

### Alloy Aids Big Brother

Beware! You never know who may be watching. One company specializing in video security systems is Sensormatic Electronics



***This programmable security-camera controller has a housing that's molded in an acrylic/polycarbonate alloy from CYRO. The alloy has a higher impact strength than the ABS previously used, plus it processes in molds originally built to run ABS.***

Corp. (Boca Raton, FL), and one of its many products is the "Touch Tracker," a hand-held, programmable, advanced dome-camera controller for closed-circuit television surveillance systems.

After six months in the field, the manufacturer started receiving complaints about the controller's outside frame, according to design engineer Bud Schenkel.

"The ABS material we were using was not holding up to rigorous use by security personnel. We needed a material that was high-impact and would also process in our existing ABS molds," he explains.

So the company switched to an acrylic/polycarbonate alloy from CYRO Industries (Rockaway, NJ). "The CYREX 200 alloy caught my attention because it promised impact strength with the processing ease of acrylic," says Schenkel. But the major concern was that the material wouldn't work in the existing ABS molds. "We needed a material

that ran with equivalent shrink rates (0.007–0.009 in/in) in the mold originally developed for ABS. We were pleased with CYREX alloy's adaptability—it actually processed much better than ABS,

filling the molds faster and more efficiently," adds Schenkel. Sensormatic's molder reports that the material allowed them to decrease cycle time by 10 sec.

Engineers have also been satisfied with the alloy's strength, running several tests to make sure the resin's impact strength would stand up to constant use. Notched Izod impact strength reportedly is more than triple that of ABS and almost double that of polycarbonate. This durability even allowed the company to reduce the Touch Tracker's shipping requirements, changing from internal foam cushioning to a more cost-effective, environmentally friendly corrugated package.

The supplier says the alloy's natural opaque white color provides an excellent base for matching the light gray color they needed. "CYRO custom-colored the resin to match our shade of gray in less than a week," says Schenkel. The alloy is also said to be soil-resistant.

Visit CYRO's website at [www.cyro.com](http://www.cyro.com)

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