

Basic Size Sort

This task introduces basic size discrimination with or without color used for cue redundancy.



Materials

- 180 plain wood dowels in lengths of 1 inch, 1¾ inches, 2½ inches, and 3¼ inches
- 80 color-coded dowels in lengths of 1 inch, 1¾ inches, 2½ inches, and 3¼ inches
- 1 3-compartment bin
- 1 small single-compartment bin
- 1 large single-compartment bin
- 1 red storage bin (not shown)



Setup

The standard task is a 4-item sort using the plain dowels. Arrange the bins as shown, with the plain dowels in the large, single-compartment bin. Model the procedure by placing several dowels of each size in the four compartments on the right. Return the dowels to the single-compartment bin, leaving one dowel in each compartment as a sorting guide.

Procedure

Take dowels from the large bin and sort them into the compartments containing matching pieces.

Variations

- A 2-item sort using the 1-inch and ¾-inch color-coded dowels.
- A 2-item sort using all of the color-coded dowels.
- Add several plain dowels of each length to the bin with the color-coded dowels. Attend to the worker's performance sorting the plain dowels. If the worker sorts them correctly, add more plain dowels until use of the color-coded dowels is faded out.
- If the worker is sorting only the color-coded dowels correctly, he/she is probably sorting only by color difference. Initiate a 2-item sort using the 1-inch and ¾-inch plain dowels.
- Based on performance, add the middle-sized dowels to the above variation.

Notes

- Sorting tasks are not timed so there are no norms.
- The only quality criteria is accuracy.
- There are no disassembly instructions.