

Chemical Manufacturers Electronic Directory of Trade Name Products 1997 Edition on CD-ROM

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The Chemical Manufacturers Electronic Directory of Trade Name Products on CD-ROM, priced at \$195, is available from Synapse Information Resources, Inc. (1247 Taft Ave., Endicott, NY 13750, 607-748-4115, Toll Free 1-888-SYNCEM, <http://www.SynapseInfo.com>, salesinfo@SynapseInfo.com). Minimum system requirements include Intel 386 CPU, 4 MB RAM, and Windows 3.1. Recommended requirements include Intel Pentium, 16 MB RAM, and Windows 95, 98, or NT.

This resource (henceforth "Trade Names") along with Specialty Chemicals Electronic Source Book on CD-ROM (henceforth "Specialty Chem"; previously reviewed, *J. Chem. Inf. Comput. Sci.*, **1998**, 38, no. 4) and Industrial Chemical Additives Electronic Handbook 1998 Edition (henceforth "Additives") constitute a related cluster of databases. The 1998 edition of "Trade Names" will be released in February 1999. All of the databases are updated in regular fashion—the 1998 edition of "Specialty Chem" has already been released.

As with "Specialty Chem", navigation in "Trade Names" is quite facile and well described. An extensive table of contents and user guide is always available in the left-hand window of the screen. Several indexes are available for searching, including CAS Registry Numbers, a comprehensive index with ca. 57K trade names, and a manufacturers directory with ca. 2200 listings. Another indexes lists and defines a large number of abbreviations used in the file. Structure searching is not possible, but this is less of a problem because the compounds covered often have indefinite or unknown structures.

As an example, sources and descriptions of polymers are generally less available from traditional sources than for monomeric chemicals. Searching "Trade Names" for "polybutene" retrieves five hits including those shown below from Collaborative Labs and Amoco Chemicals.

Additional data in these listings appears in a variety of colors, each color corresponding to a separate index or cross-reference. For example, clicking on a manufacturer's name displays the directory listing for that company. Clicking on the underlined synonym (in this case, polybutene) will call up the polybutene monograph in "Specialty Chem", described

Polyfix™ 106 [Collaborative Labs] Polydecene, Polybutene copolymer; *skin care additive*

Polyfix™ 306 [Collaborative Labs] Polydecene, Polybutene copolymer; *skin care additive*

...

Amoco® H-300 [Amoco] Polybutene; CAS 9003-28-5; *tackifier, extender in adhesives, rubber plasticizer*

Amoco® H-300E [Amoco] Hydrogenated polybutene { Polybutene, hydrogenated }; CAS 68937-10-0; *modifier, industrial and cosmetic prods.*

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in the previous review. However, both "Trade Names" and "Specialty Chem" must be installed on the hard drive of the user's computer, or the "Specialty Chem" CD must be placed in the CD drive.

As reviewed previously, "Specialty Chem" provides more extensive monographs for ca. 8000 specialty chemicals. Therefore, both "Trade Names" and "Additives" are most effectively used in combination with "Specialty Chem". However, although "Specialty Chem" has a large number of trade name synonyms, "Trade Names" lists even more. In addition, "Trade Names" lists a large number of proprietary compositions and mixtures that are not listed as such in "Specialty Chem".

For example, note the Collaborative Labs products shown above. Monographs for both of the components of Polyfix, polydecene and polybutene, can be found in "Specialty Chem", but the listing for the Polyfix product, a mixture or formulation, appears in "Trade Names". Even obscure trade products can be identified by producer, use, and often by composition or components.

For users who need information on materials and practical applications, especially those with unfamiliar or obscure trade names, "Trade Names" is a valuable resource, especially at the price. "Trade Names" is especially valuable when used in conjunction with its "sister" products as described above.

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