

SPECTRUM

An array of **formulating options** with Synthomer tackifier resins



The spectrum of Synthomer tackifier resins

Brands	Product class	Description
Regalrez™	Hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins	Water-white, fully and partially hydrogenated products
Regalite™ Plastolyn™	Hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins	Water-white, fully and partially hydrogenated products
Regaltac™	Hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins	Hydrogenated resins with a range of colors
Endex™ Kristalex™ Piccolastic™ Piccotex™ Plastolyn™	Aromatic pure monomer resins	Water-white aromatic pure monomer resins
Piccotac™	Aliphatic and aromatic-modified aliphatic resins	Light-yellow non-hydrogenated aliphatic resins with a range of aromatic modification
Picco™	Aromatic resins	Dark aromatic resins
Foral™-E Foralyn™ Staybelite™-E Pentalyn™-E	Hydrogenated rosin resins	Highly stabilized rosin and rosin ester resins with different degrees of hydrogenation
Poly-Pale™ Dymerex™	Modified rosin	Pale non-crystalline, polymerized and dimerized acidic resins with higher softening points and better stability than non-modified rosin
Abalyn™	Liquid rosin resins	Amber-colored, viscous liquid methyl ester of rosin
Abitol™	Liquid rosin resins	Light-colored balsamic, primary, monohydric alcohol derived from hydrogenated rosin acids

Matching polymers with tackifier resins

If the polymer being used is:	Then select from:	Page:
Polyethylene, polypropylene, EPDM, SEBS, SIS, butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, amorphous polyolefin, m-PE, m-PP, olefin block copolymers, EVA (18% vinyl acetate)	• Regalrez™ hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins	09
	• Regalite™ hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins	10
	• Plastolyn™ hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins (1000 types only)	10
	• Regaltac™ hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins	11
	• Foral™-E hydrogenated rosin resins	19
Natural rubber, SIS, SEBS, SBS, butyl rubber, polyisoprene, petroleum wax	• Regalite™ hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins	10
	• Regaltac™ hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins	11
	• Piccotac™ aliphatic hydrocarbon resins (1000, 9000, 8000 types)	16
	• Rosin resins	19
SBR, SBS, PUR, NBR, ABS, polybutadiene, EVA (<30% vinyl acetate)	• Piccotac™ aliphatic hydrocarbon resins (8000, 7000, 6000 types)	16
	• Endex™, Kristalex™, Piccolastic™, Piccotex™, and Plastolyn™ water-white aromatic resins	13
	• Picco™ aromatic hydrocarbon resins	18
	• Rosin resins	19
EVA (>30% vinyl acetate), acrylic, polychloroprene, nitrile, alkyd paint base	• Regalrez™ hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins (3000, 6000 types only)	09
	• Regalite™ hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins (7000, 5000 types only)	10
	• Endex™, Kristalex™, Piccolastic™, Piccotex™, and Plastolyn™ water-white aromatic resins	13
	• Picco™ aromatic hydrocarbon resins	18
	• Rosin resins	19
Polystyrene, ABS, PVC, NBR, PUR, epoxies, styrenic block copolymers	• Endex™, Kristalex™, Piccolastic™, Piccotex™, and Plastolyn™ water-white aromatic resins	13
	• Picco™ aromatic hydrocarbon resins	18
	• Rosin resins	19

Tackifier resins are low-molecular-weight materials, ranging from viscous liquids at room temperature to hard, brittle solids with softening points as high as 165°C.

The color of tackifier resins varies from water-white (less than Gardner Color 1) to very dark brown (greater than Gardner Color 12). Tackifier resins are rarely used alone; most applications involve combinations with other materials ranging from waxes to high-molecular-weight rubber and plastic polymers. The tackifiers are used to modulate physical properties of the formulation during processing and end use, providing properties like reduction in processing temperature, improved adhesion, tackiness, damping, and improved mechanical strength to the compound.

Tackifier resins can be derived from two distinctly different raw material sources.

Hydrocarbon resins are low Mw polymers synthesized from various hydrocarbon monomers derived from petrochemical feed streams.

Rosin resins are derivatives of natural rosin acids obtained from pine trees.

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What are hydrocarbon resins?

There are four main divisions used to classify hydrocarbon resins:

Aliphatic resins

These are made from linear or cyclic hydrocarbon monomers ranging from 5 to 10 carbon chains with at least 1 double bond per monomer unit capable of sustaining a polymerization reaction. Because the predominant monomers used for aliphatic resins have 5 carbons, these materials are frequently called C5 resins.

Aromatic resins

These are made from feedstocks containing a 6-carbon aromatic ring structure and a side chain with a minimum of 2 carbons with at least 1 double bond capable of sustaining a polymerization reaction. The predominant monomers used for aromatic resins have 9 carbons; they are frequently called C9 resins.

Mixed or C5/C9 resins

It is possible to copolymerize aliphatic and aromatic monomers to produce a material with both aliphatic and aromatic characteristics. These may also be called aliphatic/aromatic or aromatic/aliphatic resins, depending on which type of majority monomer in the recipe.

Hydrogenated resins

These are resins derived from polymerizing either aliphatic or aromatic monomers followed by a hydrogenation process. Hydrogenation lowers the color of the polymer as well as improves its heat, oxidation, and UV radiation degradation resistance. It is also possible to partially hydrogenate a resin to achieve a low-color product with a controlled proportion of aromatic and aliphatic structures.

What are rosin resins?

