

dyestuff and chemical suppliers making assist

by BRENT CHILDERS, *Editor*

Spring is just around the corner and with its arrival couples are starting to think about shedding some winter excess and trimming up for the warmer months ahead. For women it may mean more time at the neighborhood spa.

For men...well isn't it nice to have a partner to help cut back on the calories.

Hosiery manufacturers more and more are finding a similar relationship with their dyeing and finishing suppliers as new chemical technology is helping manufac-

Standard Dyes Inc. of High Point, N.C. recently reintroduced its line of Kayacryl Basic Easy Dye (E-D) colors for hosiery dyeing. Melatex Inc. of Charlotte is touting a partnership with American Natural Bio-Solvents, a company that has introduced environmentally friendly products it says produce as good or better results as some other traditional products.

Such innovation, say industry analysts, is going to be even more important as small to medium hosiery manufacturers work to position themselves against the larger manufacturers in the heavy-volume sector:

"Speed, quality and cost are all major concerns, but there are areas where U.S. companies can and will compete."

turers improve efficiency and realize savings in labor and materials.

With those realizations come better quality, which industry analyst say is taking on new dimension in today's global marketplace – especially the domestic-based manufacturer.

As stated in an article in the February issue of Textile World, companies that can't meet price points offered from offshore commodity goods must position themselves with markets offering higher quality and higher-value goods.

David Sasso, vice president of Buhler

Quality Yarns, made this statement in relation to a project that teamed up Buhler with a request from Polo for "the best golf shirt possible."

"In the case of Polo, the challenge started with trust in our relationship and our ability to leverage Buhler's quality and delivery" Sasso was quoted to say in the article. "It's this type of project and relationship that separates cost-based sourcing and premium-quality product development. Speed, quality and cost are all major concerns, but there are areas where U.S. companies can and will compete."

While Sasso's comment were made in relation to the link between a fiber supplier and retailer, those same type relationships formed between different components in the supply chain are equally important for the hosiery manufacturer – whether it be the manufacturer and the yarn supplier or the dyestuff supplier.

Quality in and quality out, as one dyestuff supplier stated, will take on more importance as small to medium manufac-

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turers go after higher-end markets.

What happens to premium yarn when substandard dyestuff materials or finishing processes are employed?

Darrell Houston, president of Houston Hosiery Mills in Valdese, agrees that innovation and product development in the dyestuff arena will continue to play a major role in helping hosiery manufacturers consummate the branding of domestically produced hosiery goods with quality and speed.

New and innovative dyestuffs that do the job right mean better efficiency and of course quality finishing means quality products.

From a manufacturer's standpoint, Houston said there's a need for products that help fiber wick better; more earth friendly antimicrobials, dyestuffs that strike earlier and of course products that are cost effective."

"Some of these things can be expensive," Houston says.

Dyestuff and chemical companies say they're ready for the task.

"We at Standard Dyes Inc. feel that it is our duty to introduce new products of real merit to you, our customers and friends," according to a news release its Kayacryl Basic Easy Dye (E-D).

"Kayacryl Basic Easy Dye (E-D) colors are still a significant technical discovery, and one which is needed in the dyeing industry."

Manufactured by Japan's Nippon Kayaku and distributed exclusively by Standard Dyes Inc., Kayacryl Basic E-D colors are basic dyes that can be dispersed readily in water, even in high concentrations.

There are several reasons the products are a breakthrough for hosiery dyeing and finishing operations.

First, the dyes are water soluble. No acids or alcohols are needed to put E-D

dyes in solution before using. Dyestuff preparation errors are virtually eliminated.

Secondly, the dyes are compatible with direct, disperse, or acid dyestuffs in the same bath. No expensive anti-precipitant chemicals are needed. Bronzing and blocking caused by different dye types are eliminated.

Also, the dyes level so well that you can make color adds without completely cooling the dye bath. No time is lost on cool-down, and no money is lost on water or steam.

In addition, dyes give excellent color yields on basic dyeable polyester without using a dye carrier. Significant chemical

savings are realized and pollution caused by carriers is eliminated.

The dyes also show excellent reserve in multi-fiber blends. Unlimited color combinations are available for one-bath dyeing of blended fibers.

Finally, the leveling characteristics of Kayacryl Basic Easy Dye (E-D) dyes are so good that the lightest pastel shades can be attained on bagged goods or yarn packages. Re-dyes become insignificant.

Melatex, a Charlotte-based chemical supplier for the hosiery industry, recently announced a partnership with American Natural Bio-Solvents, a chemical manufacturer and formulator specializing in environmentally sound chemistry that company officials say enables its customers to reduce cost.

Kevin Corley, vice president of operations for Melatex, says developing technologies

that help customers save time and money is and has been a mainstay for Melatex in its more than 40-year tenure in the business.

Corley says there are three primary areas in which Melatex products assist manufacturers in achieving their goals; 1) increase capacity per machine 2) improve efficiency 3) more environmental friendly.

Corley cites three examples of products that help customers accomplish those goals:

- ADD-200 – a nylon and wool acid dye donor/leveler that represents the latest technology in acid dyeing processes. ADD-200 does not require any auxiliaries, provides

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total exhaustion and excellent yields on dyes.

- WrinkleGuard 100 – an excellent scour, detergent, softener, and wrinkle release product. In some cases, WrinkleGuard 100 eliminates need for pre-boarding.

- TecSoft-NI – a proprietary general purpose fabric softener. As an in-bath softener, TecSoftNI has proven superior.

All three products save time and money, says Corley.

Equally important, say Melatex executives, is their products' offerings in terms of quality.

Hosiery manufacturers say they want products that work.

As dyestuff and chemical suppliers continue to develop products that meet their needs, hosiery manufacturers will have the leverage they need to meet the quality demands of its retail partners.

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