

CRYSTIC[®] 1124PA

Orthophthalic Polyester Resin for Flat Panel Manufacture

Introduction

Crystic 1124PA is an orthophthalic, low viscosity unsaturated polyester resin. It is supplied as a solution dissolved in monomeric styrene. It is pre-accelerated to give sufficient pot life for contact moulding using Norox[®] KP9 at normal ambient temperatures. It has been formulated to give a rapid cure time whilst retaining a usable pot life and a normal peak exotherm temperature. For extra rapid cure, use of Acetoacetyl Peroxide (Norox[®] PD40) is recommended.

Applications

The rapid cure time of Crystic 1124PA makes it particularly suitable for the manufacture of flat panels, since it cures quickly even in thin laminates, allowing fast production rates. It is non-thixotropic to allow rapid wetting and impregnation of reinforcements on flat panel moulds, and has been specially formulated to aid in the elimination of air. It has good adhesion to Crystic[®] ScottBond 102PAW, allowing sandwich panels to be made with little risk of delamination.

Crystic 1124PA can be used without modification in most types of spray equipment. Its low viscosity allows lower spray pressures to be used, reducing overspray. It requires only the addition of catalyst to start the curing reaction and is therefore ideal for long production runs under controlled workshop conditions.

Crystic 1124PA has been formulated to give a tough resilient laminate. It can be used with confidence in the construction of GRP skins for flat sandwich panel manufacture.

Crystic 1124PA is also available pigmented white as Crystic 1124PA White.

Formulation

Crystic[®] 1124PA is formulated for room temperature curing applications. It requires only addition of the correct amount of catalyst to start the curing reaction. The recommended formulation is given in Table 1:

Table 1

Component	Parts by weight
Crystic [®] 1124PA	100
Norox [®] KP9 or Norox [®] KP9	1.0-3.0

The catalyst must be stirred thoroughly into the resin shortly before use. Curing should not be carried out at temperatures below 15°C. Scott Bader (Pty) Ltd. will not be liable for problems caused by use at lower temperatures than recommended. The resin must be allowed to attain workshop temperature (15-30°C) before being formulated for use.

N.B. Peroxide catalysts are highly reactive and may decompose with explosive violence, or cause fires, if they come into contact with flammable materials, metals or accelerators. For this reason they must never be stored in metal containers or be mixed directly with accelerators

Gel time adjustment

The temperature and the amount of Norox KP9 or Norox PD40 control the gel time of the resin formulation and can be approximately determined from table 2.

Table 2

Geltimes in minutes for Crystic 1124PA.

■ = combination not recommended.

Catalyst type		Norox KP9			Norox PD40		
Catalyst addition		1.0%	2.0%	3.0%	1.0%	2.0%	3.0%
Temperature	15°C	■	12	7	■	■	■
	25°C	9	7	■	20	16	14
	35°C	6	5	■	9	8	7

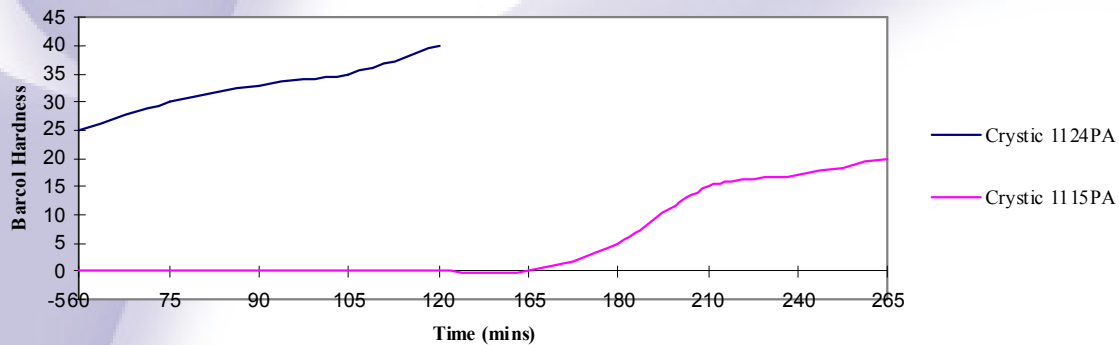
Crystic 1124PA is formulated for use between 15°C and 30°C. It is recommended that workshop temperatures be maintained within this range.

