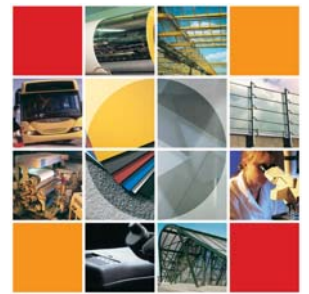


GRIPHEN™



Technical Manual

GRIPHEN™

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Technical Manual GRIPHEN™

All information herein described is valid for both GRIPHEN™ and GRIPHEN™ UV, unless stated otherwise.



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Last update : 06-09-2002

Chemical resistance

GRIPHEN™ shows a good resistance to a number of chemicals. The overall chemical resistance is however dependent upon the following parameters :

- temperature (resistance decreases with higher temperatures)
- stress level (best resistance is with flat sheet, clamped in a frame)
- chemical concentration (mostly in water, from some ppm to pure)
- exposure time (from fumes over drips to continuous contact)

Following™ information is meant as a guideline. As to the above influences, it is recommended to perform own testing according to the final application.

Do not hesitate to contact us in case of questions regarding the chemical compatibility of GRIPHEN™.

In case you want Arla Plast to perform compatibility testing, the product and its MSDS, together with indications on above parameters are required.

In general, GRIPHEN™ shows a good chemical resistance for various chemicals such as dilute solution of acids, salts and aliphatic hydrocarbons, but it is significantly affected by aromatic hydrocarbons and ketones.

All tests are performed on flat sheet, immersed in the reagent at room temperature.

Reagent

Acetic Acid	5%	+	a	1
Acetic Acid	10%	0	b	1
Acetic Acid	conc.	-	a	1
Acetone		-	a	1
Acetone		-	b	2
Ammonium Hydroxide	conc.	-	a	1
Ammonium Hydroxide	10%	-	ab	1
Antifreeze, Automotive				
Ethylene Glycol Type		+	a	1
Benzene		-	ab	1
Brake Fluid, DOT3		+	a	1
Brake Fluid, off		0	a	1
Carbon Tetrachloride		-	a	1
Chromic Acid	40%	+	a	1
Citric Acid	10%	+	ab	1
Cottonseed Oil		+	a	1
Deionized Water		+	a	1
Detergent, Alconox (0.25%)		+	a	1
Di(2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate		+	a	1
Dibutyl Sebacate		+	a	1
Diesel Fuel		0	a	1
Dimethyl Formamide		-	a	1
Ethanol	50%	+	b	2
Ethanol	50%	0	a	1
Ethanol	100%	+	ab	1
Ethyl Acetate		-	a	1
Ethylene Dichloride		-	a	1
Gasohol, 10% Ethanol		0	a	1
Gasohol, 10% Methanol		0	a	1
Gasoline, Base for Gasohol		0	a	1
Gasoline, Premium Unleaded		0	a	1

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Gasoline, Regular		+		a	1
Gasoline, Regular Unleaded		0		a	1
Gasoline, Regular Unleaded		-		b	1
Grease, Automotive		+		a	1
Hexane		+		a	1
Heptane		-		b	2
Hydrochloric Acid	conc.	-		a	1
Hydrochloric Acid	10%	0		b	1
Hydrogen Peroxide	3%	+		a	1
Hydrogen Peroxide	28%	+		a	1
Isooctane		+		a	1
Kerosene		+		a	1
Lacquer Thinner		-		a	1
Methyl Alcohol		-		a	1
Mineral Oil		+		a	1
Motor Oil		+		ab	1
Nitric Acid	conc.	-		a	1
Nitric Acid	10%	+		a	1
Nitric Acid	40%	0		a	1
Oleic Acid	83%	+		a	1
Olive Oil		+		ab	1
Phenol	5%	-		ab	1
Silicone Spray Lubricant		-		a	1
Soap Solution	1%	+		a	1
Sodium Carbonate	2%	+		a	1
Sodium Carbonate	20%	+		a	1
Sodium Chloride	10%	+		a	1
Sodium Hydroxide	1%	+		a	1
Sodium Hydroxide	10%	0		b	2
Sodium Hydroxide	10%	-		a	1
Sodium Hypochlorite	3.5%	+		a	1
Sulphuric Acid	conc.	-		a	1
Sulphuric Acid	3%	+		ab	1
Sulphuric Acid	30%	0		ab	1
Tapping Oil		+		a	1
Toluene		-		b	2
Toluene		-		a	1
Transformer Oil		+		a	1
Transmission Fluid		+		a	1
Turpentine		+		a	1
Water		+		b	2

Test condition :

- (1) Stress free, immersion, 23°C, 1 year
- (2) Stress free, immersion, 23°C, 30 days

Source

- (a) Eastman
- (b) SK chemicals

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Fabricating

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1 General

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General guidelines

GRIPHEN™ sheet can be worked with most tools used for machining wood or metal. Tool speeds should be such that the sheet does not melt from frictional heat. In general, the highest speed at which overheating of the tool or plastic does not occur will give the best results.

It is important to keep cutting tools sharp at all times. Hard, wear-resistant tools with greater cutting clearances than those used for cutting metal are suggested. High-speed or carbon-tipped tools are efficient for long runs and provide accuracy and uniformity of finish.

