

All four in one go: decorating, forming, back-injecting, punching

New single-step IMD Varioform process from Leonhard Kurz enables complex 3D geometries to be decorated in a roll-to-roll process

Fürth/Germany, 24 August 2018: Leonhard Kurz has developed an IMD Varioform process that can be used to manufacture and decorate, in a single step, components for which no efficient decoration solution was previously available due to their particularly three-dimensional geometry. Thanks to IMD Varioform, the fast and flexible IMD roll-to-roll technology can now be employed with these components. Using the single-step IMD Varioform process, the component is decorated, formed, back-injected, and stamped directly within the injection mold. The process combines IMD, forming, and stamping techniques.

“We have been looking for a way to economically decorate somewhat more three-dimensional shapes. With IMD Varioform, we have now filled this gap and rounded off our broad range of decoration technologies,” explains Martin Hahn, in the application division responsible for technology and innovation at Kurz. “The process is highly efficient and offers previously unimaginable flexibility in the selection of surface design, geometry, and molding material. IMD Varioform is the perfect solution to the increasingly stringent requirements of product developers and designers.”

Design changeovers by exchanging rolls

IMD Varioform offers the same design freedom as the IMD process. Design changeovers are performed simply by exchanging the IMD Varioform foil roll. This enables a wide variety of single-image and continuous designs to be processed in the very same mold. It also makes individualized features economically viable. Kurz offers a large spectrum of design and functional foils for its decoration technologies, and these are also available for IMD Varioform.

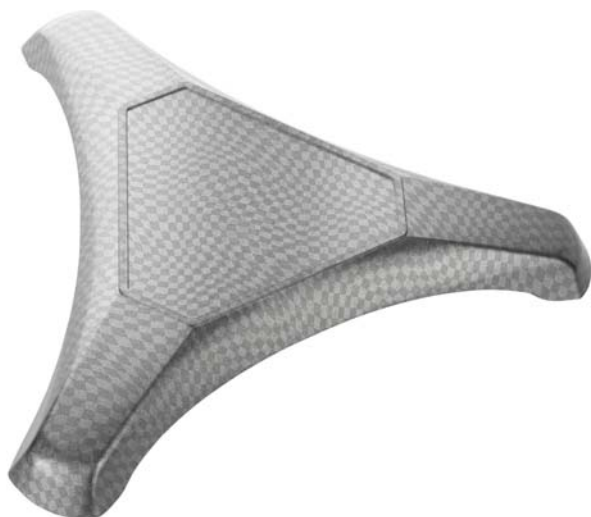
The possibilities include metallized surfaces right through to true-chrome coatings, brushed effects, wood, marble or carbon look, single-image designs plus partial and full-surface backlit designs.

Various tactile properties are also possible, for example smooth surfaces, distinctive structures, or soft touch effects. IMD Varioform foils can also be produced as topcoats formulated to meet customer-specific durability requirements. It is even possible to add touch functionality to the component by integrating the capacitive touch sensors from Kurz subsidiary PolyIC.

IMD Varioform decoration live at Fakuma

The multitude of possible designs and functionality will be on display at the Kurz booth 4122 in hall A4 at Fakuma. Visitors to the Engel booth 5204 in hall A5 will be able to see a live demonstration of the IMD Varioform process on a Duo 1060/350 injection molding machine. The flexibility and precision of the new process will be demonstrated by means of a component with a pronounced three-dimensional geometry.

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The plastic component that will be decorated live at Fakuma using Kurz's IMD Varioform process

(Photo: Kurz)

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About KURZ: The KURZ Group is a global leader in hot stamping and coating technology. KURZ develops and manufactures decorative and functional layers applied to carrier foils for a large variety of applications. The range includes metallized, pigmented and holographic stamping foils for packaging or print products, surface finishes for electronic devices or automotive parts, protective and decorative lacquers for furniture or household appliances, authenticity features for brand name items, metallic applications for textiles, and different types of coatings for many other applications. With over 5,000 employees in 14 production plants in Europe, Asia and the USA, 24 international subsidiaries and a global network of agencies and sales offices, the KURZ Group manufactures and sells a comprehensive range of products for surface finishing, decoration, marking and counterfeit protection, rounded off by an extensive range of stamping machines and stamping tools. KURZ also continuously invests in new technologies, and is developing innovative solutions for integrating functionality into surfaces.

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www.plastic-decoration.com

Press Contact:

Lucie Mengel

LEONHARD KURZ Stiftung & Co. KG

Schwabacher Straße 482, 90763 Fürth/Germany

Phone: +49 911 71 41-96 38, Fax: +49 911 71 41-96 40

E-Mail: lucie.mengel@kurz.de

www.kurz.de