

PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY

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TECHNOLOGY NEWS

SHEET FABRICATING

New Acrylic Sheet Is Black by Day, White by Night

A bright idea in plastic signs is a new sheet that appears dark by day and, with a little backlighting, glows white at night. Cyro Industries, Rockaway, N.J., developed Acrylite GP P95, a black/white acrylic sheet (Cyro color 1124-1) made from a special pigment formulation designed for 10-19% light transmittance when backlit but appearing dark and opaque without backlighting. The sheet is an addition to Cyro's cell-cast Acrylite GP line, so it offers the same performance and fabrication characteristics.

The amount of light transmission can be adjusted by varying the percentage of pigment in the sheet so that transmission is the same for all thicknesses. Neon, fluorescent, and incandescent light sources can

be used for backlighting. However, the service temperature of the sheet cannot exceed 180 F and the light source should never touch the sheet.

Available in standard thicknesses of $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{3}{16}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$ in., the new sheet has a matte side (called the P95 side), and a glossy side. The matte side is said to diffuse the backlighting to reduce glare.

Acrylite GP P95 can be thermoformed but only under carefully controlled conditions with very little draw. That's because the sheet's "sandblast"



A new acrylic sheet pigmentation from Cyro Industries gives this company's sign two effects in one.

texture that imparts the black/white optical effect will be lost if the sheet is formed with a significant draw.



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