3

Single Result
true

Min Good
6

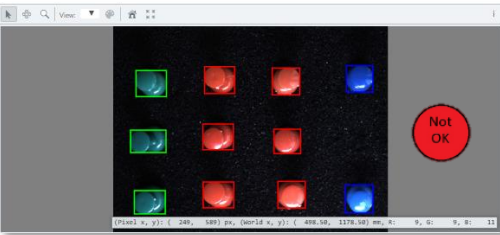
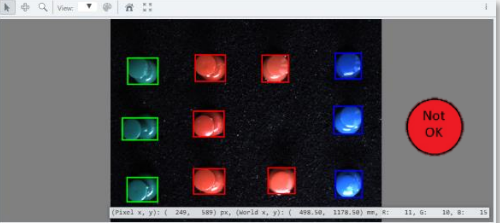
Max Good
6

Single Result
true

Min Good
3

Max Good
3

Single Result
false



COLOR INSPECTION AND SORTING COMMUNICATION

TCP-IP Communication

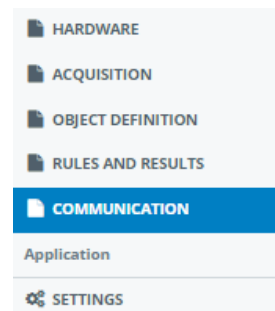
The SIM acts as a TCP IP client. Activate it if required and type in the server address and the port number.

Receiving input data from a TCP IP server:

- A camera trigger can be received via TCP IP using the command <STX>TRG<ETX> on the server side (see example with Hercules Communication tool)
- Job selection per remote can be performed using the command <STX>CHGJOB4<ETX> on the server side (example, switching to job No. 4)

Sending output-data to a TCP IP server using the “Output Data” menu:

- “No Output”: no result output is transferred
- “Only Total Result”: The overall OK/Not OK status is transferred to the TCP IP server as true/false signal
- “Single Results + Total Result”: The single results (true/false) of active objects are transmitted together with the total result.
- „Single Values + Total Results“: The single values of active objects are transmitted together with the total result.



Job No.
Job No. 1

TCP IP Communication

Active ☒ On

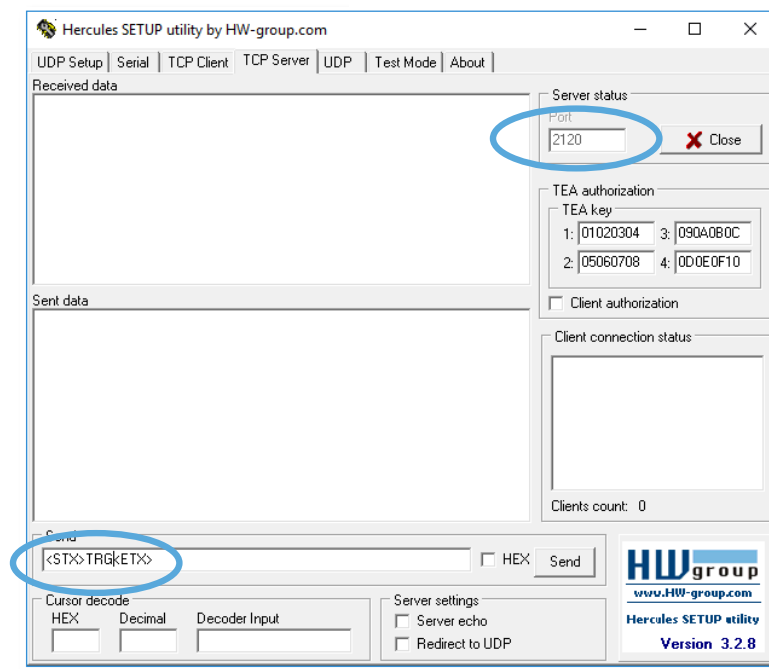
Output Data
No Output

Server IP-Address
192.168.0.100

Port
2120

Connected ●

SAVE COMMUNICATION CONFIG



The PC-tool „Hercules“ can simulate a TCP/IP server

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