Since plastics are poor heat conductors, the heat generated by machining operations must be absorbed by the tool or carried away by coolant. A jet of air directed on the cutting edge aids in cooling the tool and in removing chips.

Plain water or soapy water is sometimes used for cooling unless the trim scrap is to be reused.

2 Sawing

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Circular saw

The table saw type is the most frequently used for sawing flat sheet. Sawing thinner gauges (below 2 mm) may display a cracked edge due to vibration of the sheet. This can mostly be solved by sawing stacks of ± 16 mm using a thicker sheet or strip (3 mm) beneath as a support. When sawing thin gauge sheet, decrease saw speed, feed rate and pitch. Keep the gap between blade and table as small as possible.

Ensure that the table is free of particles that may damage the masking and scratch the GRIPHEN™ sheet.

Band saw

Band saws are used to cut out formed parts, or irregular shapes. For a series of the same shape, a supporting calliper can be useful in preventing chipping.

Thicker gauges are best sawn with a bigger tooth size.

To achieve a smooth edge, circular saws and routers are preferable to a band saw.

	band saw	circular saw
clearance angle	20 - 40°	10 - 30°
rake angle	0 - 5°	5 - 15°
tooth angle	-	15 °
cutting speed (m/min.)	600 - 1700	1000 - 4000
tooth distance (mm) t (larger for thicker sheet)	1.5 - 3.5	2 – 10

Trouble shooting

Chipping : Increase blade tooth size and saw speed, decrease feed rate.

Gumming : decrease blade tooth size and saw speed, increase feed rate.

Cracks or notches : as for chipping, check clamping.

In all cases, inspect blade sharpness, check blade fence alignment and if needed use air to cool blade. Change of sound or vibration during sawing, is an indication that sharpness and alignment might have changed.

3 Routing

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Routing is especially recommended for trimming work pieces. Always use routers of at least 750 Watts, and a speed of 18 000 to 25 000 rpm is preferred. Bits should be straight fluted preferably two-fluted, carbide-tipped, or high-speed steel, with a diameter of 4 to 12 mm. Always feed counter rotation-wise up to 1.5 m/min, and cool with compressed air only.

Manufacturers of routers:

[Geiss Thermoforming](#), [Max Mayer](#) , [Pacer Systems Limited](#)

4 Shearing, punching & die cutting

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Shearing and Punching

Shearing will produce linear straight-edged cuts, while punching and blanking can produce a variety of shapes. These fabrication methods can be used on GRIPHEN™ sheet up to 2.5 mm. For thicker sheet routing is

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preferable to above mentioned techniques.

It is important to adjust the blade clearance in relationship to the bed knife. A clearance of approx. 0.025 mm is desirable to avoid a rough edge cut. Cracking and chipping can be reduced by heating the sheet to max 45°C; however, some allowance for hole shrinking due to cooling may be necessary.

Die Cutting

This is a technique frequently applied to paper. GRIPHEN™ can be die cut up to 2.5 mm, with steel rule dies (A ribbon of steel bent to any desired contour and mounted in or around a block of wood). Blades of 0.8-1 mm thickness work well. The steel rule must be sharpened or replaced fairly often.

Symmetric double bevelled blades (15 & 30°) are recommended. For thicknesses above 1.5 mm asymmetric blades should be used. To obtain straight edges, one side bevelled blades under 30° must be used.

Keep the back-up pad (made out of nylon or HDPE high density polyethylene) in good shape and ensure a perfect alignment of the die and the pad to obtain appropriate cuts.

Adequate power in the die press is needed to achieve the desired cut.

The die press tonnage can be calculated using following formula:

$$F(\text{Tons}) = S \times t \times P / 10\,000$$

S = Shear strength = 33 (MPa)

t = Gauge thickness in mm

P = Perimeter of cut in mm

Manufacturers of shearing, punching & die cutting machines:

[Sandt AG](#),

5 Drilling

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Drills designed for plastics are recommended, but standard twist drills for metal will do the job as long as they have not been used on metals before, though they require slower speeds and feed rates to produce a clean hole. For deep holes, in the edges of thicker gauge sheet for example, cool with compressed air and frequently back out the drill to free chips and prevent melting of them. Never use cutting oils. Like other transparent plastics, GRIPHEN™ is a notch-sensitive material and cutting threads develop stress points that can create stress crazing or cracking.

Always keep a distance from the edge, minimum 1.5 times the diameter of the hole.

Be sure drilled holes are smooth with no evidence of cracks or roughness, which can cause breakage when fastening.

Do not use countersunk screws with GRIPHEN sheet (see [mechanical](#))

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[fastening\)](#)

clearance angle	5 - 15°
rake angle	0 - 5°
top angle	110 - 130°
helix angle	30°
cutting speed	30 - 60 m/min.
feed	0.1 - 0.6 mm/rev

6 Tapping

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Be aware that tapping will create notches in the part, which might decrease local impact resistance and stress resistance.

