The dynamic duo

Coloured surfaces have always been in fashion - that’s why there are so many different ways of designing them. Choosing the right design depends on a number of different factors. But with FANTASTIC-FILL and FANTASTIC-COLOR from Hesse, you’ve got all bases covered.

One significant factor is the way the liquid medium, colour or lacquer is applied to the desired substrate. It is therefore important to choose the right products and make sure they can be used together for the purpose you have in mind. High waste and materials costs mean reliable processes are becoming more and more important, especially where controlling costs is concerned. This is a key issue for any well-organised, successful company. That’s why it is important to take an intelligent decision as to how the surface should be constructed, without ever losing sight of what the customer wants.

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Dear reader,

Are you proud of what your company does? What are the highlights that keep you motivated day in, day out? It’s worth taking some time to think about it.

Of course I am proud of what happens in our company every day. But what exactly is it that we can all be proud of at Hesse-Lignal? The personal commitment of our staff in every area of the business, the many new product and process ideas we regularly present to you - that’s the obvious bit.

But why do we actually do it in the first place? Of course, part of the reason is to build a profitable company, to ensure it is healthy, stable and equipped to face the future. As a family-owned company, it’s also about giving our many employees a secure future.

These are very important considerations. They drive us on and give us energy.

But that’s by no means all there is to it. There is another, very important, point to mention. As our customer, everything you do in your own company, and your massive commitment to it, is very bit as remarkable as what we do. As well as being proud of our own products, we are proud of all the beautiful, top quality products you produce using our lacquers and stains. Your brilliantly designed furniture, doors, floors and interiors for hotels and yachts remind our staff why they do what they do.

You could say we identify not just with our own products, but with yours too. So it’s always a real pleasure for us to work on a customer project and to be able to present it to you and to our own staff, whether it’s in lacktuell - as in this issue - or elsewhere. Your products show a passion you can be proud of.

And to see what our products can help produce always makes us proud too.

Yours sincerely, Jens Hesse

High opacity, elegant grain and perfect for sanding

FANTASTIC-FILL and FANTASTIC-COLOR from Hesse Coatings make that decision easier, because their lacquer formulations are designed to complement each other perfectly. This means that the hardeners and thinners used in the two products are exactly the same. They stand out thanks to their excellent body, elegant surface feel and in the case of the FANTASTIC-FILL isolation primer, excellent sanding properties.

This is complemented by the extremely high opacity and perfectly complementary thixotropy of FANTASTIC-COLOR, a polyurethane-based coloured lacquer resistant to metallic rings. The opacity is guaranteed across the full range of FANTASTIC-COLOR colour tones using up to 35% thinner in the lacquer/hardener mixture. It is a reliable way to lacquer any component, whether it is upright, horizontal or three-dimensional. If you need to apply a primer or a layer of coloured lacquer, both products will take just two hours to dry.

Certified flame resistant.
The required approval and certification for the overall structure of the coating, from the substrate to the primer and coloured lacquer, are crucial for orders both in Germany and beyond.

FANTASTIC-FILL and FANTASTIC-COLOR have passed flame-resistance tests according to IMO, DIN 4102 B1 and EN 13501 Class B-s1-d0 standards, and have been certified accordingly.

Our dynamic duo thus show all the hallmarks you would expect from our innovative products.

Arrange a demonstration from our sales staff and discover them for yourself. Of course, our technical support hotline will also be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mr W. Harnos
Phone: (+49) (0)2381-9063846
w.harnos@hesse-lignal.de
Set sail with Hesse natural wood effect

The natural, untreated look is right on trend at the moment – and not just for furniture surfaces. More and more consumers are coming to appreciate this special kind of wood surface.

The non-accentuating, dull matt wood is designed to match accentuating, solvent-based polyurethane lacquers in every way. It must show the same levels of chemical and mechanical resistance and be tough enough to cope easily with the demands of daily life, at the same time as having a dull matt finish.

Hesse natural wood effect has been performing this balancing act with ease for years. An almost imperceptible change in the wood can be achieved with just two or three coats of lacquer, both on light woods and on darker ones which have been stained light.

New Hesse PICEA pine stains are a perfect partner for Hesse natural wood effect, allowing you to create your own colours. They are guaranteed to impress on other types of wood too, thanks to their exceptional clarity and shine.

Once the lacquer process has been completed, Hesse Natural wood effect adapts elegantly to the structure of the original wood. This makes the surface look and feel natural, as well as making the surface incredibly durable.

As well as these hallmarks, Hesse natural wood effect has now also passed the EC-type Examination certificate (Module B) for paint to be used on ships, in accordance with the IMO Resolution.

