Processing Plastics

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**Macmillan Engineering
Evaluations
Student Edition**

Macmillan Education

ISBN 978-0-333-13794-9 ISBN 978-1-349-01590-0 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-01590-0

© The Macmillan Press Ltd 1971
Student Edition 1972

Reprint of the original edition 1972

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Published by

THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD

London and Basingstoke

Associated companies in New York Toronto

Dublin Melbourne Johannesburg and Madras

SBN 333 13794 9

Preface

The continuing expansion in the use of plastics has hastened the development of increasingly sophisticated materials, forming methods, and finished products. This book outlines the present methods adopted for the processing of plastics and indicates some of the future directions that may be taken.

All the chapters have been contributed by industrial specialists, and the coverage begins with an outline of the basic polymers, their availability and the forms in which they are supplied, and provides information on their processing and typical application. Most plastics require some additives, and Chapter 2 discusses their function and use, including colourants.

Since frequently the selection of a forming method is determined by economics, Chapter 3 discusses the factors involved, before the major forming techniques themselves are presented (Chapters 4–10).

A concluding chapter deals with expanded or cellular plastics, which are continually finding new uses in industry.

A companion volume, also directed to the student of materials or engineering, distinguishes between thermosetting plastics and thermoplastics and presents some of the more important techniques of plastics fabrication.

Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
1 AVAILABLE PLASTICS	1
P Clifton MA and W S Pinney Bakelite Xylonite Limited	
2 ADDITIVES	9
E W Thomas BSc and J E Todd AMCT CIBA-GEIGY (UK) Limited	
3 ECONOMICS OF FORMING	23
J H Briston BSc ARIC API MInst Packaging Shell International Chemical Co Ltd	
4 COMPRESSION MOULDING	29
J E Rogers AMIED Minerva Mouldings Ltd	
5 TRANSFER MOULDING	41
E D Quiddington Ariel Pressings Ltd	
6 INJECTION MOULDING	45
V E Moore Invicta Plastics Limited	
7 EXTRUSION	49
K J Braun BSc CEng MIMechE Bone Cravens Ltd	
8 SHEET AND VACUUM FORMING	59
J C Evans Telcon Plastics Ltd	
9 CALENDERING	69
K J Hardman CEng MIMechE MIPlantE AMCT Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd	
10 ROTATIONAL MOULDING	75
T Russell Thermo Plastics Ltd	
11 EXPANDED PLASTICS	81
H Gibson ARIC Shell International Chemical Co Ltd	