Rosin resins are generally based on rosin acids or esters thereof. Rosin acids can be obtained by tapping from living pine trees (gum rosin), by extraction of tree stumps (wood rosin), or as a by-product from the Kraft papermaking process (tall oil rosin). Synthomer uses gum rosin as raw materials for our rosin resins.

Depending on the alcohol used for esterification, the physical properties of the rosin esters vary from a viscous liquid at room temperature to brittle solids with softening points of above 150°C. The most common rosin derivatives are glycerol esters and pentaerythritol esters.

Premium rosin esters are based on modified rosin acids. Synthomer uses hydrogenation to provide exceptional stability in its Foral-E, Foralyn, Staybelite-E, and Pentalyn-E products.

Rosin resins are amphiphilic in that they have polar and nonpolar parts in the molecule, which when combined with their low molecular weights makes them compatible with an exceptionally broad range of polymers.

Applications for tackifier resins

Adhesives

The primary application for tackifier resins is the formulation of adhesives. Tackifier resins are low-molecular-weight modifiers which improve flow, wetting, and adhesion when combined with adhesive polymers. Unlike oils and plasticizers, tackifier resins increase the T_g of the formulation into the desired temperature region required for effective bond formation, as well as reduce its hardness and improve flow.

Thermoplastic polymer modification

Resins can be used in combination with specific polymers to impart properties not achievable with the polymer alone. The specific function of the resin depends on the nature of the thermoplastic being modified. For example, in styrenic block copolymers, a highly aromatic resin can increase hardness and tensile strength while an aliphatic or hydrogenated resin can soften, plasticize, or tackify the polymer. In polypropylene, aliphatic and hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins can reduce moisture transmission rates, decrease heat-shrink onset temperatures, increase the shrink percentage, and impart dead-fold properties to polypropylene film. In non-adhesive applications such as road marking and carpet backing, resins provide flow and wetting and enable high-filler loadings.

Wax modification

The use of resins in wax compounds can improve adhesion, increase the coefficient of friction, enhance gloss, inhibit shrinkage on solidification, and improve the heat resistance of waxes. Hydrocarbon resins are critical in the formulation of wax-based compounds for paper coatings, food containers, investment casting compounds, depilatory compounds, and friction-control coatings for sporting equipment.

Stand-alone applications

While most applications for resins require mixing with other materials, there are a few specialized applications in which they are used either by themselves or as the main polymer in a compound. These applications include dry sizing, breakaway objects for film and stage props, and preservation clear-coat varnishes for artwork. These applications take advantage of the unusual physical characteristics of hydrocarbon resins, such as low solution viscosity, relatively low softening point and molten viscosity, brittleness, transparency, and inertness.

Selection of tackifier resins

Synthomer manufactures a wide variety of tackifier resins. Selecting the right one for a given application requires balancing compatibility with other system components and properties such as color, functionality, stability, regulatory compliance, and cost. This requires a deep understanding of formulation; but there are a few critical characteristics that can assist in resin selection, such as:

Compatibility

There are two characteristics of resins which largely determine their compatibility with other polymers.

- The aliphatic/aromatic balance of hydrocarbon resins and the amphiphilic nature of rosin derivatives affect the miscibility of the resin with the other components of a formulation.
- Molecular weight determines the size of the resin molecules, which determines the ability of a resin to fit within the free volume of a higher-molecular-weight polymer.

Glass transition temperature (T_g)

The temperature at which a resin changes its state from a rigid, brittle, glasslike polymer to a viscous fluid, the T_g, is a critical property for resin selection. T_g defines performance properties; tack, cohesion, low-temperature flexibility, softening point, compression set, application temperature, melt viscosity, and more all relate back to the T_g of the components of the compound.

Color

The color of a tackifier resin can be an important factor for the aesthetics of a formulation. Lighter color also indicates the degree of thermal stability of a tackifier resin. Lighter color resins are typically more highly processed to impart improved stability.

The tables on the following pages include much of the information needed to make informed selections of resins for a particular application. Product properties of interest include:

- **Ring and ball softening point and glass transition temperature**—useful in determining the mechanical and thermal properties of a resin, as well as the optimum loading of hydrocarbon resins in polymer mixtures
 - **Color measured on Gardner, yellowness index, or HunterLab b scale**—relating to the suitability of a resin for a particular application, as well as the thermal stability of the resin
 - **Cloud points**—indicating the aliphatic/aromatic content, polarity, and molecular weight of a resin, which influence the compatibility of a hydrocarbon resin with various polymers
 - **Molecular weight distributions**—influencing the compatibility and mechanical properties of a polymer/resin compound
-

Understanding physical properties of resins

Resin color measurements

The method and conditions used to determine color are noted in the data tables for resin properties, and include:

- **Yellowness index (YI)** is an instrumental spectrophotometric analysis used for materials with colors too pale or differences too small to be detected visually.
- **Gardner color** is based on visual comparisons of a sample against standards. While visual standards can be used, Synthomer uses spectrophotometry to eliminate subjectivity.
- **HunterLab b scale** is a spectrophotometric method which measures coordinates in a three-dimensional color space with the axes defined as: *L* = **black-white**, *a* = **red-green**, and *b* = **yellow-blue**. For hydrocarbon resins only, the measurement on the b scale is used.
- **Test conditions**—There are two common sample conditions for color measurements:
 - Neat: the sample is introduced directly to a measurement cell in liquid or molten form.
 - 50% solids in toluene: the sample is dissolved in toluene prior to testing; measurements made in solution will always report lower values than the same sample tested neat.