So it’s full steam ahead for DE 42900-0003 / DA 400-1
For personal advice on natural wood effect and other possible combinations, please contact our technical hotline.

Mr W. Harnos
Phone: +49 2381 963846
w.harnos@hesse-lignal.de
How can I make sure the mix is just right?

Mixing ratios given by volume or by weight. Added thinner and other additives. Learning from daily practical experience or long, nerve-shredding calculations? Here is a brief description of the procedure for mixing Hesse 2-part lacquers.

Before the lacquer can be used, the two parts, the lacquer and the appropriate hardener, must be mixed together. This should be done in accordance with the mixing ratio given on the lacquer’s label or in the technical details.

But what does a mixing ratio (by volume) of 10 : 1 actually mean? For a mixing ratio of 10 : 1, you need one part hardener for 10 parts lacquer. As the mixing ratio here is given by volume, the component parts have to be measured according to volume too (i.e. in litres). Obviously, a suitable measuring container will come in useful. If you want to harden 5 litres of our HYDRO-PUR MATO water-based lacquer, you will need 0.5 litres of hardener.

But what if your Hesse product is very dense, and is sold in kilograms rather than litres? You can still use a suitable measuring container to measure out the correct volumes of lacquer and hardener. Alternatively, mixing ratios can also be stated gravimetrically, or in terms of weight. Accordingly, for 7kg of FANTASTIC-FILL lacquer with a mixing ratio (by weight) of 100: 7, you will need to weigh out and mix 0.49 kilograms of hardener. This equates to 7 parts hardener for every 100 parts lacquer.

Once the hardener has been added, the lacquer has to be stirred well. The hardener has to be stirred in especially thoroughly when using our 2K water-based lacquers, because the solvents in the hardener cause the 2K HYDRO lacquers to thicken. Only once you have done that can you adjust the viscosity of the final product. A range of thinners are available depending on the lacquer and how it is being used. For 2K HYDRO lacquers, which can be diluted with water, water or optimiser is used. For other products specialist thinners are used with various different characteristics. The maximum amount of thinner which can be added (state as a percentage) depends on the lacquer/hardener mixture used. This limit should be observed carefully, especially when using water-based lacquers. For example, adding 5% water to a HYDRO-PUR lacquer/hardener mixture of 5.5 litres would mean adding a maximum of 0.275 litres of water.

The quantity of Hesse aids and additives to be used, such as our ring-proofing additive, can be stated as a maximum percentage or in terms of a mixing ratio. What are these stated quantities of additives actually based on? As a rule, the amount of aids and additives which can be used is determined before the lacquer is hardened and is based on the pure, standard lacquer.

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Holztechnik Schmeing, based in Ahaus in western Germany, can easily take care of both requirements. Their flexible, production-focused and efficient process ensures they are always ready to respond. The company is equally flexible in its approach to treating surfaces. They can do everything from coating by hand to automated machine surface coating and UV-hardening. Nothing is impossible. And of course, they do all this while maintaining the highest standards of quality and professionalism at all times.

Do you need a one-off product made to your own specification? Or something for mass production, perhaps?

Of course, sustainability is an important consideration in all this too. Their solid wood comes from sustainably-managed forests and, in line with this philosophy, some surfaces in their range are finished using Hesse COLOR-SOLID-OIL GB 1125x(gloss level)-(colour tone). This high-quality natural oil contains just 1% solvent, and is made from 94% renewable raw materials.

It suits the production process in other ways too. Depending on the model being manufactured, a second coat is applied either by hand or using a roller. The oil is then worked briefly into the wood and any excess removed. Once the cobalt and butanone oxime-free oil is dry, it provides the open-pore and breathable surface with reliable, long-lasting protection. The surface is water-repellent, scratch-resistant and easy to clean and maintain. At the same time, the specific pigmentation of the oil used to colour the wood gives a unique colour effect, emphasising the exclusivity and quality of the finished furniture.

And it’s it’s all done using overwhelmingly natural raw materials. Customers can see and feel the difference, which helps to convince them that when they chose furniture from Holztechnik Schmeing, they made the right decision - including as far as sustainability is concerned.
For the fifth time, raumPROBE, based in Stuttgart’s Feuerbach district, has recognised outstanding innovation in the industry at its materialPREIS awards ceremony. The judge’s task was to identify the best of the best across seven different categories and from a total of 118 entries. Hesse was declared the winner of the Collection category.

