

Firm grip for Leica cameras

The legendary German camera manufacturer Leica Camera AG offers the S2 camera and the Ultravid binoculars, whose gripping surfaces are made of Thermolast A. This TPE, supplied by Kraiburg TPE, provides a scratch-resistant surface and a comfortable haptics, both properties that are key for this application.

The grips of the Leica cameras and binoculars consist of thin TPE mats that are integrated in the casing for a firm and stable grip. These mats are manufactured in a single-component process and then glued into recesses specially moulded in the casing. The depth of the recesses varies depending on the shape of the casing and therefore affects the thickness of the TPE layer. The size of the mat also has to match exactly the recessed area, so there are no gaps. In cooperation with Leica, the TPE compounder developed solutions for tool design and application engineering.[image_0]

“We received sample material early on, in addition to useful information for the prototyping process, which enabled us to start production very quickly. Gluing of the grips was a high-precision process. We were glad to have on-site support from Kraiburg TPE and their flexibility in responding to problems,” Oliver Neumann, a production planning specialist at Leica, summarizes.

Thermolast A compounds were initially developed for applications in the automotive industry and for tool grips. The TPE can withstand scratches, media such as perspiration and alcohol, atmospheric conditions and UV radiation, which makes them suitable for use even in extreme outdoor conditions.

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