

[Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Thermoset Elastomers](#)

August 9, 2009 – 11:57 pm Now here's a book you *can* judge by its cover. *Custom Molding of Thermoset Elastomers* (Munich: Hanser Gardner, 2009) promises—and delivers—a no-nonsense hands-on look at materials selection and processing. It is designed to educate potential customers, explains author Bernie Stritzke, Vice President and General Manager of US-based custom moulder [MedPlast](#) (Tempe, Arizona, USA).

Medical product manufacturers typically have an excellent understanding of elastomers, notes Stritzke, but they lack knowledge of materials processing. "I'm often asked: Why is one process preferred over another for my part? This book helps explain the logic behind the choice and helps our customers make the right decisions," says Stritzke.

Stritzke comes from a mechanical engineering background and has been in the elastomer industry for more than 25 years. While there are other books on elastomers, they tend to be written from a chemist's perspective, says Stritzke, and those authors don't like to get their hands dirty talking about tooling, moulding and secondary processes.

Custom Molding of Thermoset Elastomers concentrates on the processing of thermoset millable elastomers and liquid silicone rubber. Emphasis is placed on compression, transfer, and injection moulding, as well as hybrid moulding techniques involving insulated delivery systems and flashless methods. The book will serve as an educational piece for those who already have a working knowledge of most moulding methods.

"Elastomer processing is often characterised as more difficult to understand than traditional plastic or liquid silicone injection moulding," says Stritzke. "This is because it is usually necessary to develop custom elastomer formulations. There are more variables and design decisions to be made when working with elastomers, and it is critical that the compound formulation is appropriate for the processing technique being used," adds Stritzke.

The book is available through [Amazon](#).

MedPlast Inc. provides precision custom moulded thermoplastic, rubber, silicone and elastomer components and moulds for use in the healthcare and select industrial markets. The company has fully integrated design, prototyping, mould manufacturing and production capabilities in five locations throughout the United States.