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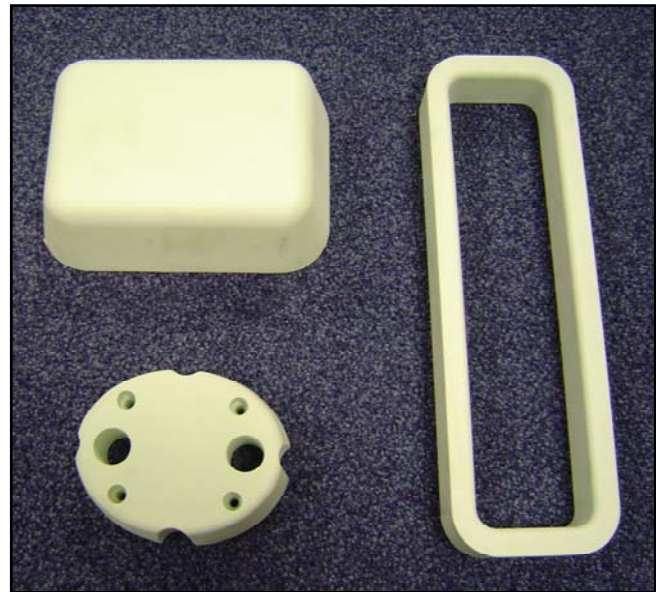
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NEW LOW FRICTION SYNTACTIC FOAM MATERIAL IMPROVES THERMOFORMING PROCESS

(Attleboro, MA, USA March 23, 2004) -- A new syntactic foam containing Teflon® provides improved surface characteristics and machinability for plug assists and other components in thermoforming thin gage products. *HYTAC®-WFT*, a syntactic foam containing Teflon offered by CMT Materials, Inc., Attleboro, MA, USA (Distributed by CGP, Torcy, France) consists of an epoxy matrix filled with hollow glass microspheres and Teflon.

The accompanying photo shows three components used by TMB Patterns Ltd. (Bridgwater, UK), in their thermoform tooling applications. The top left component is a plug assist for a negative formed part running on an Illig RDK80 thermoforming machine. *HYTAC-WFT* provides a very smooth, low thermal conductivity, low coefficient of friction surface for improved clarity and material distribution. The component on the right is a plug assist for a positive formed product running on a TFT870 forming machine. This plug utilizes the toughness, machinability, smooth surface and low thermal conductivity of *HYTAC-WFT*. Finally, the lower left component is used as a locator for TMB's patented floating cutter design running on an Illig RDKP72G thermoformer. *HYTAC-WFT* provides easy machining, toughness, low friction and high wear resistance for this component.



HYTAC-WFT is the first material that combines the low thermal conductivity, high heat resistance and excellent abrasion resistance of a syntactic foam with the low coefficient of friction, excellent release properties and improved toughness of Teflon for thermoform tooling applications. This new material can eliminate the limitations of all current epoxy based plug assist materials, and improve thermoformed product quality. The low friction, high release and smoothness of *HYTAC-WFT* 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.
Teflon® is a registered trademark of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.

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