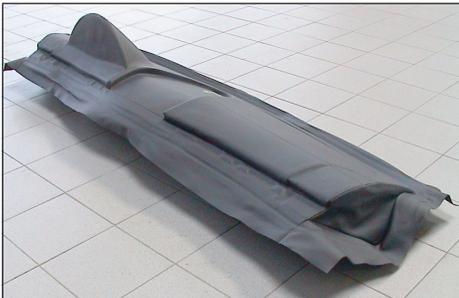


Patent-Pending Process To Form & Adhere Foam Cushioning To Virtually Any Cover Material.

REAR FOAMING TECHNOLOGY



Large Parts, Such As This Leather Instrument Panel, Are Cost Effective To Manufacture With This Process.

The rear foaming of substrates is a patent pending process developed between BASF Group, Elastogran GMBH and Isotherm AG, Switzerland.

Although the process was developed for leather components, the process can be applied to any fabric, knits, PVC or combination of cover materials as shown to the left.

In addition to the process benefits, such as reduced processing steps, labor and reject rates, the finished product has superior characteristics. The cover material without foil or back-coating yields a "breathable" product. Air can move freely between the cover and cushioning of a seat or armrest providing a cooler, more comfortable product. Since the cover and cushion are integral, wrinkles do not appear in the cover material after sitting or extended compression. With instrument and door panels, it is simpler to integrate functional elements such as airbags.

Linden Industries is introducing this technology to the US market. Linden is responsible for the sales and service of Isotherm AG equipment in the US, Canada and Mexico.

The Rear Foaming Process:

- *Eliminates Backside Coating*
- *Eliminates Seam Sealing*
- *Eliminates Adhesion Problems*
- *Works with Existing Tooling*
- *Provides Excellent Aesthetics*
- *Offers Short Cycle Time*
- *Is Ideal For Fabric, Leather, MicroFibers*

This process was developed to replace the traditional method for producing leather automobile components. A method that resulted in high labor costs and high reject rates. If seams were not sealed correctly, the PU foam would penetrate the seams. The leather required a backside coating/foil to avoid hardening and shrinking on direct contact with the monomer. Adhesion problems were also an issue.

With the NEW rear foaming process, the foam is not applied directly to the leather or fabric, but applied to the substrate or backside of the mold. Once the foam begins to cure and is in a visco-elastic state, it is pressed against the leather/fabric adhering to, but not penetrating, the material. The PU continues to react inside the clamped mold forming the desired molded shape fully fused to the leather or fabric.

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