Softening point measurement

Synthomer has adopted the ring and ball method described in ASTM Method E28 for reporting softening points. Using automated equipment to run a softening point test is critical in producing meaningful and reproducible results.

Glass transition temperature (T_g)

The glass transition temperature is a critical property in the formulation of adhesives and is measured with DSC (ASTM method).

Compatibility

Compatibility of polymers is difficult to measure and may mean different things in various contexts. We use cloud points to understand the solubility characteristics of our resins, which consequently indicate compatibility with different polymer systems.

Cloud points are measurements of the solubility of a polymer in systems of solvents chosen to indicate differences in the characteristics of polymers. Cloud points are determined by dissolving a small sample in hot solvents and allowing the solution to cool to observe the temperature at which the sample precipitates. There are four solvent systems for which a significant number of determinations have been made:

- **Mixed methylcyclohexane-aniline (MMA cloud point or MMAP)** uses a 1:2 mixture of methylcyclohexane and aniline to indicate the aromatic content of a polymer. As the MMAP temperature decreases the level of aromaticity in the polymer increases.

- **Diacetone alcohol (DA cloud point or DACP)** uses a 1:1 mixture of xylene and diacetone alcohol to indicate the polarity of a polymer. Polarity increases as DACP decreases. Due to the presence of xylene in the solvent system, highly aromatic polymers will not exhibit a DACP to the limit of the test at -40°C .
- **Odorless mineral spirits (OMS cloud point or OMSCP)**, otherwise known as Stoddard solvent, indicate the relative molecular weight in a series of aromatic resins with similar composition. OMS cloud point increases as the molecular weight of a resin increases up to the boiling point of the solvent, 180°C . This test is not applicable to highly aliphatic resins due to the complete solubility of these resins in OMS

The molecular weight of polymers cannot be represented by a single value. All polymers are mixtures of chains with variable lengths; therefore, the molecular weight of a polymer is expressed as a distribution described by four parameters:

- **Mn** (number average) is the average molecular weight of the polymer and emphasizes the low-molecular-weight fractions of the polymer.
- **Mw** (weight average) is the calculation of the peak regions of the distribution, so it is the number that best represents the overall molecular weight of the polymer. Most hydrocarbon resins have Mw values between 1,000 and 5,000 Daltons.
- **Mz** is the weight of the heaviest chains detected in the polymer. In general, polymers with a higher Mz are less compatible with other polymers.
- **Pd (Mw/Mn)** is the polydispersity of the polymer. The higher the Pd, the broader is the molecular weight distribution. Polymers with a low Pd are more compatible with other polymers. Most hydrocarbon resins have Pd numbers between 1.5 and 2.5.

Synthomer hydrocarbon resins

Regalrez™ hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins

Typical properties	Regalrez 1018	Regalrez 1094	Regalrez 1126	Regalrez 6108	Regalrez 3102
Ring and ball softening point, °C	17	95	124	108	103
Color, yellowness index ^a	5	3	3	3	3
Tg, °C (midpoint)	-23	40	69	55	52
MMA cloud point, °C	64	87	92	54	24
DA cloud point, °C	20	59	70	25	-29
Molecular weight					
Mz	650	1,490	2,130	2,390	2,220
Mw	400	928	1,300	1,350	1,380
Mn	310	550	800	780	780
Pd (Mw/Mn)	1.3	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.8

^a50% solids in toluene

Characteristics

These products are manufactured by hydrogenation of aromatic resins. Their specific gravity is between 0.95 and 1.05 measured at 25°C (77°F).

No antioxidants or UV stabilizers are added to these products, as they demonstrate exceptional thermal and UV stability.

Nomenclature

The first digit of the grade number identifies the level of hydrogenation. Grade numbers beginning with 1 are fully hydrogenated. Grade numbers with first digits from 3 to 6 are partially hydrogenated; and the grade number indicates the relative degree of hydrogenation in the product. The other 3 digits of the grade number indicate the ring and ball softening point of the product.

Applications

Fully-hydrogenated Regalrez resins are most compatible with low-polarity polymers such as polyolefins, including m-PE and OBC, SEBS and SEPS block copolymers (midblock modification only), petroleum waxes, and hydrocarbon oils. Partially-hydrogenated grades are compatible with more polar polymers such as EVA (28-40% vinyl acetate), acrylic, SBR, and ABS.

Fully-hydrogenated grades are most commonly used as tackifiers for SEBS and SEPS block copolymers for adhesive and sealant applications. Regalrez tackifiers are used where the lowest color and most environmental resistance are required. For plastic modification, Regalrez resins are used for producing soft and flexible thermoplastic elastomer compounds with high coefficients of friction. The partially-hydrogenated grades are also suitable as tackifiers for acrylic polymers.

Regional availability

Regalrez resins are made in the United States and are available globally.