Conventional 4-flute taps can be used for cutting internal threads in plastic sheet when a close fit is required. Such taps, however, have a tendency to generate considerable heat during the tapping operation. A high-speed, 2-flute tap will offer longer life and greater tapping speed than a conventional tap, and provide clearance for chip discharge. In order to obtain uniform thread, flutes should be ground so that both edges cut simultaneously. Cutting edges should be 85° from the centreline, giving a rake of minus 5° on the front face of the lands so that the tap will not bind in the hole when it is backed out. It is desirable to have some relief on the sides of threads.

7 Milling

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Standard high-speed milling cutters for metal achieve best results, provided they are sharp (not been used on metal before) when applied on
Typical parameters are 500 rpm and feed 0.25 mm/rev.

8 Laser cutting

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Lasers can be used to cut GRIPHEN™, giving clear edges up to 5 mm thickness. The result of the cut depends on the installation and its parameters. Preliminary cutting-tests are recommended. Laser power and travel speed must be optimised to minimise 'whitening' of the GRIPHEN™ sheet while cutting. Fumes coming off during cutting might smell unpleasant and therefore it is recommended to use appropriate exhaust systems.

Do not to induce stress into freshly laser cut sheet (e.g. cold brake forming), as breakage might occur. Therefore it is recommended to anneal the sheet (max 50 °C) or stock it for some time (min 1 week) prior to the brake forming
A 2 mm GRIPHEN™ sheet absorbs 45 % of the capacity of a CO2 laser.
Excimer-Lasers also perform very well with GRIPHEN™, but only a few types are available for industrial use.
Nd-YAG lasers are not effective because of the transparency of

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GRIPHEN™ for wavelengths in the visible range.

Forming

- **1 Cold forming**
 - Cold curving
 - Cold bending & brake forming
- **2 Thermoforming**
 - Hot line bending
 - Drape forming
 - Vacuum forming
- **3 Trouble shooting**

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1 Cold forming

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Cold curving

GRIPHEN™ can be cold curved with a minimum radius of 175 times the gauge thickness for outdoor applications, and 125 times the thickness for indoor applications. When smaller radii are needed thermoforming is the solution.

Cold bending & Brake forming

Brake forming can be done on standard sheet metal brakes, but preferably on table folding machines.

When brake forming GRIPHEN™ sheet over 2.5 mm, stress levels are too high and failure can occur. The maximum angle which can be formed depends on the sheet thickness, and is limited by the internal stresses due to the forming.

Manufacturers of cold bending & brake forming presses :

[R Clarke & Company Ltd](#), [Haubold Technik](#), [Jürgen Schönwloff](#), [Reichel GmbH](#),

2 Thermoforming

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There is no need to pre dry GRIPHEN™ sheet. Only very old thick sheet could have absorbed so much moisture as to make pre drying (at 60°C) desirable.

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GRIPHEN™ sheet can be thermoformed at low temperature (110-155°C). Sheet temperatures over 160°C may cause blistering and damage the sheet.

It is recommended to remove standard printed protection masking prior to thermoforming. The clear transparent masking is thermoformable and therefore it can be left on the sheet, however mould contact has to be avoided.

Take care while heating the sheet. Heating too fast will result in heat accumulating at the sheet surface and degrade it. Because of its low specific heat, GRIPHEN™ sheet requires only a little energy to be formed. The most appropriate heaters are infra red heaters. Contact heating and high-frequency heating are not suitable. Halogen heaters only are suitable for coloured sheet.

Hot line bending

The Hot Line Bending equipment is a simple IR- or electrical resistance heater, bending-calliper coated with fabric and a clamping device. To keep the finished part protected, the masking can stay on the sheet while heating. Perform a preliminary test to find out the correct heating time. If inner angles are smaller than 45° the masking should be removed on the inner side.

The heating time depends on the power of the IR heaters. With one side heating, it takes about 2 min to make a 3 mm sheet weak enough to bend. Thicker sheet need to be heated from both sides. If not available, turn periodically during the heating cycle. Always bend the sheet with the last heated side forming the outside radius.

When GRIPHEN™ softens, remove from heating source, bend, place into calliper and clamp.

Cool slowly to prevent distortion. Keep the part close to the heating device to make it cool down evenly. Once the part is at about 75 °C, it can be placed in a fixing device and cool down in the air.

Manufacturers of hot line bending machines:
[R Clarke & Company Ltd](#), [EFC](#), [Shannon BV](#)

Drape forming

Uni-axial bent parts can be achieved by drape forming. The mould can be made out of wood or aluminium covered with felt. Slight pressure (with soft gloves or cloth, e.g. linen) is sufficient to drape the GRIPHEN™ sheet over a positive mould.

Remove standard masking before putting into an IR oven to be heated. Preferably the sheet should be clamped in a frame, as placing it on a bed might mark the sheet. The sheet temperature should be about 130°C to achieve easy forming. Place sheet on the mould immediately after heating; therefore minimise distance between mould and oven. Cool in surrounding air, but take care for drafts which could cause distortion of, and stress in the finished parts.

Note that as the sheet is not framed during the process it will shrink during

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the heating process (for thin sheet up to 6% in extrusion direction)

Vacuum forming

Because of its perfect flow properties, GRIPHEN™ sheet, allows you to make the most complex finished parts. Draw ratios of 4:1 can be achieved. Standard available vacuum forming machines, preferably with a sandwich heating system, can be used to form GRIPHEN™ sheet. GRIPHEN™ requires a minimum vacuum of 500 mm Hg (0,66 atm or 0,066 MPa), but higher vacuum is preferred.

