



FOR: GLS CORPORATION
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TPEs MAKE A ‘BETTER MOUSETRAP’ OUT OF A CAN/BOTTLE OPENER

EDGEWOOD, NY (October 17, 2005) – The venerable can and bottle opener. This common, but necessary tool has seen many companies during as many as a dozen decades aspire to offer new designs to pique the interest and facilitate the use of, well.....users.

But it wasn't until the recent proliferation of different caps and closures, each requiring a totally different type of opener, that designers have been truly challenged. Why? After pulling any popular product from any refrigerator, consumers today need up to 3 different types of openers to deal with numerous container and bottle sealing devices: tabs on pop-top cans and containers and metal caps on glass bottles, for starters. And more recently, there are those beverages in plastic bottles with twist off plastic caps where one must first break the seal and then rotate the cap off to get to the contents.

The challenge, however, was a bit more daunting than simply eliminating multiple openers. It also required a product that would enable users not blessed with the sometimes needed, near Herculean strength (i.e. children, seniors and handicapped persons) to open the can, bottle or container without anguish, or breaking a fingernail.

A quick look at any of the more popular kitchen gadget or handy tool catalogs will tell you at least one such product exists. According to designer and marketer, Inpro Products Group, an affiliate of Aztec

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Tool Company of Long Island, NY, the convenience and popularity doesn't just stem from its new and unique design. It also results from the use of soft yet grippy, flexible and easy-to-process TPEs (thermoplastic elastomers) from GLS Corporation of McHenry, IL. The phenomenal growth of GLS has come about as a result of developing specialized TPEs to make consumer products better, easier and beneficial for everyone - from the designer, to the manufacturer to the consumer/user. Alas, the better mousetrap, as it were.

The “Opening” Chapter

Aztec, a thirty or so year-old medium sized custom molder, has always tried to differentiate itself, like its TPE material supplier, by offering distinctive value added to potential and current customers. In addition to providing complete injection molding services, “Aztec Tool Company,” says Harry Herz, the firm's Sales and General Manager, “stands apart with its credo to ‘define, design and deliver’. By way of explanation,” he continues,” we begin by defining and understanding the needs of a customer's product. Then we help design the product focused on minimizing the tooling and manufacturing costs. And finally, we deliver the product using the latest technological approaches, and of course on time and within budget.”

This also applied to the 3-in-1 patented opener, now owned and marketed by Aztec through their Inpro Products Group affiliate, recalls Mr. Herz. He is quick to add that this is an all-Made-in-the-USA product. “The popularity of the multiple bottle and container opener,” he claims, “is all about the feel which we obtained from the KRATON® G7820 grade TPE from GLS Corporation. Further, the TPE makes it almost indestructible while enabling users to achieve the torque needed to perform the task at hand.”

At first glance, the 3-in-1 tool might vaguely resemble just another, but a bit more complex, bottle opener. But a closer look, after noticing that the TPE is overmolded over a stainless steel opener and pop-top can “flipper”, is the bottom of the unit – which is all TPE FROM GLS Corporation, and has a round TPE gripper that is skillfully designed to fit and self-tighten over a bottle cap of a soda, juice or water bottle and with an almost effortless twist, break the seal on the cap and unscrew it off. The TPE

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not only is fully functional, but enables the user, no matter whether a child or a senior, to comfortably and adequately achieve the needed torque to spin off the plastic screw cap, pop the metal top off the glass bottle, or spring the can ring or pop top.

But what about production constraints or shortfalls, a designer or custom molder might ask? Mr. Herz notes that the TPE is injected into their Toshiba 120 ton (electric?) injection molding presses into multiple cavities and simply overmolded over the stainless steel bottle opener portion.

Quickly after the opener is released from the mold, an American-made magnet is inserted into a cavity designed into the back side of the opener, whereupon as the TPE cools, the magnet becomes an integral part of the unit, without adhesives. The “face” of the opener can be custom-molded with a company’s name if used as a premium. The TPE can be molded in any color required or wanted.

“While the manufacture of our only proprietary bottle/container product doesn’t require advanced molding technology capabilities,” continues Mr. Herz, “it does give prospects and customers an indication of our full-service abilities and flexibility. Our most recent large program has us doing living hinge closures on products we designed and from 16 cavity molds we built and designed for their production. We take relish in letting the market know we often can do things other molders cannot, what with molding difficult high end engineering polymers (filled plastics too) and especially ones with tight tolerances and in high volumes.”

In conclusion, Aztec officials note they are big proponents of TPEs, and especially the variety of specially-compounded TPEs for not just the Aztec Tool opener, but those others for their own customer programs.

GLS Corporation specializes in the manufacture of application-specific custom formulated soft and ultra-soft thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs) for injection molding and extrusion. GLS has supplied specialty TPEs to the industry since 1979, and is recognized as a global leader in TPE technology solutions. Specific products sold by GLS include proprietary DYNAFLEX® TPE compounds based on KRATON® polymers (available in injection molding and extrusion, as well as medical and FDA

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grades); VERSAFLEX® TPE specialty alloys (available in soft touch, lightweight, ultra-soft, ultra-clear and overmolding grades); VERSALLOY® TPV alloys; and VERSOLLAN™ TPU alloy compounds. GLS is also the exclusive distributor of KRATON® compounds and polymers for the compounding market in the United States, and also distributes KRATON compounds and polymers globally. Applications for these materials are found in consumer, medical, sports and leisure, automotive, lawn and garden, appliance, kitchen tool, power tool, personal care and industrial markets, among others.

For more information on the specialized injection molding services and/or the 3-in1 product personalized for a company’s own promotions, contact: Aztec Tool Company, Inc., 180 Rodeo Drive, Edgewood, NY 11717. Tel: 631-243-1144. Fax: 631-243-1149. E-mail: hherz@aztectool.com. Web: www.aztectool.com

For more information on the TPEs used in this application or any other application where TPEs can be used to make a better product, or a better TPE can be used to make an existing product better, contact: GLS Corporation, Marketing Department, 833 Ridgeview Drive, McHenry, IL 60050-7050. Telephone: (815) 385-8500 or (800) 457-8777. Fax: (815) 385-8533. E-mail: info@glscorp.com Web: www.glscorp.com.

Special Note to Editors: In steps to demonstrate the ‘difference’ in this (better mousetrap) 3-in-1 opener, Inpro will send you a free sample to test, use and keep by processing a request back through contact@martinthomas.com with details on whom and where to send the product.

For more information, in the U.S., contact: Marketing Department, GLS Corporation, 833 Ridgeview Drive, McHenry, IL 60050-7050. Telephone: (815) 385-8500 or (800) 457-8777. Fax: (815) 385-8533. E-mail: info@glscorp.com Web: www.glscorp.com.

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KRATON is a registered trademark of KRATON Polymers U.S. LLC.

VERVALLOY is a DSM - GLS alliance product; the name VERSALLOY is a trademark of GLS Corporation.

VERSOLLAN is a trademark of GLS and contains high performance thermoplastic urethanes.

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