In hot summer conditions, Crystic 1124PA may give too short a geltime for adequate potlife. If this is the case when using Catalyst M, do not use less than 1% catalyst as this will lead to slow cure even if the geltime is acceptable. Rather use Norox MEKP-925H, or better still Norox PD40. Both will slow down the geltime of the resin, and with an increase in speed and completeness of cure. In fact, under normal workshop conditions, Norox PD40 gives longer pot life than other catalysts with this resin, whilst increasing the speed with which sufficient cure for demoulding is reached.

Crystic 1124PA is designed to give faster cure than a general purpose polyester resin when used to make large, thin flat laminates. It should be sprayed or poured over the mould surface as quickly as possible after catalysing, as once it is in a thin layer its reaction speed will slow appreciably. Once the laminate has been consolidated, cure takes place at a faster rate than a general purpose resin, as shown in fig. 1.

Fig.1. Barcol Hardness development over time with Crystic 1124PA compared to that of a medium reactivity orthophthalic unsaturated polyester resin. Both are catalysed with 2% Norox KP9.

Barcol Hardness development over time - fast cure resin (Crystic® 1124PA) and GP resin



At temperatures below 15°C, the curing reaction can be so slow that there is a high probability of undercure of the resin, even with over 3% Norox KP9 or Norox KP9. Do not use more than 3% catalyst as that will not speed up the geltime appreciably or result in a faster cure; in fact it can further retard the cure. Rather warm up the resin and working area so that it is above 15°C. Low workshop temperature is often a cause of poor surface finish of flat panel skins, since if the cure is retarded, it can continue after the skins have been demoulded. This can cause fibre pattern to be reproduced on the gelcoated side of the skin. It is advisable to use infrared heaters to ensure that the mould is at the correct temperature.

Pigments and Fillers

Crystic 1124PA may be pigmented with up to 5 percent of Scott Bader pigment paste, although lesser amounts are normally sufficient in a laminating resin. Pigment pastes and fillers should be used with caution, as they are likely to have a significant effect on the storage stability, geltime and cure of the resin system, and the physical strength properties of the final product.

Post Curing

It is usually impractical to post cure flat panel skins due to their size. The importance of thorough cure to flat panel skins is that if they are demoulded whilst undercured, cure continues whilst there is no vacuum between the gelcoat and the mould. The resultant shrinkage of the resin around the glass fibres causes the glass fibre pattern to appear in relief on the gelcoat surface. This reduces the attractiveness of the finish. The fast curing behaviour of **Crystic 1124PA** allows it to reach sufficient cure to be demoulded in 2 hours at 25°C in a 450g/m² chopped strand mat laminate. At temperatures below this, more time has to be allowed. A convenient way to speed up cure in cold conditions is to use infrared lamps over the mould.

Liquid Properties

The most important typical liquid properties of Crystic 1124PA are given in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Typical properties of liquid Crystic 1124PA.

Property	Units	Nominal value
Appearance		Clear green
Viscosity @ 25°C: Brookfield RVT @ 100rpm	centipoise	270
Specific Gravity @ 25°C		1.056
Volatile Content	%	40
Acid Value	mg KOH/g	18.5
Stability in the dark @ 20°C	months	3
Geltime @ 25°C using 2% Norox [®] KP9 catalyst	minutes	7

Storage

Crystic 1124PA should be stored in the dark in suitable closed containers. It is recommended that the storage temperature should be less than 20°C where practical, but should not exceed 30°C. Ideally, containers should be opened only immediately prior to use. Where they have to be stored outside, it is recommended that drums be kept in a horizontal position to avoid the possible ingress of water.

Packaging

Crystic 1124PA is supplied in 25kg and 225 kg steel containers, and in 1125kg returnable intermediate bulk containers.

Health and Safety

Please see the applicable Material Safety Data Sheets, depending on the curing system used.

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