



Combining ambient color with sound insulation: The Basotect® Acoustic System “CapaCoustic Melapor” by Caparol and BASF

Case Study

Sound-absorbing foam now comes in more than 50,000 shades of paint

Visitors to the trade fair “Farbe – Ausbau und Fassade” (“Paint - finishing and facade”) to be held in Cologne, Germany from April 18 to 21, 2007 can see how Caparol and BASF combine ambient color with sound insulation. The “CapaCoustic Melapor” acoustic system to be showcased there is based on molded parts made of BASF’s melamine resin foam Basotect®. A spraying technique applies a mist coating of the CapaTrend interior paint – available in 50,000 shades onto the parts, which can then be mounted on walls or ceilings with little effort. This means that panels made of Basotect® can be obtained in every color of the rainbow, retaining their characteristic properties: high sound absorption, fire resistance, and flexibility. The decorative acoustic system is ideal for easily retrofitting indoor public spaces with sound insulation that meets fire regulations, and that, wherever the sound-absorbing elements are supposed to blend in with the existing architecture harmoniously, without taking up too much space.

Decorative sound insulation

The colorful Basotect® offers new design options in sound insulation. With a spray gun operating at high pressure, the painter can spray-paint the acoustic elements in any desired shade to match the existing color of the room. Extensive acoustic and fire tests have confirmed that the sprayed-on paint does not clog the fine pores of the melamine resin foam, so that the very good sound-absorbing capacity and flame-resistance of Basotect® are retained. The paint adheres to the fine-pored surface so well that even digital printing is possible. As a result, high definition pictures with velvety smooth surfaces can be created without being recognizable as sound insulation. Moreover, Basotect® can be installed quickly and simply since it is lightweight (9 kg/m³) and free of mineral fibers. Conventional sound-control measures usually involve making major changes to the existing architecture (for instance, ceiling coverings, partition walls) or else their esthetics leaves much to be desired: many insulating materials have coarse pores and are only available in a few shapes and colors.