For more than 13 years, raumPROBE has been acting as a service provider, agent and adviser for materials used in architecture, interiors and design. In their showroom, home to Europe’s largest materials database, designers can get their hands on 50,000 materials as they plan and research their latest ideas. The materialPREIS is awarded every year for outstanding materials. Winners include manufacturers, young designers, renowned architects and design offices.

The judging panel was made up of 6 specialists representing design, architecture, industry associations specialist institutes. Winners were chosen in the following categories: Design, Collection, Ecology, Innovation, Procedure, Study and Classic.

Hesse entered the competition in the ‘Collection’ category with its new pattern samples and CREATIVE METALLIC colour range. We submitted our new Metallic range. It includes 112 classic metallic colour tones, but incorporates some more unusual ones too. These colour tones are lacquered onto membranes. This has the advantage that the front of the membrane shows the original gloss of the lacquer, whereas the rear features the sheen of a high gloss or reverse glass coating. Hesse CREATIVE-METALLIC is formulated as a 2-component, polyurethane-based lacquer material, which is suitable for wood, glass and plastics depending on the type of hardener used. Most polyurethane-based finishing and brilliant lacquers can be used for the top coat. Hesse CREATIVE-METALLIC is also available as part of a mixing system. The full range of colour tones can be mixed using five base lacquers and ten pigments.

The award ceremony took place at the beginning of June in Stuttgart’s Haus der Wirtschaft. Hesse’s Development Department, the rest of the Product Management team and the Marketing Department all joined in the celebrations alongside Ralf Untiedt, the inventor and spiritual father of the range. The Hamm-based surface specialists are determined to enter new creative solutions in the various materialPREIS categories in years to come.
45 Years of British Yachting Expertise

Redwood Innovations had been supplying Oyster Yachts with glue for almost a decade when they approached Redwood for interior coatings for their yachts. As a supplier of Hesse Lignal fully tested and IMO certified lacquers both Redwood and Hesse Lignal were confident they had the right products to meet Oysters needs.

Richard Albon of Redwood Innovations said: “Redwood has always strived to improve the working environment and efficiencies of our customers so when Oyster approached us for coatings solutions for their yachts interiors we had no hesitation in supplying Hesse IMO certified coatings.”

Oyster Yachts was looking for coatings that met stringent marine regulations but in turn were aesthetically right for their clients. In particular they had an issue with the colour of their oak changing over time and wanted something that would keep this look.

Adrian Perrin said: “We were looking for a product that would primarily speed up the production process through our spray shop as well as meet the high standard of finish and level of protection we require inside our yachts. Redwood Innovations together with Hesse Lignal spent time with our team, in our spray booth and inside our yachts to really understand our requirements as well as the challenges of spraying the inside of a yacht.”

As well as recommending the right products for their range, Hesse was able to facilitate testing on varying substrates at their headquarters in Germany. Using their state of the art facilities, Hesse used climate chambers to assess the effect of UV on the varying substrates. This analysis provided them with their basis for recommending their DG 4717-0005 as a base coat ideal for closed-pore substrates with additional light fast properties.

The DE 4259x clear two component multicoat acrylic PU lacquer was successful in trials for the required top coat finish. As well as meeting the EC-type examination certificate for seagoing vessels according to IMO Resolution, the product proved a practical solution with its 3 day pot life. This high spec did not mean compromising on finish – the lacquer is resilient, achieves impressive results and is universally applicable. The safety aspect of the lacquer for Hesse Lignal does not stop with the fire testing. Their coatings are free of wood preservatives, toxic-heavy metals, phthalate plasticisers, formaldehyde, and volatile aromatic and halogenated organic compounds. Hesse Lignal “will not compromise on its customers’ health at any cost”.

From chemical content to optimum coat weights to onsite analysis of spray facilities including air flow and ambient temperature of the coatings; Hesse Lignal was on site with Redwood to support Oyster Yachts every step of the way. This premium level of technical back-up was reinforced by bespoke process sheets devised for Oyster by Ben Spinks of Hesse Lignal so that they could get the most out of their finishes. He said: “Oyster are a wonderful company to deal with and share our commitment to quality, forward thinking processing and environmental responsibility. We couldn’t be happier to partner with them and look forward to a long and fruitful relationship in the years to come.”
This year we have set up a new team, one which is a key part of our overall business innovation plan. Its main task is to assess and develop existing processes and to implement innovations in process.

This team, known as the Process Innovation Team (PIT), is dedicated to projects, continuous improvement and change management right across the company. Our aim is to professionalise project management within the company and make our processes transparent.

The projects the team is working on come from every area of our business, but with a particular focus on interfaces and cross-departmental processes. The Process Innovation Team will support continuous improvement within the organisation, thus making a major contribution to the success of the company.