Moulds

Depending on series to be produced and the required finish of the parts, one can use different mould materials. Be aware that the mould material affects both cooling time and finish of the formed parts.

Design moulds with such roundings that the GRIPHEN™ can slip over. GRIPHEN™ sheet material shows every detail, so poor mould finish is seen too. Do not polish, but slightly sand mould surface, to prevent mark-off. For a good evacuation of air, it is important to make an optimum number holes in the right places. Inadequately placed holes might cause optical defects on the formed parts. This may occur especially on parts with large flat surfaces. A mould temperature of 50-55°C gives best results. To achieve a perfect optical finish, it is recommended to use temperature-controlled moulds.

Negative and positive mouldings

Negative moulds result in finished parts with a thin bottom and thick walls, whilst positive moulds result in parts with a thick bottom and thin walls. Depending on the application, either a positive or a negative mould should be built. For better external finish use negative moulds which show more detail.

Understand that GRIPHEN™ reproduces every detail, badly finished moulds included.

Heating

Remove standard protection masking prior to thermoforming, and blow off the sheet with ionised pressurised air.

When clamped on 2 sides only (e.g. in automatic feeders) be informed that the free side might shrink (see drape forming). Therefore 4 side clamping is preferred. If a heating profile is available, it is recommended to adjust it as such that when pre-blown, the sheet forms the same shape as the mould. That way the best thickness spread is obtained

GRIPHEN™ sheet requires only 155°C to form even the most complex structures.

One side heating is not recommended for sheets of 3 mm and above. To prevent surface degradation, avoid fast heating. The sheet can only absorb part of the IR radiation and accumulation of heat will damage the sheet and embrittle the formed part.

Cooling the formed part

Cool with compressed air, possibly with water mist (avoid droplets as they might cause marking). Let the part stiffen sufficiently and take it from the mould. Shrinkage of GRIPHEN™ is about 0.4%. Using positive moulds, shrinkage might cause removal problems. Take care to remove before the part shrinks on the mould. Do not cool too fast, because the generated stresses may result in cracking.

If necessary relaxation can be done at 65-75°C

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Manufacturers of vacuum forming machines:

[Adolf Illig Maschinenbau GmbH & Co KG](#), [Brown Machinery LLC](#), [Formech Ltd](#), [Jürgen Schönwolff](#), [Maschinenfabrik Georg Geiss](#), [Meaf Machines BV](#), [Meico srl – T.S.T.](#), [Kiefel GmbH](#), [Reichel GmbH](#), [Shelley Thermoformers International Ltd](#).

Free forming

These techniques are utilized in forming dome shapes. Free blown billow forming uses air pressure while free drawing uses a vacuum.

The sheet is heated until a sag is formed. An optical switch and/or a micro-switch are coupled with the pressure (vacuum). The initial pressure (vacuum) is high (2.8 MPa or more) and is lowered towards the end of the forming cycle. The pressure (vacuum) is held until the sheet temperature reaches 75°C and the forming is able to be removed. Here will be no mark-off as no moulds are used, but dirt or oil in compressed air may cause marks on the sheet.

Plug-assist vacuum forming

Corner or periphery thinning of box-shaped articles can be prevented by use of a plug-assist to mechanically stretch and pull additional plastic material into the female cavity. The plug should be 10 to 20 % smaller than the mould and should be heated to ca 110-130°C. Once the plug has forced the hot sheet into the mould cavity, air is drawn from the mould to form the part.

Other methods

Other thermoforming methods are combinations of above mentioned ones. Plug-assist vacuum forming and plug-assist pressure allow deep drawing and permit shorter cooling cycles and good wall thickness control. Both processes require close temperature control and are more complex than straight vacuum forming. High pressure forming (HPF) and Twin sheet forming (TSF) are two advanced methods which for small to average series can compete with injection moulding and blow moulding.

High Pressure Forming

Using a negative mould, the atmospheric air pressure that spreads the softened sheet over the mould, is increased by pressurised air up to 1 N/mm² (10 Kgf/cm²).

Twin Sheet Forming

Two heated sheets are brought between two negative moulds. Air pressure in between those sheet is applied while the circumference of the sheet is clamped. An alternative technique forms the upper and lower part separately, and both parts are brought together, the circumference is reheated to obtain fusion of both parts. This technique creates hollow shapes, to obtain light parts with high structural stiffness.