Regalite™ and Plastolyn™ hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins

	Fully hydrogenated						Partially hydrogenated							UltraPure™		
Typical properties	Regalite R1010	Regalite R1090	Regalite R1100	Regalite S1100	Regalite R1125	Plastolyn R1140	Regalite C8010	Regalite R7100	Regalite S7125	Regalite S5090	Regalite S5100	Regalite C6100	Regalite C6100L	Regalite UltraPure 1100	Regalite UltraPure 5100	Regalite UltraPure 7100
Ring and ball softening point, °C	Liquid	87	100	97	124	139	Liquid	102	123	92	100	100	100	100	100	102
Color, Hunterlab ^b	-	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.8	<10 YI	3	1.3	3	4	4.5 YI	6-13 YI	0.3	0.2	1.5
Tg, °C (midpoint)	-	36	50	48	74	84	—	51	73	43	49	49	—	50	50	49
MMA cloud point, °C	82	76	80	80	87	93	—	65	76	57	59	60	—	80	60	66
Molecular Weight (g/mol)																
Mz	—	920	1160	1140	1750	2450	—	1250	2090	1120	1260	1880	—	1200	1500	1400
Mw	—	700	830	820	1140	1500	—	880	1280	730	870	1010	—	830	900	900
Mn	—	540	600	600	760	900	—	630	800	550	610	610	—	600	600	600
Pd (Mw/Mn)	—	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.7	—	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.7	—	1.4	1.5	1.5

YI: ASTM E 313, 2-cm path length, 50% solids in toluene

^bHunterLab color b-scale product specification, 50% solids in toluene, 5-cm path length

Characteristics

These products are manufactured by selective hydrogenation of aromatic resins. Their specific gravity is between 0.99 and 1.03 measured at 25°C (77°F).

The first digit of the grade number identifies the level of hydrogenation; 1 as the first digit indicates full hydrogenation. Grade numbers with first digits from 5 to 7 indicate the relative degree of partial hydrogenation. Regalite R grades are stabilized with an antioxidant; S grades have no antioxidant added.

Applications

Regalite resins are used when low color and excellent thermal stability are needed. Due to the selective hydrogenation technology used to produce Regalite resins, they are compatible with a wide range of polymers; however, the level of hydrogenation must be considered in selecting the correct product for a specific application. Fully-hydrogenated Regalite resins are compatible with polymers such as polyolefins including m-PE, m-PP, APAO and OBC, as well as SEBS and SEPS block copolymers (midblock modification only), petroleum waxes, and hydrocarbon oils. Partially-hydrogenated Regalite grades are compatible with more polar polymers such as EVA, acrylic, SBR, and SIS and SBS block copolymers. Typical uses include adhesives, sealants, and coatings.

The most important application for Plastolyn R1140 is in the production of BOPP films for packaging.

Regional availability

Regalite R and S types and Plastolyn R1140 are available globally. Regalite C-type hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins are available only in the Asia Pacific region.

Synthomer hydrocarbon resins

Regaltac™ hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins (H-series)

Typical properties	Regaltac H-100E	Regaltac H-100R	Regaltac H-100L	Regaltac H-100W	Regaltac H-115E	Regaltac H-115R	Regaltac H-115L	Regaltac H-115W	Regaltac H-130E	Regaltac H-130R	Regaltac H-130L	Regaltac H-130W	Regaltac H-142R	Regaltac H-142W
Ring and ball softening point, °C	101	101	100	100	115	116	115	115	131	129	130	130	142	142
Color, yellowness index	5 ^a	13 ^b	18 ^c	8 ^c	5 ^a	14 ^b	18 ^c	8 ^c	4 ^a	14 ^b	18 ^c	8 ^c	14 ^b	8 ^c
Tg, °C (midpoint)	51	49	47	47	60	62	59	59	77	76	74	74	89	88
MMA cloud point, °C	72	75	81	82	71	76	81	82	71	76	81	82	79	82
DA cloud point, °C	59	61	74	82	60	66	72	82	63	68	74	82	71	82
Molecular weight														
Mz	1,830	1,500	1,510	1,490	1,840	1,840	1,850	1,710	1,730	1,550	1,600	1,530	1,800	1,730
Mw	900	780	780	780	930	920	940	890	900	840	860	840	980	950
Mn	450	410	410	410	470	470	480	480	490	480	490	480	570	550
Pd (Mw/Mn)	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7

^aGardner color

^b50% solids in toluene, 1-cm path length

^c50% solids in toluene, 2-cm path length

Characteristics

These products are produced from mixed hydrocarbon feedstocks followed by hydrogenation. They are characterized by low color, low odor, good heat stability, and excellent compatibility with olefinic polymers. Regaltac resins are produced in four ranges of color (Economical, Regular, Light, and Water-white) and softening point. Their specific gravity is 1.05 measured at 25°C (77°F). For protection against degradation during storage, all Regaltac resins have 0.1%–0.5% antioxidant added.

Applications

Regaltac H-series resins are suitable for a variety of adhesive and sealant applications where low color and excellent stability are required. They are compatible with m-PE, m-PP, and OBC, SIS, SEBS, and SEPS block copolymers (midblock modification only), butyl rubber, EPDM, natural rubber, amorphous polyolefins, petroleum waxes, and hydrocarbon oils. The low color and high stability of Regaltac R-, L-, and W-type resins make them especially useful for rubber and plastic modification and in formulation of hot-melt adhesives for production of nonwoven laminates and packaging. Regaltac E-type resins are useful in applications where color and stability are not as critical.

Regional availability

Regaltac H-series resins are produced in the United States and are available throughout North and South America, Europe, Middle East, and Africa. Availability in Asia will depend on whether or not there is a regionally produced equivalent material available.

