Up-to-date colour samples.

600 new colour samples every year.
A colour database – whether it comes in digital form or as a classic fan deck – makes colour matching much easier for refinishers. But updates are needed when new colours and variants appear.

“Many professionals still prefer using fan decks to compare colours directly on the vehicle.”

Monika Weil, Axalta Colour Marketing EMEA

Fan deck updates.

Regular updates.

The fan deck colour samples of the Color Index Variant are updated several times a year.

Additions are made twice annually for Permahyd 280/285 and three times a year for Permahyd Hi-TEC 480. Each update contains between 100 and 200 chips.

Color Index Variant.

The basic edition of the Permahyd Hi-TEC fan deck contains several thousand colour samples.
How do colour variants occur?

Deviations to the standard colours occur when colours have been in OEM production for a long time or when vehicles are painted at different production sites.

Colour can also be affected by environmental influences.

The development of a new variant.

The inclusion of a new variant in the Spies Hecker colour documentation can often be from the market submitting car parts, or it can be the result of comments from the market that existing formulas do not match vehicles.

The colour on a car part may be lighter or darker, coarser or finer.

The creation of a formula.

Based on this information, the Axalta Colour Lab develops a new variant mixing formula.
The creation of colour samples.
The newly-created mixing formula is applied to the substrate using original Spies Hecker paint and standard application techniques. This colour sample is then provided to bodyshops as an update.

The future of fan decks.
Although advances in technology have meant that the use of digital spectrophotometers is increasing, Variant documentations and their updates will continue to have a firm place in many bodyshops.