Welcome to the winter addition of the Micrex Newsletter. For previous newsletters please see: www.micrex.com/newsletter.htm.

If for any reason you would like to be deleted from our mailing list, please send an email to robbins@micrex.com with delete in the subject line.

Editorial

If you were in the textile industry and visited a nonwoven manufacturing plant 30 years ago it is likely you would have the impression that most of the fibers and machinery were very familiar. Baled staple fibers would be processed through cards and the card web might be bonded with latex. Today, a visitor from the textile industry would probably have the impression that a nonwovens plant is much more like a paper mill than a textile mill. The products are wider, thinner, made at high speeds and are much more like paper than cloth. Some nonwovens perform well thin and flat yet consumers tell us they want the thicker, softer feel, look, and performance of cloth. There is no way to go back to older, slower, more costly methods but there is a way to make low cost nonwovens more cloth like.

An essential difference between staple fibers and spunbonded fibers is that staple must be crimped to be processed and spunbond fibers usually are not. A microscope shows a striking similarity between the crimps in staple fibers and the crimps in Microcreped spunbond fibers. This represents an opportunity to increase performance and value of your product. In both cases, the nonwoven products are soft, somewhat stretchy; feel good to consumers and function better as well.

The way to obtain cloth like feel and performance from today's paper like nonwovens and composites is the Micrex Process. For more information see www.micrex.com/trial.htm.

IDEA–04 April 26 – 29, 2004 Miami

We invite you to visit the Micrex Corp. in Booth 2435.

If Microcreping is new to you, we can explore how it might add value to your product. If you have seen Microcreping in the past, visit to learn about our new MK II 1.9 meter (76 inch) wide Microcreper capable of processing an expanded range of products, including polypropylene and films!

At IDEA-04 will be an operating 34 cm (14 inch) wide, Micrex/Microcreper to show what can be done to make roll goods more like cloth, absorb 33% more; stretch just enough for a comfortable fit, have a snug fit around an irregular object, or double in toughness.

Want to show your customers how versatile your roll goods are? Micrex is getting an early start on preparing our exhibit at IDEA-04 where visitors will see how a good nonwoven can be economically Microcreped

to become a higher value specialty product. Some companies are now sending us sample rolls for creping so Micrex can showcase their products both before and after creping. We invite you to participate as well. Another option is to ask us to crepe a sample roll of your product then return it to you so you can show your customers added value creped nonwovens at IDEA-04. Contact us now to discuss this opportunity for cooperation.

For a free pass to the IDEA-04 Exhibitions www.inda.org/idea04/Enduse-Products.pdf

Stretch to Fit

Bungee cords are popular for holding things in place simply because they stretch to fit, can absorb common stresses and strains without breaking, and remain where they were placed. Similarly, Microcreped nonwovens can stretch to fit, absorb stresses rather than break and are generally tougher than a similar flat product. The percent stretch and recovery can, within limits, be designed into the Microcreping process. Just as a bungee coord can fit a variety of sizes and needs, stretchy Microcreped nonwovens can as well. Whether it's a snug fit diaper, a burst resistant wipe for baby's bottom or a therapeutic hot pack on a sore knee, stretch to fit nonwovens and composites can be a product design advantage. Similar to anatomy, where surfaces aren't straight or flat, nonwovens used to cover your furniture, car or home can benefit from stretch. They need to conform to curves and stretch to fit too. As long as the world isn't made entirely of cubes, stretch to fit will be needed and Microcreping to add stretch will help.

Compress to Fit

Not all products need stretch; some have to compress to fit. Hygiene and incontinence products are obvious candidates because they should conform to the user's anatomy without leaving gaps that can cause leaks. Microcreping can "pre compress" a nonwoven to allow it to compress more uniformly in its end use. In a way, it's telling the product to behave the way it should behave. One way to think of Microcreping is high speed folding with a memory. Pull or push as much as you would like, some portion of the crepe pattern always remains and this pattern forms a pattern for subsequent end use compression. This also applies to film/nonwoven composites and many other complex structures.

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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