



## TPEs Carry It Off

**W**ith a little help from GLS Corp. and its Dynaflex TPEs, Quake Industries of Belgrade, Montana, has introduced “a new concept in ultra-comfortable, non-slip shoulder straps.” Called the TerraGrip, its design is based on a non-slip rifle sling called the Claw, developed by Quake Industries in 1996.



Setting out to adapt the Claw’s best attributes into an ergonomic, soft-feel, and non-slip strap for multiple uses, Quake initially sought to make the TerraGrip strap lighter and narrower than that of the rifle sling. But, according to GLS, this attempt compromised the patented process that allowed the TPE to adhere to the nylon

webbing and allowed for elongation and shock absorption—thus forfeiting the sling’s chief benefit, its ability to stretch and absorb shock. This led the company to rethink the mold design, to “tweak the TPEs used to make the grippy strap pad.”

At this point, GLS says, it was approached by Quake for possible solutions. GLS recommended its Dynaflex G7900 series, designed to offer soft touch overmolding and a hardness range of 30 to 80 Shore A. This grade would afford the easy processing, durability, and grippy feel sought by Quake strap designers, GLS says.

Also approached by Quake for design assistance, its moldmaker machined some new cavity inserts for the mold, modifying it for a narrow strap. According to GLS, the modified mold inserts were able to maximize the desired benefits from the original overmolding process onto the narrower strap of the TerraGrip.

With this fix in place, says GLS, Quake moved forward with manufacturing, launching the TerraGrip in summer 2002. It is currently said to be building and assembling approximately 2000 Claw and TerraGrip straps per month, selling them in all 50 states of the U.S. and in 22 other countries. Market response has been very positive, Quake comments, adding that it has had inquiries from the U.S. Postal System, Red Oxx, and Samsonite.

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