3 Trouble shooting

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Problem	Possible cause	Solution	Hot line bending	Drape forming	Vacuum forming	Free forming
Crazed or weak parts	sheet too hot	reduce heating			x	x
	mould too cold	increase mould temperature			x	
	part removed too late	shorten cooling cycle			x	
	vacuum rate too fast	restrict vacuum			x	
	sharp edges	round corners			x	
	sheet surface too small	use bigger sheet			x	
Webbing	uneven heating	check for hot spots or shade spots			x	
	mould spacing too small	min. spacing = 2 x depth			x	
	vacuum rate too fast	restrict vacuum			x	
	sheet surface too big	clamp-mould spacing < 50 mm			x	
Reduced or incomplete details	too small vacuum	check for leaks			x	
		add vacuum holes			x	
	sheet temperature too low	increase heating			x	
Part sticks on to mould	mould too hot	reduce mould temperature			x	
	part removed too late	remove earlier			x	
	draft angle too small	draft angle should be > 6°			x	
Mark-off	mould surface too smooth	Sand surfaces			x	
	sheet temperature too high	reduce heating time	x	x		
	edges: masking came off	cut sheet with unprinted masking up		x		
		vacuum holes at the wrong place	redesign vacuum holes			x
Surface defects	vacuum holes at the wrong place	redesign vacuum holes			x	
	dust on mould or sheet	clean with compressed air		x	x	
Unequal parts	mould/clamp too cold	increase pre-heating			x	
	uneven heating/cooling	check for drafts, check heater	x			
	part removed too late	remove part sooner			x	
Brittle parts	overheated parts	decrease heating power	x	x	x	x
Cracks or breakage	stresses too high	heat slower on wider area	x			
Bubbles in the sheet	too much heat	reduce heating	x		x	x
	moisture	pre-dry	x	x	x	x

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Bonding & Fastening

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1 Solvent bonding

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Use extreme caution when working with solvents: they may be toxic or contain carcinogens. Adequate ventilation is essential. Obtain Safety Data Sheets from the solvent manufacturer.

This technique has been used for years to make displays from acrylic sheet, but can also be used to construct three-dimensional shapes with GRIPHEN™ sheet.

To bond small pieces, one can use a hypodermic needle and making sure that the solvent flows throughout the area to be cemented.

Edge dipping is another method used to assemble two flat parts under a 90° angle. The edge of the sheet which is to be bonded, is dipped in the solvent until it becomes soft. Then it is put on the flat sheet under slight pressure.

The jointed articles can be safely placed on a table to dry after the solvent has been applied. Special care should be taken that no air bubbles are left after curing. Both methods depend on smooth edge preparation, pressure and curing.

applicable solvents	Boiling point
Methylene dichloride	40.5 °C
Acetone	56.5 °C
Chloroform	61.1 °C
Tetrahydrofuran (THF)	66 °C
Methyl ethyl ketone (MEK)	79.7 °C
Trichloroethylene	87 °C

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Cyclohexanone	155 °C
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When using solvents it is advisable that the work area be climate controlled with low humidity to minimise joint 'whitening'. If this is not possible, the addition of 10 % glacial (> 99.8%) acetic acid (boiling point 116.5 °C) to the solvent or use of a slower curing cement-type bond is suggested. Solvents with a low boiling point, may cause whitening or insufficient softening of the treated surface which results in improper joints.

To prevent early evaporation, use mixtures of the above mentioned solvents or dissolve GRIPHEN™ chips (e.g. saw dust) or granules in one of them to increase boiling point.

Mixture suggestions :

- 42% MEK, 42% Trichloroethylene and 16% Methylene dichloride
- 85% Methylene dichloride, 12% Trichloroethylene and 3% MEK

When using a solvent in which 8% of GRIPHEN™ chips have been dissolved, the curing time is longer, allowing you to adjust the position of the two parts to be bonded, and preventing them from whitening.

To obtain above mentioned solvents contact local chemist or drugstore, or check for specialty chemicals suppliers like www.brenntag.com

2 Adhesive bonding

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When working with adhesives, the usual safety and health precautions should be taken and eventual special instructions from the adhesive manufacturer should be observed.

A lot of commercial adhesives have proven their effectiveness for bonding GRIPHEN™ (to GRIPHEN™ or other materials). Adhesives on polyurethane or acrylic (toughened) basis give good results. Take into account that stresses in the sheet or parts in combination with solvents or adhesives may cause cracking. Cut and finish the surfaces to be bonded carefully. A good alternative is a 2 component polyurethane adhesive, which exists in a clear transparent grade or transparent UV curable. Fast curing cyanoacrylics often cause whitening.

Note that there is no universal glue. Applicable glue type depends on the application : substrates to be bonded, temperature, humidity, UV resistance, fixed load – shocks or vibrations, bonding speed, bonding surface, ..

Manufacturers of adhesives:

[Agomet Klebstoffe GmbH](#), [Bostik Findley B.V.](#), [Engineering Chemicals BV](#), [Kömmerling Chemische Fabrik KG](#), [Loctite Corporation](#), [Lord Corporation \(Europe\) Ltd.](#), [Meco GmbH](#), [National Starch & Chemical NV](#), [Bison International bv](#), [Permabond](#), [Rectavit NV](#), [Ruderer GmbH](#), [UHU GmbH](#), [Vantico](#)

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3 Recommended bonding designs

