

California Historical Society
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I note you state that in making a test you use a glass mortar and pestle to intermingle the zinc and color to be tested and thoroughly grind it together for some time and then weigh out of this the desired amount, generally one D.G. for oil and one gram for water. Perhaps I do not just catch your idea. Is this method of testing used to show whether or not the color "bleeds"? If you use this method to determine strength of a color in oil or water, I should think there would be great difficulty in insuring absolute accuracy. The method used in making strength test by all the dry color houses here, is to first weigh out say 600 M.G. Zinc and place same on heavy plate of ground glass. Then weigh out say 30 M.G. of the positive color and place it in same pile with the zinc, then add a certain number of drops of oil (carefully counting the drops, so that the same amount of oil shall be used for both lots of color to be tested), rub up the mass thoroughly with either a stiff palette knife or preferably a glass muller with ground bottom. We find this insures a very thorough mixing and approximates very closely conditions of colors that have been put through a regular mill.

I suppose that in mentioning this, I am only repeating something with which you are entirely familiar. If so, kindly pardon me. Very likely I misunderstood your remarks regarding your Mortar & Pestle test and that your test refers