

Soft touch meets visual design

Leonhard Kurz will be presenting novel soft touch coatings that can be freely combined with surface designs at Fakuma

Fürth/Germany, 16 August 2018: Leonhard Kurz has developed a new product line for in-mold decoration (IMD) with a tangibly and visibly soft surface. These IMD coatings exhibit novel haptic properties while offering the same design and functional scope as Kurz's general products for the IMD process. The haptic and visual designs are transferred in a single process step during the injection molding process. Whereas a velvety haptic effect has previously been reserved for single-color designs only, the new coatings can lend a soft finish to leather designs, or a robust grip to bold color gradients.

Multiple surface properties to choose from

The soft touch coatings are available in three variants with different haptic sensations and different functional characteristics. The silky-smooth Satin Feel haptic design is durable, not sensitive to scratching, and dirt resistant. Velvet Feel has a velvety roughened surface that is abrasion resistant, slip resistant, and sound absorbing. Grip Feel is characterized by its strikingly grippy surface and especially high wear protection, plus it is non-slip and sound optimizing. "In our visually overloaded world, the tactile sense is becoming increasingly important," explains Nikolas Wagner, Head of Business Area Plastic Decoration Sales and Marketing at Kurz. "Our new product line creates surfaces that are just as pleasant to touch as they are to look at. Furthermore, the surface properties can be precisely tailored to the specific requirements of the application, for example in the area of notebooks or automotive interiors."

Design and functional options of IMD technology included

Satin, Velvet, and Grip Feel can be combined with a large number of the IMD designs available from Kurz. The possibilities include, for example, wood, carbon, textile or marble looks, leather designs, or single-image designs. Metallized

surfaces right through to true-chrome coatings can also be produced to stunning effect: one expects a smooth, cool chrome surface and is surprised by a warm, velvety haptic. Transparent top coats, too, can be given pleasant-to-touch surfaces. In addition to these special surface characteristics, various textures can be incorporated into the coatings to further enhance the haptic effect.

The KURZ IMD product range includes surfaces that can be partially or fully backlit for mood-setting ambient lighting and elegant day/night designs. These finishes can also be combined with soft touch surfaces. If it is desired to activate this lighting by means of proximity or touch sensors, metallic designs with non-conductive vacuum metallized (NCVM) coatings must be used to ensure interference-free functioning of the sensors. Metallized soft touch designs can also be equipped with the NCVM property.

Visitors to the Kurz booth A4-4122 at Fakuma can touch and feel these novel haptic effects for themselves and discover the numerous design options on offer.

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Kurz soft touch surface with IMD design

(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