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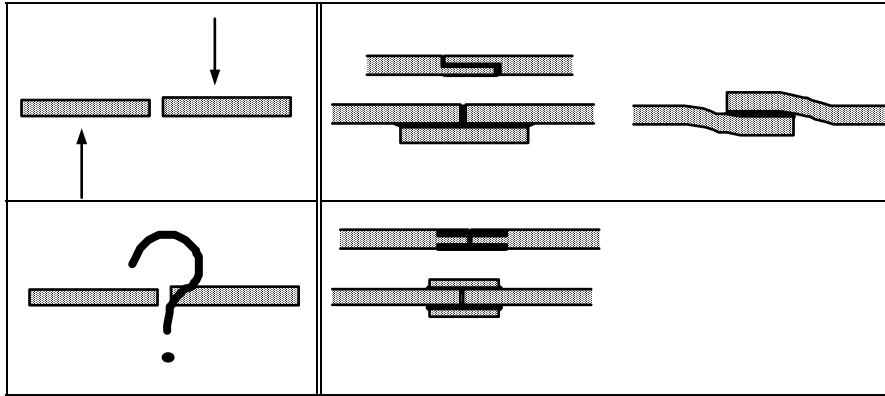
Angular connection

Direction of forces	Recommended construction

Flat connection

Direction of forces	Recommended construction

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T-shape connection

Direction of forces	Recommended construction

4 Tape bonding

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Double sided self adhesive tapes, transparent and mostly on an acrylic basis, can be used to make quick fastenings. These tapes are elastic and stick to different materials. They can be quite useful in bonding thin sheet materials to other plastics, glass or metals.

Use following procedure to make proper bondings:

- Bend along the part for more than tape width.
- Clean this zone with a 50% Isopropyl alcohol - water solution.
- Pressing with wooden roller evacuates trapped air and improves strength.

Manufacturers of bonding tapes:

[3M Company](#), [MACTac Europe S.A.](#), [Scapa Tapes](#)

5 Mechanical fastening

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Due to its high impact resistance, all types of mechanical fastening can be applied, depending on thickness of the GRIPHEN™ sheet
Up to 1.5 mm, it can be nailed, stapled or riveted. These kinds of fastening are not recommended for industrial applications.

The best way to fasten GRIPHEN™ is to use screws with a cylindrical head. Never use screws with chamfered heads. They cause stress cracking. Drill holes 0.5 mm larger than the screw. Screws of plastic can always be used. When using metal screws or bolts, use plastic washers (nylon). Metal thumbscrews can be used without washers.

Use galvanised types only.

Never use glue to tighten bolts.

No more than 2 extra twists after turning firm by hand.

Mechanical fastening will produce a stronger part than solvent bonded parts and allows for easier disassembly and cleaning.

6 Welding

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While mechanical fastening and solvent bonding are the most often recommended methods of joining GRIPHEN™, another alternative is welding.

Ultrasonic welding and spin welding have both proven to be appropriate. High frequency welding is not suited. Contact manufacturers of ultrasonic welding equipment for recommendations on section and joint design.

Manufacturers of ultrasonic welding equipment:

[Branson Ultrasonics Corp](#), [Pfaff AG](#),

Also possible is hot air welding, using a welding rod made of PETG or if not available locally, also a strip cut from a 3 or 4 mm GRIPHEN™ sheet will

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work well.

Manufacturers of hot air welding equipment:

[Pfaff AG](#)

Finishing

- **1 [Sanding](#)**
- **2 [Polishing](#)**
- **3 [Decorating](#)**

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1 Sanding

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The sheet edges can be sanded using both wet and dry systems. Dry sanding can result in gumming as frictional heat build-up is created. Wet sanding gives a smooth finish. In both cases, further finishing in order to restore the gloss will be necessary.

Example : start with 80-grit paper and end with 400 or 600-grit.

2 Polishing

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Polishing is a time consuming activity and should only be applied for smaller series and parts made out of thick gauge sheet. The edges can be polished by different techniques. Keep in mind the specific colour of GRIPHEN™ : a glass clear edge will rarely be achieved.

Mechanical polishing

After grinding, surfaces of GRIPHEN™ sheet can be polished in order to obtain a better surface finish. Burnish wheels of cloth or fleece and felt polishing bands, together with a suitable polishing wax, give good results. Keep surface temperature low, in order to a later appearance of fine cracks.

Suppliers of mechanical polishing tools :

[3M](#), [EFC \(US\)](#)

Diamond polishing

GRIPHEN™ sheet can be diamond polished resulting in an excellent surface quality that does not need further treatment. No pre-grinding step is required, as per step up to 0.5 mm can be removed.

Suppliers of Diamond polishing tools :

[Shannon B.V.](#), [EFC \(US\)](#)

Flame polishing

Use a standard propane - or butane torch or a hot nitrogen welder. It is very important to control the distance between the sheet and the heat source. Without proper control, surface whitening or material flow of the GRIPHEN™ might occur.

Instead of a torch, an electrical hot air device can be used. Typically 400-550 °C for 5 seconds moving at 100 mm can be used to remove scratches.

As with Acrylics, flame polishing GRIPHEN™ sheet can cause long-term edge cracking. However, with continued practice and by using proper techniques, excellent results can be achieved.

Solvent polishing

The appearance of saw-cut edges can be improved by first sanding them. For smoother, glossy edges, consider solvent polishing with MEK or methylene dichloride. To prevent humidity blush after drying, add a small amount of a slow-drying component such as diacetone alcohol.

