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Category: Lenses

Reacts to light – responds to life

Rodenstock introduces its new era of photochromic lens technology

Munich, January 2026 - Rodenstock, a global innovation leader in vision care and manufacturer of high-quality biometric ophthalmic lenses, is introducing its new era of photochromic lens technology: ColorMatic® X –its fastest and clearest photochromic performance yet as well as ColorMatic® Dark –the Rodenstock lens with the deepest darkening optimised for warmer climates up to 35°C and that activates behind the car windscreen. Developed in the Rodenstock laboratory in Germany with over 35 years of photochromic expertise, ColorMatic® stands for German engineering excellence. Rodenstock with a clear focus on innovations, is constantly improving photochromic speed and stability. The pioneering work in this area is reflected in over 45 patents.

The photochromic technology of ColorMatic® lenses

ColorMatic® is an innovative and high-performance technology for photochromic lenses offering protection against harmful UV light, artificial blue light and glare. Engineered for fast reaction, high durability and all-day comfort, the UV light sensitive lenses are elevated to the next level. ColorMatic® lenses contain visible light-sensitive molecules in the lens material. When exposed to UV light, these molecules change structure and darken the lens. Indoors, without UV, they return to their clear state. This constant reaction means the lenses adapt seamlessly to changing light.

Up to 30% of adults today struggle with light sensitivity, and the demand for solutions is growing fast. But not all photochromic lenses are built equally. The differences are measurable: reaction speed to tint and fade back to clear, durability, and optical clarity, each defined by the photochromic technology. With its latest advances in photochromic materials and engineering, ColorMatic® lenses are now designed to bring photochromic lenses to the highest performance level offering relaxed vision especially for light-sensitive spectacle wearers.

ColorMatic® X –Fast forward to clarity

With ColorMatic® X, Rodenstock presents its fastest photochromic lens yet, in which fade back has been fast-forwarded. Indoors, the lens can thus change from the darkened state to the clear state at an accelerated rate –56% quicker than before[1].

Fade-back speed is an important factor for photochromic lenses as the faster the lens becomes clear, the more seamless the experience for the wearer. When indoors, even a small difference in clarity can have significant impact on the wearing comfort. This is why Rodenstock has strived to engineer photochromic lenses, reaching an impressive 93% clarity. The result: spectacle wearers won't even notice that they are wearing photochromic lenses indoors.

Another advantage is that the lenses darken deeply to 88% outdoors, equating to category 3 sunglass protection, that helps filter more blue- violet light[2], and blocks 100% of UVA and UVB. Optimised for moderate climates (23°C), it is the ideal choice for those seeking reliable light protection throughout the day and all around the year. ColorMatic® X is now available in all indices.

ColorMatic® Dark –Extra dark glare relief

ColorMatic® Dark brings together the deepest darkening of Rodenstock photochromic lenses, consistent performance at higher temperatures and in-car activation in one lens. Outdoors, it darkens up to 90%, giving extra glare relief while staying comfortably clear indoors without UV exposure. Optimised for warmer climates up to 35°C, it delivers outstanding performance all day long. It's the only ColorMatic® lens that also activates behind the windscreen of a car for constant visual clarity and comfort on the road, regardless of how bright it is. ColorMatic® Dark blocks 100% UVA / UVB rays and helps filter more blue- violet light[3].

ColorMatic® – Reaches a new level of performance

ColorMatic® fills the gap between clear lenses and sunglasses that makes these premium photochromic lenses

ColorMatic® fills the gap between clear lenses and sunglasses that makes these premium photochromic lenses an intelligent, stylish and convenient choice. Faster, clearer or darker and more versatile than ever[5], they unlock the fast-growing segment of people seeking comfort and light protection without the need to switch glasses. Both ColorMatic® X and ColorMatic® Dark lenses, meet the highest demands of the most discerning spectacle wearers: High-index ColorMatic® X lenses are produced with our double-cast technology[4] that ensures a stable tint and secures long-lasting performance. This innovation, combined with decades of research and 45+ patents, drives the breakthroughs behind the advancements in self-tinting technology at the Rodenstock photochromic lab in Munich, Germany.

Almost invisible indoors, dark and protective outdoors, with ColorMatic® Dark even activating in the car, these lenses respond to life as seamlessly as they react to light.

Advantages for the optician

By offering ColorMatic®, the opticians strengthen their portfolio with a solution that drives growth and positions the optician as the go-to source for technologically advanced premium self-tinting lenses. The result is satisfied clients who stay loyal and recommend the optician as the expert for technologically advanced self-tinting lenses. Backed by German engineering and decades of innovation, ColorMatic® gives the optician the product portfolio edge to win new business.

(Please note: ColorMatic® lenses are the best solution for every-day use, but for long hours in bright sunlight, we still recommend wearing sunglasses.)

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1) vs ColorMatic® 3

2) ColorMatic® X filters up to 55% more blue-violet light indoors and up to 200% outdoors vs a clear lens

3) ColorMatic® Dark filters up to 95% more blue-violet light indoors and up to 260% outdoors vs a clear lens

4) Only available for 1.6 and 1.67 lenses

5) vs previous ColorMatic® generations

Further information on ColorMatic® can be found at https://www.colormatic-lenses.com/

About Rodenstock:

The Rodenstock Group is one of the world's leading manufacturers of high-quality ophthalmic lenses. With its "B.I.G. VISION® FOR ALL" philosophy, the lens manufacturer stands for a paradigm shift in individual progressive lenses. Founded in 1877 and based in Munich, Germany, the company employs around 4,100 people worldwide and is represented by sales offices and distribution partners in more than 85 countries. Rodenstock works with 5 centralised production facilities to ensure global availability. For further information, please visit www.rodenstock.com/press.

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