Regaltac™ hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins (C-series)

Typical properties	Regaltac C-100R	Regaltac C-100L	Regaltac C-100W	Regaltac C-100XF	Regaltac C-115R	Regaltac C-115L	Regaltac C-115W
Ring and ball softening point, °C	100	100	100	100	115	115	115
Color, yellowness index	11 ^a	9 ^b	4 ^b	4	11 ^a	9 ^b	4 ^b
Tg, °C (midpoint)	47	47	47	—	59	59	59
MMA cloud point, °C	78	81	82	83	77	81	82
DA cloud point, °C	70	74	82	64	70	74	-82
Molecular weight							
Mz	2,200	2,200	2,000	1,900	2,200	2,200	2,000
Mw	980	980	930	1000	980	980	930
Mn	500	490	500	550	500	490	500

^a50% solids in toluene, 1-cm path length

^b50% solids in toluene, 5-cm path length

Characteristics

These products are produced in China from mixed hydrocarbon resins followed by hydrogenation. They are characterized by low color, low odor, good heat stability, and compatibility with a wide range of polymers. Regaltac C100XF is a premium grade with excellent thermal stability and low VOC content.

Applications

Regaltac C-series resins are used in the same applications as the H-grades described previously.

Regional availability

The Regaltac C-series hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins are produced in China and are available throughout the Asia Pacific region.

Synthomer hydrocarbon resins

Specialty water-white aromatic pure monomer resins

Typical properties	Endex 155	Endex 160	Piccolastic A5	Piccolastic A75	Piccolastic D125	Piccotex 75	Piccotex LC	Piccotex 100	Piccotex 120	Plastolyn 240	Plastolyn 290
Ring and ball softening point, °C	153	158	5	73	127	75	92	98	119	120	140
Color, yellowness index ^a	5	4	3 ^b	7	4	8	8	6	6	5	5
Tg, °C (midpoint)	105	110	-22	36	64	36	46	50	70	72	90
MMA cloud point, °C	15	16	-6	5	13	-1	3	7	11	9	8
OMS cloud point, °C	117	152	-29	63	>180	-15	-9	26	52	>180	>180
Molecular weight											
Mz	12,900	22,500	560	2,200	238,000	1,800	2,200	4,100	7,200	7,600	10,900
Mw	6,900	9,200	360	1,360	41,800	1,100	1,400	2,400	4,100	4,060	5,000
Mn	2,500	2,900	280	760	1,450	650	860	1,200	1,800	1,550	1,600
Pd (Mw/Mn)	2.8	3.2	1.3	1.8	28.8	1.7	1.6	2.0	2.3	2.6	3.1

^aASTM E 313, 5 cm cell, 50% solids in toluene

^bGardner color 50% solids in toluene, 10-cm path length

Characteristics

These are aromatic resins based on pure monomer feedstocks. The degree of reactive unsaturation is low, with bromine numbers <8. The specific gravity of these products at 25°C (77°F) is 1.04 to 1.10. Because of their inherent stability, these products do not contain an antioxidant.

Applications

Endex and Piccolastic resins

The high molecular weight and Tg of Endex resins make them particularly suited for reinforcement of styrenic block copolymers (SBC). They are used in hot-melt adhesives, pressure sensitive adhesives, and modification of TPE compounds to increase cohesive strength, hardness, and resistance to high temperatures and reduce compression set of SBC-based compounds. The liquid-grade Piccolastic A-5 aromatic resin is useful as a plasticizer for aromatic, acrylic, and epoxy polymers. The high softening point grades are used in adhesives, rubber

and plastic modification, EVA compounding, and as a binder for xerographic toner. The workability, clarity, and resilience of Piccolastic D125 make it especially useful in the production of breakaway objects.

Piccotex and Plastolyn resins

Piccotex resins are commonly used in adhesives, coatings, investment casting, and baking enamels and as dry size agents. Piccotex resins added to paraffin inhibit shrinkage of the mixture on solidification, making them especially suited to formulation of wax-casting compounds. Plastolyn resins are used as processing aids for injection molding for polymers like EVA, ABS, PVC, and SBC. Their low color and compatibility make them ideal tackifiers for polychloroprene-based contact adhesives for uses where low color is required.

Regional availability

Endex, Piccotex, and Piccolastic water-white aromatic resins are made in the United States and are available globally. Piccolastic A-5 is not available in Europe.

Kristalex™ water-white aromatic resins

Typical properties	Kristalex 3070	Kristalex F-85	Kristalex 3085	Kristalex 3100	Kristalex F-100	Kristalex 1120	Kristalex F-115	Kristalex 5140
Ring and ball softening point, °C	70	86	85	100	100	120	117	140
Color, yellowness index ^a	7	3 ^b	6	6	3 ^b	5	2 ^b	6
Tg, °C (midpoint)	32	37	40	51	72	70	72	91
MMA cloud point, °C	1	5	2	6	—	6	—	10
OMS cloud point, °C	11	49	32	61	69	>180	110	>180
Molecular weight								
Mz	1,360	1,650	1,790	2,440	2,060	5,700	3,180	9,260
Mw	880	1,050	1,100	1,470	1,290	2,400	1,850	4,750
Mn	560	660	630	750	780	800	980	1,690
Pd (Mw/Mn)	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.6	3.0	1.6	2.8

^aASTM E 313, 5 cm cell, 50% solids in toluene

^bHunterLab color b scale product specification, 50% solids in toluene, 5-cm cell

Characteristics

These are resins with low color, excellent stability, and a wide range of softening points. The specific gravity of these products at 25°C is 1.04 to 1.10. Because of their inherent stability, these products do not contain an antioxidant.