Use extreme caution when working with solvents. Adequate ventilation is essential. Follow precautions Safety Data Sheets from the solvent manufacturer.

3 Decorating

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Flat sheets can be screen printed, tampon printed, hot stamped or decorated with self adhesive films. Vacuum formed parts can be tampon printed or hot stamped.

Other techniques are (spray) painting, laser marking, sand blasting.

Hot stamping

GRIPHEN™ sheet or formed parts made out of GRIPHEN™ are easily decorated by hot stamping. Decoration can be done on single pieces (vertical stamping or roll-on stamping) up to continuous pieces. Special types can be thermoformed.

Typical conditions are:

Die temperature: 190 °C

Pressure: 0.4 N/mm²

Dwell time: 2-3 seconds

Hot stamping foil / tools manufacturers:

[Leonhard Kurz GmbH & Co](#), [John T Marshall Ltd](#)

Screen printing

GRIPHEN™ sheet can be printed with conventional printing equipment. In general, printing inks which are compatible with thermoplastic oriented polyesters (PET) work well. Since the ink does not penetrate GRIPHEN™ as

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it does with paper or fabric, it is subject to abrasion. This problem can be minimised by reverse printing or by applying a clear top lacquer over the printing.

All standard GRIPHEN™ sheets have a static (glue free) polyethylene masking which is easy to remove. It is very important to ensure the sheet is clean and free from dust and dirt prior to screening. Use ionized air to remove dust.

Be careful not to exceed 65°C during the cure process.

In case of questions, please consult your ink supplier.

Following printing ink manufacturers have experience with our sheet:

[Apollo colours Ltd](#) ,[Coates Screen Inks GmbH](#), [Coates Screen inks Ltd](#),
[Diegel GmbH](#), [Marabuwerke GmbH & Co](#), [Pröll KG](#), [Ruco Druckfarben](#),
[Sericol International](#), [Unico NV](#),

Cleaning

GRIPHEN™ sheet may be cleaned by using a clean soft sponge and washing with lukewarm water containing a mild soap or a slightly acidic, neutral or slightly alkaline detergent. Then rinse thoroughly with clean water and dry with a chamois leather or a moist sponge. A subsequent anti-static treatment is recommended.

Fresh paint splashes, grease, smeared glazing compounds, etc. can be removed before drying by rubbing lightly with isopropyl alcohol on a soft cloth followed by a thorough wash and rinse as described above. Rust stains can be removed with a 10% oxalic acid solution.

Do not use abrasive or highly alkaline cleaners, acetone, benzene, leaded gasoline or carbon tetrachloride on GRIPHEN™ sheet. Never scrape with razor-blades or other sharp instruments.

Minor scratches can be removed or made less noticeable by polishing with hot air. (see [polishing](#))

Having good electrical insulating properties, GRIPHEN™ sheet is subject to electric static charge and dust attraction. Treatment with an anti-static agent keeps the sheet free from static charge and dust over prolonged periods.

There are some commercially available products which act simultaneously as cleaning agent and anti-static agent.

Before commencing certain operations on GRIPHEN™ sheet such as painting, screen printing or thermoforming, it is recommended that dust particles be blown off first, using an ionised air gun. Dusting with a regular air gun or a cloth only moves the particles rather than removing them.

Material Safety Data Sheet

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1. Chemical product and company identification

Product name: GRIPHEN™ and GRIPHEN™ UV
Product description: Copolyester, extruded sheet.

Manufacturer/Supplier: Arla Plast AB
Box 33
590 30 Borensberg
Tel. +46-141-20 38 00
Fax. +46-141-414 30
Email : info@arlaplast.se

2. Composition/information on ingredients

Copolyester. This product consists primarily of high molecular weight polymers which are not expected to be hazardous.

3. Hazards identification

Hazard warning not required.

4. First aid measures

Skin: Flush skin thoroughly with water. Seek medical attention if rash or burns occurs.

Eyes: Remove contact lenses. Flush well with copious quantities of water or normal saline for at least 15 minutes. Seek medical attention, if irritation persists.

Ingestion/inhalation: are not expected and therefore, no first aid procedures are required.

Specific case : Contact during thermoforming:

In case of skin contact with molten material, cool rapidly with water. Seek medical attention. Do not attempt to remove material from skin without medical assistance. Do not use solvent for removal. In case of irritation from inhalation of fumes, leave contaminated area and breathe fresh air. If coughing, difficult breathing or any other symptoms develop, seek medical attention, even if symptoms develop at a later time.

In case of skin contact with fume condensate, wash thoroughly with soap and water. If irritation develops, seek medical attention.

Burns should be taken care of as thermal burns; material will come off as healing occurs. Therefore immediate removal from skin is not necessary.

5. Fire fighting measures

Fire fighting: wear approved protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus.

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Extinguishing media: Water spray and foam. Water is the preferred extinguishing medium. CO₂ and dry chemicals are not generally recommended because of their lack of cooling capacity which may permit re-ignition.

Hazardous combustion products: carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and hydrocarbon fragments.

Condition of flammability: Requires a continuous flame source to ignite.

Explosion data impact sensitivity: Not applicable.

Static discharge: Not sensitive to static discharge.

