



# Colored latches give a distinctive look to instrument delivery systems

*Versatile surgical case and tray manufacturer Paragon Medical uses custom-colored RADEL® R sterilizeable plastics to help OEMs differentiate their brand and products.*

**RADEL® R**  
sterilizeable plastics

The look you want.  
The performance you need.

For more than 15 years, Paragon Medical, Inc. of Pierceton, Indiana has been designing and manufacturing sterilization cases and trays for surgical instruments, and has earned a reputation for being able to produce high-quality products in tight timeframes, whether they're fabricated from metal, plastic or a combination of both.

According to Cory Colman, Paragon Medical's Executive VP of New Business Development, the plastic of choice is RADEL® R polyphenylsulfone, an incredibly strong material that can withstand more than a thousand cycles of disinfection and steam sterilization without any significant loss of properties. It is a durable, lightweight alternative to metal that offers the distinct advantage of a custom, glove-like fit for instruments and inserts with complex geometries.

## COLORS PROVIDE CUSTOM LOOK

As an industry leader, Paragon Medical was one the first manufacturers to use RADEL® R plastics to offer their customer yet another advantage over metal — the ability to customize their look with color.

"This gives us a whole new arrow in our quiver," said Tom Bussell, Paragon Medical's Account Executive. "We can now help our customers create a distinctive color scheme for their delivery systems, whether they want to match their corporate logo colors or design something new. It's really opened up a new world of possibilities."

"OEM customers also like using color to broadcast 'new and improved' in a visually exciting way," added Colman. "A new look can definitely generate a lot of buzz among hospital personnel, the trade press and competitors."

## LATCHES CREATE BRANDING OPPORTUNITY

Paragon Medical is recognized in the industry for its innovative use of custom-colored RADEL® R plastics for the latches used to secure the lid to the case. Because of their placement, latches often become a focal point and present an excellent opportunity for brand distinction and product differentiation.

"Given the opportunity, many OEMs love the flexibility of pairing a colored lid with a colored latch," said Colman. "Recently, we worked with a customer to produce a black lid with bright green graphics and matching green latches. It's gorgeous."

Colman points out that colored RADEL® R plastics can also help customize the look of metal components. "It's a fact that you can't make green metal, but it is possible to make a hybrid system using a metal case or lid closed with colored plastic latches."



Latches made from colored RADEL® R plastics create brand distinction and product differentiation.

## PLASTIC LATCHES DELIVER SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE

Although the ability to make colored latches is relatively new, Paragon Medical has been providing customers with plastic latches for nearly a decade.

“Many latches are made from stainless steel,” explained Colman. “They consist of several components and can perform inconsistently. By contrast, we’ve manufactured thousands of plastic latches and have never received a single complaint.”

The design has worked so well that it has never been modified since it was first introduced in the late 1990s.

“It’s first generation, only generation,” said Bussell. “The only thing different is the colors it can be made in. We first started making it in neutral shades, but now, the sky is the limit. Any color, any shade is possible. We can match logos, match graphics and create any color desired.”

## PASSES THE TEST

Colman cites the infamous “knock-it-off-the-cart test” often performed by hospital personnel to ensure that cases perform as they should.

“They hit it, let it fly off the cart and clatter to the floor. The plastic latches hold the lid on securely and the instruments stay contained and protected inside the case,” he said. “With metal latches, the results can vary.”

Colman also notes that hospital personnel frequently mention the audible “click” that the plastic latches make upon closure.

“They tell us that this instant, definite feedback is very satisfying — they know the case is safely latched and that it’s going to stay latched until the O.R. team opens it,” he explained. “And, that click remains even after thousands of closes and thousands of sterilization cycles.”

## COLORS LEAVE LASTING IMPRESSION

RADEL® R polyphenylsulfone is known for its ability to retain its physical properties even after repeated exposure to disinfectants and steam sterilization — and that includes its color.

“The latches and other parts made out of colored RADEL® R plastics stay bright and clean-looking indefinitely,” said Bussell. “Metals can lose sheen, corrode, collect water spots, get dings and otherwise show their age over time. The condition of some older metal cases can get surgeons concerned enough to send the instruments back for a flash sterilization. That doesn’t happen with those made from RADEL® R plastics. They keep their sheen and continue to look new.”

“RADEL® R plastics give our customers more opportunities than ever before to market a product that is both high-performance and truly eye-catching,” added Colman. “I think it’s fair to say that, for those brand-conscious and marketing savvy manufacturers who have delved into custom colors, they will never go back.”



Pairing colored latches with a colored lid gives a distinctive look.

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Advanced Polymers



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