Applications

A major application of Kristalex™ resins is the modification of the end blocks of styrenic block copolymers. The grades of Kristalex resins with low softening points will tend to soften and contribute to the tack of block copolymer formulations while the higher softening point grades tend to strengthen the end blocks and increase cohesion and high temperature resistance. Kristalex resins are also used in EVA packaging, woodworking, and bookbinding adhesives to provide specific adhesion properties. Other uses for Kristalex resins include coatings, clear sealants, laminating adhesives, textile dry sizes, and plastic modification.

Regional availability

Kristalex F-series resins are made in Europe; all other Kristalex resins are made in the United States. Kristalex resins are available globally.

Synthomer hydrocarbon resins

Low VOC water-white aromatic hydrocarbon resins

Typical properties	Kristalex 3105 SD	Kristalex 3115 LV	Kristalex 5140 LV	Kristalex 5140 SD	Plastolyn 290 LV
Ring and ball softening point, °C	105	118	141	141	141
Organic volatile content, ppm ^a	150	300	300	150	300
Color, yellowness index	9 ^b	7	5	8	6
Tg, °C (midpoint)	55	72	92	95	93
MMA cloud point, °C	6	5	10	10	8
OMS cloud point, °C	61	110	>180	>180	>180
Molecular weight					
Mz	2,420	3,720	8,750	7,400	8,090
Mw	1,440	2,140	4,500	4,120	4,280
Mn	810	990	1,660	1,630	1,640
Pd (Mw/Mn)	1.8	2.2	2.7	2.5	2.6

^aHPLC method

^b50% solids in toluene, 5-cm path length

Characteristics

To address demand for products with low volatile organic compound (VOC) levels in formulations, Synthomer now offers Kristalex 3105SD, Kristalex 3115LV, Kristalex 5140SD, and Plastolyn 290LV resins.

These products are identical in performance and compatibility compared to non-LV counterparts in adhesives, sealants, and TPE compounds, but they are manufactured with a maximum 500 ppm VOC content. This compares to VOC content ranging from 2,000 to 10,000 ppm for traditional pure monomer resins. With very low VOC and residual monomer levels, these products are attractive options for those concerned with controlling VOC levels without sacrificing the performance of traditional pure monomer resins. Kristalex 3105SD and 5140SD have particularly low residual monomer and oligomer content and exceptional thermal stability and are recommended for use in direct food packaging applications as well as for applications requiring very low odor.

Regional availability

Low VOC pure monomer resins are available globally.

Piccotac™ hydrocarbon resins (Aliphatic hydrocarbon resins)

Typical properties	Piccotac 1020	Piccotac 1020-E	Piccotac 1095	Piccotac 1095N	Piccotac 1098	Piccotac 1100	Piccotac 1100-E	Piccotac 1115
Ring and ball softening point, °C	Liquid	Liquid	95	96	101	101	100	112
Color, Gardner ^a	3	5	2	3	3	2	3	3
Tg, °C (midpoint)	—	—	43	—	47	46	—	58
MMA cloud point, °C	92	92	95	95	95	98	96	98
DA cloud point, °C	43	46	52	53	57	62	63	69
Molecular weight								
Mz	3,200	2,900	3,530	3,510	4,690	8,050	5,900	11,120
Mw	1,380	1,750	1,810	1,980	2,130	5,860	2,560	3,870
Mn	800	1,085	930	1,100	960	1,160	1,180	1,500
Pd (Mw/Mn)	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.8	2.2	2.8	2.2	2.9

^a50% solids in toluene

Characteristics

These products are produced using mixed hydrocarbon feedstocks. They are characterized by low color, low odor, good heat stability, and compatibility with a wide range of polymers. They have a moderate level of reactive unsaturation with bromine numbers between 20 and 40. Specific gravity is between 0.91 and 0.97 measured at 25°C (77°F). For protection against degradation during storage, all Piccotac resins have 0.1% antioxidant added.

Applications

Fully aliphatic types of Piccotac resins have grade numbers that begin with 1. The low polarity of the aliphatic structure of these resins suggests their use in polymer systems including polyolefins, petroleum waxes, natural rubber, SIS block copolymers, and EVA with <28% vinyl acetate. Piccotac aliphatic resins are typically used in wax and rubber compounding, adhesives, hot-melt road marking, and coatings.

Regional availability

Piccotac resins are available globally. Grades of Piccotac resins with a four-digit grade number are produced in the United States; and those with a letter suffix such as -E or -N are produced in Europe.

Synthomer hydrocarbon resins

Piccotac™ hydrocarbon resins (Aromatic-modified aliphatic resins)

Typical properties	Piccotac 9095	Piccotac 9095-E	Piccotac 8595	Piccotac 8095	Piccotac 8090-E	Piccotac 7590-N
Ring and ball softening point, °C	94	95	95	95	91	91
Color, Gardner ^a	2	3	2	3	4	3
Tg, °C (midpoint)	42	—	44	41	—	—
MMA cloud point, °C	89	86	89	77	65	62
DA cloud point, °C	47	—	37	38	20	22
Molecular weight						
Mz	4,200	3,690	3,360	5,350	3,500	2,850
Mw	2,000	1,900	1,760	2,240	1,700	1,560
Mn	930	990	930	930	900	870
Pd (Mw/Mn)	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.4	1.9	1.8

^a50% solids in toluene

Characteristics

These products are produced from mixed aliphatic hydrocarbon feedstocks. They are characterized by light-yellow color, low odor, good heat stability, and compatibility with a wide range of polymers. They have a moderate level of reactive unsaturation with bromine numbers between 20 and 40. Specific gravity is between 0.91 and 0.97 measured at 25°C (77°F). For protection against degradation during storage, all Piccotac resins have 0.1% antioxidant added.

