

NEWS FROM CMT MATERIALS



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NEW THERMOPLASTIC SYNTACTIC PLUG MATERIAL IMPROVES THERMOFORMING OF MEDICAL PACKAGING & TRAYS

(Attleboro, MA February 15, 2002) -- A new composite material provides a unique combination of low thermal conductivity, higher impact resistance and easier machining than any other material used to make thermoforming plugs. *HYTAC[®]-B1X*, a thermoplastic syntactic foam offered by CMT Materials, Inc., Attleboro, MA, consists of an engineering thermoplastic matrix filled with hollow glass microspheres.

The accompanying photo shows a plug for a nine cavity medical packaging mold used by Alga Plastics, (Cranston, RI), a leading thermoformer of medical and electronic protective packaging solutions. The fine machining detail possible with the *B1X* plug allows Alga to form PVC sheet to the tight tolerances required. Tools produced by J & R Plastics, (Acushnet, MA) often employ ribs as thin as 0.125 inches, a working thickness not possible with conventional syntactic materials. J & R prefers to design and fabricate molds with the *B1X* due to both its end use performance as well as its ease in machining.



HYTAC[®]-B1X is the first material that combines the toughness, strength and machining ease of an engineering thermoplastic with the low thermal conductivity, low specific heat and low coefficient of thermal expansion of a syntactic foam. The new material can eliminate the limitations of all current plug assist materials, and improve thermoformed product quality. The smoothness and uniform density of plugs made of *HYTAC[®]-B1X* can significantly reduce drag during thermoforming and improve thickness control in the final part. The improved thickness control can reduce required sheet thickness, resulting in material savings.

HYTAC[®] is a registered trademark of CMT Materials. *HYTAC[®]-B1X* is patent pending.

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