

Welcome to the Micrex® Newsletter, an email source of information about adding value to your existing products with The Micrex Process.

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* THE FASTEST AND MOST PROFITABLE WAY TO DEVELOP A NEW NONWOVEN PRODUCT IS TO IMPROVE A GRADE THAT ALREADY EXISTS!

* The nonwovens you now use can be thicker, softer, absorb more, stretch and/or spring back and feel better.

* For those primarily interested in function, existing nonwovens can be made extensible, become more permeable, tougher, stiffer in the cross direction and/or more flexible.

* Appearance counts and giving an existing nonwoven grade a pleasing, distinctive and permanent new look is part of the Microcreping process.

Nonwovens are usually Microcreped as part of an existing slitting process and no extra steps are required. We will be discussing ways your next product can be developed with significantly improved properties, and a new look with little or no extra cost.

A few examples of how existing nonwoven grades are being improved are:

WET WIPES can now be softer, thicker, and more absorbent by being creped and heat set at the same time. Changes are permanent -- even when packaged or used when wet. Instead of the usual flat, commodity nonwoven look, the soft curving crepe pattern can be customized. This presents an opportunity to protect your market development investment by copyright protection of your products' appearance. Our "heat set" wet wipes process improvement is being patented. There is a current opportunity to license this technology for specific market segments. For more information please visit <http://www.micrex.com/wetwipes%20Q&A.htm>

Many things in our world aren't flat, but nonwovens are all made as flat as a piece of paper. RUGGED NONWOVENS used for geotextiles and building product nonwovens are tough and strong. Their strength and toughness makes them inflexible. For example, electrical insulation often needs to flex enough to wrap curved surfaces and geotextiles need to conform to rocks and all manner of irregularities. When durable nonwovens need to conform to irregular surfaces, stretch to fit the job or even pull back to fit properly, Microcreping can add value. Creped nonwovens can conform to curved or other irregular surfaces, grow in length, or spring back. The creped hills and valleys can even provide air passages under a waterproof barrier fabric to allow "breathing".

Microcreping is a low cost way to make tough products conform to the job!

"A NONWOVEN SPRING?" Using ordinary polyester, nylon or polypropylene, we make them springy by creping so they stretch way out and come right back with controlled recovery. They aren't Lycra or Spandex, but they are a lot less expensive and might even be able to provide more product design flexibility. Bandages that flex but stay in place, belts for a disposable gown, even shoe covers that don't flop around can be considered. Sometimes a little tension is just what is needed.

Most companies spend considerable time and effort to differentiate their products from their competitors. We invite you to visit our web site www.micrex.com or contact us to start thinking about your products and how Microcreping can make a significant difference.

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As a preview, some of the topics we are planning for future letters include:

- * Softening medical barrier fabrics.
- * Laminating an absorbent layer with a spunbond while Microcreping both in one step.
- * Increasing thickness by 200% with less than 5% reduction in length.
- * Minor modifications to an existing nonwoven to allow Microcreping to be heat set and thus permanent when wet.
- * Save money by integrating Microcreping in an existing slitting operation.
- * Custom Microcreping services in Europe, the Americas, and Asia.
- * Joint, cooperative product and process development opportunities (e.g. cross direction stretch).
- * Free first time screening trial to learn if our process has potential to work for you. To learn more about this service visit our website at <http://www.micrex.com/trial.htm>.

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If you have other ideas or applications you would like added to our list for future issues, want literature describing the Microcreping process and samples of Microcreped products; please let us have an idea of the type of nonwovens and the improvements and properties that interest you.

If there is anything we can do to help your company better utilize The Micrex Process to impart softness, bulk, stretch, hand improvement, absorbency, drape and decorative effects in paper, textiles and nonwovens, please contact us.

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If you feel this newsletter might be of interest to others, please send us an email with the email address. Alternatively, if you have no interest in the Micrex Newsletter, simply send an email with "delete my name" in the subject line to Julie.Robbins@micrex.com.