

What's new from **marathon** ?

Production of aluminium extrusions throughout the world has been badly hit by the slowdown in industrial activity throughout 2001, particularly in the fourth quarter of the year. Extrusion plants, in common with most other industrial plants, have cut back on expenditure and reduced inventories to remain solvent during this very difficult period.

Of course, extrusions are still being produced and we are aware from our regular contact with extruders everywhere that run out rollers and belts for the cooling tables are only being replaced when absolutely necessary.

At Marathon, we are already prepared for the upswing by the introduction of two brand new rollers, Gold for the initial lead out area (hot zone), and Green for the run out.

Gold Roller TM

The Gold Roller TM is made from 100% PBO yarn. This is truly a 'high tech' yarn with better heat and abrasion resistance than any other high performance yarn. It also has a soft 'feel' and this makes it even more interesting. PBO (polybenzoxazole) is a high performance fibre developed by Toyobo in Japan and sold under their registered name 'Zylon'. It has superior tensile strength and modulus to aramid fibres (such as Kevlar). It also offers excellent performance in such properties as chemical resistance, creep, and cut/abrasion resistance. The tensile strength and impact energy absorption of PBO is more than twice that of aramid yarns.

The particular technical parameter of interest to aluminium extruders is the high temperature resistance of PBO, far exceeding aramid fibres. It has outstanding flame resistance and thermal stability and its decomposition temperature in air is 650°C. (This is almost 100°C higher than para-aramid). The maximum contact temperature is in the order of 600°C.



The unusual toughness of the Gold Roller TM is demonstrated by the fact that normal workshop equipment (including bandsaws) cannot be used to shorten them. Woven PBO is the most resilient technical textile product available to any industrial sector. It is the ideal answer to the hostile conditions in the initial lead out area (hot zone) close to the extrusion press where durability is paramount. Larger presses, in particular will benefit from the outstanding crush resistance of woven PBO.

Green Roller TM

The Green Roller TM is an equally exciting new development but for different reasons. It is a high quality sleeve that is highly suitable for the majority of roller positions outside of the initial lead out area (hot zone). They are designed to take the hot extrusion from the Gold



Roller TM at a suitable point determined from experience on each system. The exciting aspect of the Green Roller TM is the very low cost in comparison with competitors rollers. We have recently completed the installation of extensive new textile processing equipment and this now enables us to produce many of our own yarns previously purchased from outside sources. This, coupled with new resin developments, has enabled us to make very significant reductions in selling prices across our whole range of products for the extrusion industry.

The Green Roller TM is woven from a high temperature blend of aramid and pan/carbon fibres. They have excellent resistance to abrasion and physical distortion caused by heat and pressure. Their operating contact temperature is around 500°C making them ideally suitable for most roller positions along the run out system.

A light impregnation of inorganic, environmentally benign, solution capable of withstanding temperatures well in excess of 600°C completes the manufacture of both the Gold and Green Rollers TM.

All the standard diameters are available in any specific length you may need. The nominal wall thickness is 5mm.

What about delivery?

Well we have taken care of that very well by carrying large stocks of semi finished sleeves. This would normally allow us to deliver within two weeks unless we are totally overwhelmed by a large influx of orders when the current gloom lifts. We operate a permanent nightshift and this allows great flexibility in our production schedules.

Please let us know the length and diameter of your steel rollers used in the initial lead out area (hot zone) and along the run out and we will quote for your requirements.

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