Nomenclature

These products are produced from mixed aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbon feedstocks. By introducing carefully controlled levels of aromaticity, compatibility with a range of different polymers is possible. The first two digits of a Piccotac resin grade number indicate the relative aliphatic content: 90<85<80, etc. The last two digits indicate the ring and ball softening point of the product.

Applications

The more aliphatic types of Piccotac resins, those with grade numbers higher than 8000, are compatible with natural rubber, SIS block copolymer, and polyolefins. The more aromatic Piccotac resins, those with grade numbers 8500 and lower, are compatible with SBS, SIS/SBS, SEBS, SIBS and SEPS block copolymers, SBR, and EVA with <40% vinyl acetate. Aromatic-modified grades are commonly used in pressure sensitive adhesives for tapes and labels, hot-melt assembly adhesives for nonwoven products, and hot-melt packaging adhesives.

Regional availability

Piccotac resins are available globally. Grades of Piccotac resins with a four-digit grade number are produced in the United States; those with a letter suffix such as -E or -N are produced in Europe.

Picco™ hydrocarbon resins (Aromatic hydrocarbon resins)

Typical properties	Picco A10	Picco AR85	Picco A100	Picco AR100	Picco A120	Picco A140
Ring and ball softening point, °C	Liquid	86	100	100	125	140
Color, Gardner ^a	9 (neat)	9	9	9	6	6
Tg, °C (midpoint)	—	38	49	53	74	79
MMA cloud point, °C	106	—	6	—	—	—
DA cloud point, °C	-24	—	58	—	—	—
OMS cloud point, °C	0	—	35	—	—	—
Molecular weight						
Mz	1,850	1,020	1,580	1,040	2,350	3,630
Mw	750	680	880	690	1,280	1,940
Mn	420	510	560	580	760	950
Pd (Mw/Mn)	1.8	1.3	1.6	1.2	1.7	2.0

^a50% solids in toluene

Characteristics

These products are manufactured using a mixture of petroleum- derived aromatic feed streams. They are characteristically light-amber to dark-brown materials with a characteristic aromatic hydrocarbon odor.

Applications

Picco resins have varying degrees of aromaticity and reactive unsaturation and are useful in adhesives, rubber compounding, printing inks, coatings, paints, concrete curing, waterproofing, and sealants. They are compatible in useful proportions with styrene-butadiene rubber, acrylics, nitrile rubber, polychloroprene, and chlorinated paraffin.

Regional availability

Picco A-series and AR-series resins are manufactured in Middelburg, The Netherlands. These products are available in Europe, Middle East, Africa, and Asia Pacific regions.

Synthomer rosin resins

Foral™ (Fully hydrogenated rosin resins)

Typical properties	Foral 85-E CG	Foral 85-E	Foral 105-E CG	Foral 105-E	Foral AX-E
Ring and ball softening point, °C	74	74	98	98	70
Color, Gardner ^a	3	3	6	6	8 ^b
Acid Number (mg KOH/g)	7	7	14	14	161
Density @ 25°C	51	72	90	90	90
Viscosity, Brookfield,^c cP					
120°C	—	1,500	—	20,000	—
140°C	—	340	—	2,100	—
160°C	—	<100	—	410	—

^a50% solids in toluene

^bHunterLab color b-scale product specification, 50% solids in toluene, 5-cm path length

^cBrookfield LVTF, spindle 31

Characteristics

Due to their high degree of hydrogenation, Foral rosin resins have outstanding resistance to oxidation and discoloration caused by heat or aging. These resins do not contain antioxidants.

Applications

Typical applications for Foral resins are solvent-based and hot-melt pressure sensitive adhesive for specialty tapes and labels, as well as UV curable acrylic hot-melt adhesives due to their low absorbance in the UV spectrum. Due to their high degree of hydrogenation, Foral resins have the best compatibility with olefinic polymers out of the rosin resin family and can be used to increase adhesion to difficult substrates.

Foral CG resins are used in cosmetics applications like color cosmetics, nail polish, and lipstick.

Regional availability

Foral resins are manufactured in Europe and are available globally.

Foralyn™ (Fully hydrogenated rosin resins)

Typical properties	Foralyn 90	Foralyn 90-FG	Foralyn 110	Foralyn 110-FG	Foralyn 5020-F CG	Foralyn 5020-F	Foralyn E
Ring and ball softening point, °C	83	84 ^a	101	103 ^a	Liquid	Liquid	71
Color, Gardner	2	3	3	4	3 ^b	3 ^b	1
Acid number (mg KOH/g)	6	9	12	14	6	6	165
Density @ 25°C (Kg/dm ³)	1.07	1.06	1.07	1.07	1.03	1.03	—
Viscosity, Brookfield,^b cP							
120°C	2,800	—	—	—	—	—	—
140°C	500	—	3,100	—	—	—	—
160°C	130	—	600	—	—	—	—
180°C	—	—	150	—	—	—	—
Refractive Index @ 20°C	—	—	—	—	1.519	1.519	1.498

^aASTM E28

^bAs is (neat resin)

^cBrookfield LVTF, spindle 31

Characteristics

Foralyn rosin resins combine the thermal and oxidative stability of the other hydrogenated rosin resins with excellent initial color and improved thermal stability.

Applications

Foralyn resins are typically used in solvent-based and hot-melt adhesive formulations where light color and excellent stability are required. They are very compatible with EVA, styrenic block copolymers, natural and synthetic rubbers, and acrylics. They are less suitable for UV curable acrylics than the Foral grades.

