

Cabinet Maker

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MAKING A MARK

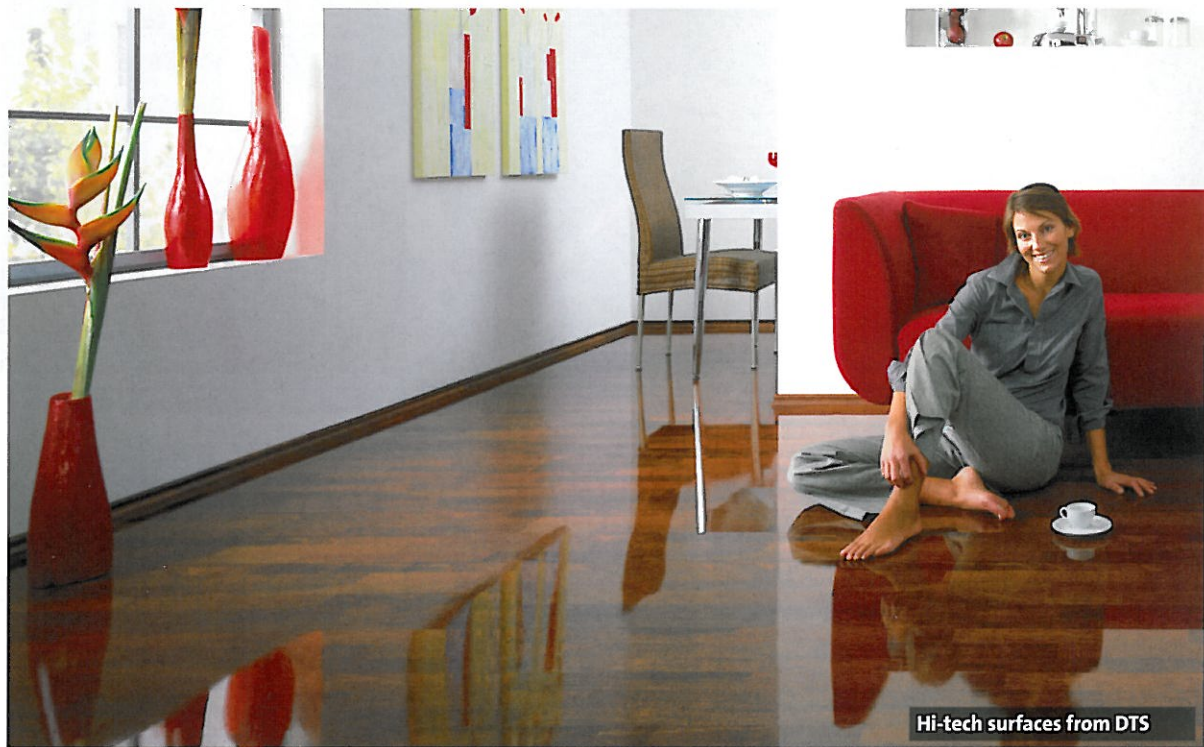
Laminates not coming up to scratch? German company DTS think they have the answer, with a new range of high-performance decorative surfaces that it says are hard to knock – or blemish

High-gloss and super-matt surfaces for the furniture industry have been available for many years. Though useful, the Achilles heel of such products has tended to be limited scratch-resistance – and in the rough and tumble of family life, that often leads to once-pristine furniture becoming dirty within a short period. Poor scratch-resistance in high-gloss thermoplastic materials also means that manufacturers may offer relatively high production losses due to waste.

With the development of its ELESGO^{therm} range of laminates, DTS-Systemoberflächen GmbH says it has found a solution to these drawbacks. The company, which has been producing ELESGO[®] laminates based on plain or printed decor paper for more than 10 years, has recently launched an innovative variety of thermoplastic foils coated with high-gloss or super-matt acrylic resins that it believes offer the highest scratch-resistance in thermoplastic materials currently available in the market, with no known competitor.

The key, says DTS, lies in the use of high-energy electron beams. Although such technology sounds like it has more business in Star Wars than furniture manufacturing, DTS say it has permitted them to cure their laminates to a new level of hardness.

Another resulting benefit that the company are keen to highlight is the chemical stability of their surfaces, which are claimed to be extra-resistant to many corrosive household fluids such as acetone and hydrogen peroxide. DTS also claim a reduced environmental



Hi-tech surfaces from DTS

impact in the range, which is formaldehyde and solvent-free.

Speaking as agent for DTS in the UK, Steve Cross of Essencce Limited says:

“The technology allows us to produce a completely waterproof product. This is due to the nature of the acrylic resins that they use combined with their high-energy electron beam curing system.” He continues by claiming that the new surfaces carry patterns and designs extremely well, too.

“The clarity of image that is achievable offers design possibilities that are just not available with traditional melamine surfaces,” says Cross. Currently printed designs are only available on decor paper-based substrates.

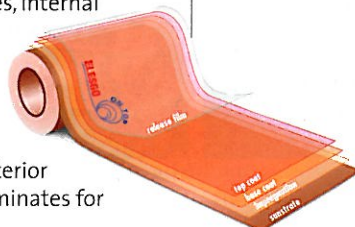
In addition to high-gloss and super-matt coatings, DTS also

produces several other surface textures on both decor paper and thermoplastic foils. Thus a product range from soft super matt to deep high gloss, as well as three-dimensional structures such as wood pores or brush effects, can be produced.

DTS – Systemoberflächen GmbH (DTS) is based in Möckern near Magdeburg in Germany and its “ELESGO[®]” surfaces can be used in the following areas, says the company: laminate flooring, wall and ceiling panels, furniture surfaces, interior doors and door frames, internal window sills, furniture components, work surfaces for kitchens and also for exterior application (laminates for

cladding) and high performance chemical-resistant laboratory tables for scientific applications.

“ELESGO[®]” and “ELESGO^{therm}” are supplied in rolls by the company and, depending on the quality required, can be processed on all conventional coating and roll-laminating units and intermittent presses with various gluing systems. “ELESGO[®]” paper-based materials can also be formulated so as to be used as the decorative surface in CPL, HPL and compact laminates. With all that to offer the new range looks like it might turn out to be a useful new addition to the range of materials on offer to manufacturers. ■



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