

Interface

The Appeal of Multi-Shot Molding

Taking form and function to a whole new level, multi-shot molding has come a long way since its early days.



An All-Market Selection

Multi-shot molding is known to many as a process that produces high performing, functional, yet aesthetically pleasing parts. While some applications require it for functionality, others crave its soft-touch, visually clean look. Because of this, multi-shot molding has become a highly accepted method to manufacture parts for customers in all markets.

A Perfect Pair For Automotive

When the automotive supplier Grand Haven Stamped Products (GHSP) first came to Phillips-Medisize for their gear shifter and bezel program, they were interested in both the function and aesthetics of multi-shot. Along the way, they learned there were a lot of advantages in working with a company that is known for its experience with the process. Not having a lot of experience with multi-shot in the past, the following tips helped GHSP through their program.

Get To Know Multi-Shot

There are distinct advantages to multi-shot molding (see sidebar on next page), but many might not realize it is a highly involved molding process with challenging tooling requirements and highly intricate parts. GHSP chose the multi-shot molding process to create a backlit styling option for their bezel that conventional molding and decorating could not accomplish, and for the functionality, durability, and aesthetics required for their gear shifter.

A Team That Knows Design

Phillips-Medisize's extensive design experience with the multi-shot molding process helps customers design tools right the first time. Because tooling can be extremely complex, Phillips-Medisize designers should be involved as early as possible in the program to help avoid costly design changes down the road. GHSP worked with Phillips-Medisize's prototyping team to create prototypes for durability testing on their shifter. As a result, the GHSP team knew they had an acceptable part before a production tool was built. According to GHSP Product Engineer Terry Bekins, "We were looking for a supplier that had design capabilities, as well as experience with multi-shot. We needed a partner to create and design a tool for us efficiently and correctly. We got what we needed from Phillips-Medisize."

Program Requirements Are Met

What happens when your white comes out a not-so-white shade of white? At Phillips-Medisize, the engineering team steps into action. When back-lit graphic samples came back a trace different from the color specified, Project Engineer Wendy Stary stepped up – working with multiple material suppliers, sampling alternative options, and recommending different formulations until the exact specifications requested by GHSP were met. "What might be only a little different to us would make a world of difference to them as they have a lot of other components that need to meet this specification. If we're off, everything is off. Getting that exact match for them is the only way it could be done. Their whole line is dependent on our expertise," explains Stary.

Engineering Experience Counts

Whether it's recommending a less expensive gating option, choosing the appropriate material for the strongest bond, or just knowing the best option for the most rugged design, Phillips-Medisize's engineering experience is second to none. "We came to Phillips-Medisize for their expertise in multi-shot," explains Bekins. "What could have been issues related to lighting, thicknesses, or cosmetics during our program were turned into solutions."

An Ever-Evolving Process

While multi-shot is not a new molding process, Phillips-Medisize's engineering team is constantly creating new environments and applications where it can be utilized. An option to consider when looking for that "extra something" on your next program – a soft-touch, smoother feel, or longer lasting durability, amongst others – consider multi-shot and its many highly regarded benefits. For more information on multi-shot molding and to see if it's a fit for your next program, contact your Phillips-Medisize sales representative today.

Some of the advantages of multi-shot molding are: ability to eliminate assemblies, durability, option to mold multiple materials and colors, tackiness – no slip, damping shock absorption, sealing, graphics, no bond, and part reduction

