



PlasticsAPPLICATIONS

Cut Out for Comfort

Collaborating with Fiskars Brands, Inc. (Madison, Wis.), and General Electric (Pittsfield, Mass.) on development of the Fiskars 45-mm Rotary Cutter, says GLS, it was challenged to help design a special cutting tool for crafters and quilters that promised greater efficiency and comfort. Toward this end, GLS and GE sought to combine a durable, lightweight substrate with a “grippy,” soft-touch, ergonomic handle that would feature a smooth, edge-free finish.

In a project of this nature, says GLS, a processor typically decides on a rigid substrate and then spends considerable development time deciding

upon the TPE that would provide just the right combination of properties. But in this case, says GLS, it was well ahead of the game—as it was able to take advantage of work performed under a strategic alliance it had previously formed with GE Plastics.

Thus GLS proffered a materials solution pairing a GLS Versaflex OM 1060 TPE alloy overmolding onto GE’s Cyclocac 4016 ABS substrate. As expected, based on its work with GE, says GLS, the “hard-soft” combination satisfied the demanding tactility/durability requirements of the Fiskars application.

In addition, the TPE provided excellent adhesion to the hard substrate used for the Rotary Cutter. And it provided ease of processing and flowability—properties necessitated by the product’s complex design, which included blades that could be retracted as well as easily removed and exchanged. Moreover, the TPE yielded a very smooth surface, enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the final product.



GLS Corp., 833 Ridgeview Dr., McHenry, IL 60050-7050; (815) 385-8500 or (800) 457-8777; fax (815) 385-8533; www.glscorp.com; e-mail: info@glscorp.com