Foralyn 5020-F CG is used for cosmetics applications, for example as a fixative for perfume formulations.

Foralyn 90-FG and Foralyn 110-FG are used as food ingredients, namely for the formulation of chewing gum base.

Regional availability

Foralyn resins are manufactured in Europe and are available globally.

Synthomer rosin resins

Staybelite™ and Pentalyn™

Typical properties	Staybelite Ester 5-E	Staybelite Ester 10-E	Staybelite Ester 3-E	Pentalyn H-E
Ring and ball softening point, °C ^b	76 ^b	76	Liquid	101
Color, Gardner ^a	6	6	7	8
Acid number (mg KOH/g)	8	8	8	15
Density @ 25°C (Kg/dm ³)	1.06	1.07	—	1.07
Viscosity, cP				
120°C	—	1,800	—	—
140°C	—	330	—	2,600
160°C	—	90	—	480
180°C	—	—	—	110

^a50% solids in toluene

^bASTM E28

Abalyn™ D-E and Abitol™-E

Typical properties	Abalyn D-E	Abitol-E
Ring and ball softening point, °C	Liquid	Liquid
Color, Gardner ^a	4	1
Acid number (mg KOH/g)	5	0.1
Density @ 25°C (Kg/dm ³)	1.04	1.01
Viscosity, Brookfield, ^b cP	4,700 @ 25°C	6,500 @ 50°C
Refractive Index @ 20°C	1.53	1.53
Color HunterLab b ^c	—	2.5
Hydroxyl number, %	—	4.7

^aAs is (neat resin)

^bBrookfield LVTD, spindle 31

^c5-cm path length, 50% in toluene; illuminant C, 2° observer

Characteristics

Staybelite resins and Pentalyn H-E are the most economic hydrogenated rosin resins and should be used in formulations where the price is sensitive, but which still require the compatibility and stability of a hydrogenated product. These resins do not contain an antioxidant.

Applications

Staybelite resins and Pentalyn are typically used in solvent-based and hot-melt adhesive formulations where very good stability is required. They are very compatible with EVA, styrenic block copolymers, natural and synthetic rubbers, and acrylics. They are less suitable for UV curable acrylics than the Foral grades.

Staybelite Ester 5-E is used as a food ingredient, namely for the formulation of chewing gum base.

Regional availability

Staybelite and Pentalyn resins are manufactured in Europe and are available globally.

Characteristics

Abitol E resin is a colorless, tacky, highly viscous liquid resin with excellent thermal stability. Chemically, it is a high-molecular-weight, primary, monohydric alcohol derived from hydrogenated rosin acids. Abalyn D-E is an amber-colored liquid resin with very good compatibility with almost all polymers and provides excellent wettability and tack.

Applications

Abitol E can be used as an additive to hot-melt and reactive PUR adhesive systems to enhance specific adhesion to difficult substrates. Both resins are used in specialty tapes, as adjuvants for crop protection, and in hot-melt labels.

Regional availability

Both resins are manufactured in Europe and are available globally.

Modified rosin

Typical properties	Dymerex	Polypale
Ring and ball softening point, °C	144	103
Color, Gardner ^a	9	8
Acid number (mg KOH/g)	145	146
Density @ 25°C (Kg/dm ³)	1.07	1.07
Viscosity, cP		
100°C	—	100,800
120°C	—	4,100
140°C	—	400
150°C	153,000	—
160°C	—	100
170°C	7,000	—
180°C	—	33
190°C	740	—
210°C	145	—

Characteristics

Dymerex™ modified rosin is a pale, acidic, thermoplastic, high softening point resin. It is composed predominately of dimeric acids derived from rosin with lesser amounts of monomeric resin acids and neutral materials of rosin origin. Dymerex modified resin has high resistance to oxidation and does not crystallize from solutions or solid compositions. It is compatible with many natural and synthetic film formers and rubbers. Being an acidic resin, it reacts readily with poly-alcohols or hydrated lime to yield high-melting derivatives.

Poly-Pale™ resin is a pale, partially dimerized rosin. Like Dymerex, it has a higher softening point than regular rosin acids, higher viscosity (molten and in solution), much greater resistance to oxidation, and complete freedom from crystallizing when in solid form or in solution.

Applications

Dymerex and Poly-Pale are unique in that they combine the excellent compatibility of other rosin acids with a good thermal stability and a very high softening point. They can be used as high softening point additives to adhesive formulations to provide polarity and improved adhesion, especially to low energy surfaces.

Dymerex and Poly-Pale are compatible with ethyl cellulose, natural rubber, SBR (styrene-butadiene), polychloroprene, drying oils, alkyd resins, shellac, low-molecular-weight polyethylene, paraffin, and microcrystalline waxes.

Uses include the preparation of varnishes, driers, synthetic resins, ink vehicles, floor tile, rubber compounds, solder fluxes, and various adhesives and protective coatings.

Regional availability

Both resins are available globally.

We make polymers work

At Synthomer, we're not just proven in the markets we serve; we're improving them. We are a global producer of raw materials for the adhesives and sealants industries, where our material expertise helps our customers make polymers work. And while our resins have set a standard of excellence in the industry, our worldwide manufacturing sites ensure a global security of supply.

What's more, we offer an extensive sales and technology support network to give you a spectrum of formulating and innovation options.

Want to know more?

For product information and support please contact a Synthomer representative through the e-mail below.

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