6. Accidental release measures

General: Sweep up material and place in proper container for disposal or recovery.

7. Handling and storage

Handling: Ensure adequate ventilation or exhaust ventilation in the working area in case of fabricating. Dust must be removed by effective exhaust ventilation. Wear suitable gloves.

Storage: Inert material under normal storing conditions. No special precautions required.

8. Exposure controls/ Personal protection

Engineering controls: When heated up to high temperatures, virtually all thermoplastics emit fumes. The exact composition and concentration of these fumes depend on the resin formulation, heating temperature and heating time. Provide for good ventilation and local exhaust.

Personal protection:

Eye/face: Wear safety glasses with side shields or chemical goggles.

Skin: Avoid prolonged or repeated contact with skin. When thermoforming the product, wear long pants, long sleeves, well insulated gloves and face shield when applicable. Gloves should be worn when handling hot material.

Respiratory: Good industrial hygiene practice requires adequate general ventilation of the workplace. When dust and powder either from handling or from secondary operations, such as grinding, sanding or sawing are not adequately controlled, use respirator approved for protection from dust. When processing fumes are not adequately controlled, use respirator approved for protection from organic vapours and acid gases.

9. Physical and chemical properties

Physical state:	Solid.(sheet form)
Colour:	Colourless or colour dependent on colouring
Odour:	slight.
Boiling point:	Not applicable.

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Density: approx.	1,27 g/cm ³ at 20°C.
Evaporation rate:	not applicable.
Explosive limits:	Not applicable
Flash point:	FIT > 450°C.(combustible solid)
Self Ignition temperature:	SIT > 450°C.
Melting range:	220-230°C.
pH:	Not applicable.
Vapour density (air=1):	Not applicable.
Vapour pressure (mmHg):	Negligible.
% Volatiles:	Negligible.
Water solubility:	Insoluble.

10. Stability and reactivity

Stability:	Stable.
Reactivity:	Inert.
Conditions to avoid:	Do not exceed melting temperature.
Hazardous reactions:	No hazardous reactions observed.

11. Toxicological information

Oral	LD50 (rat) > 3200 mg/kg.
Inhalation :	LC50 not available.
Dermal :	LD50 (guinea pig) > 1000 mg/kg.

12. Ecological information

General: Not expected to present any significant ecological problems : no aquatic, germination or seeding effect.

Water pollution class (WGK) : 0 -not generally hazardous to water.

WGK = Classification in accordance with the German Water Resources Act.

13. Disposal information

Waste disposal: This product is not regarded as hazardous waste. Dispose in accordance with local regulations. May be incinerated under controlled conditions.

14. Transportation information

General: This product is not subject to transport regulations.

15. Regulatory information

No labelling is required in accordance with the EEC directives.

In connection with dusts formed in consequence of mechanical treatment

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e.g. grinding, the appropriate regulations/limits values for fine dusts must be observed.

MAK -values (fine dust): 6 mg/m³.
OES – value : not established

16. Other

This publication provides information and guidelines for safe handling and secondary fabrication of GRIPHEN™ and Griphen™ UV and is based on currently available experience and knowledge.

The data does not signify any warranty with regard to the product's properties.

GRIPHEN™ and GRIPHEN™ UV are trade marks of Arla Plast AB.

Material Properties

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Property	Unit	Value	Standard
Physical Properties			
Density	g/cm ³	1.27	ISO 1183
Light transmission (Light source D65, thickness 1 mm)	%	88	ASTM D1003
Refractive index		1.57	ISO 489
Moisture absorption 24 hours, 23°C, immersion	%	0.2	ISO 62
Mechanical Properties			
Tensile strength at yield	N/mm ²	53	ISO 527
Elongation at yield (at break)	%	40	ISO 527
Modulus of elasticity	N/mm ²	2200	ISO 527
Charpy un notched impact strength +23°C	kJ/m ²	no break	ISO 179/2D
Izod notched impact strength +23°C	kJ/m ²	11,5	ISO 180/1A
Izod notched impact strength -30°C	kJ/m ²	4,4	ISO 180/1A
Rockwell hardness		R115	ISO 2039-2
Thermal Properties			
Linear coefficient of thermal expansion (23-40°C)	10 ⁻⁶ x K ⁻¹	51	ASTM D696
Heat deflection temperature, HDT A (1,80 N/mm ²) HDT B(0,45 N/mm ²)	°C	68 72	ISO 75
Thermal conductivity λ	W/m K	0,19	DIN 52612
Fire Properties			
Fire classification according to UL94	Class	HB	UL 94
National fire standards			See below(°)
Oxygen Index	%	25	ASTMD2863-77
Electrical Properties			
Volume resistivity, dry	Ω x cm	10 ¹⁵	IEC 93
Surface resistivity, dry	Ω	10 ¹⁶	IEC 93
Dielectric strength, dry (1 mm)	kV/mm	30	IEC 243
Dielectric constant, dry 1MHz		2,4	IEC 250
Dissipation factor (tan δ), dry 1 MHz		0,02	IEC 250

(°) A list of products that have been tested to national fire standards and their respective classification is presented at www.arlaplast.se. For latest information contact our technical support.

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Usefull Adresses

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