



Analysis of a Layered Paint Sample using Pyrotomy

Application Note

Author:
T. Wampler

Paint

Samples comprised of multiple layers, such as laminated or coated papers, painted polymers, packaging and multilayered paint systems may be applied to the platinum filament of a Pyroprobe and analyzed by applying short bursts of heat to work sequentially through the layers. This technique, called Pyrotomy, is also useful in determining surface contamination and the presence of additives on the outside of the polymer, such as mold-release compounds. The sample is heated for a second or less, then cooled to prevent further degradation while the products are analyzed by the GC/MS.

The paint sample shown here was analyzed using a ribbon filament, heated to 500°C for 1 second to generate the first three GC runs. In the first run, multiple monomers seen frequently in paints are detected, including styrene, methyl methacrylate and butyl acrylate. In addition, a diisocyanate (peak 7, hexane diisocyanate) is present, indicating a polyurethane. In the next two runs, more of these compounds are produced, especially butyl methacrylate.

For run number 4, the temperature was increased to 600°C, again for just one second, which produced a second diisocyanate (peak 9).

A fifth run, at 750°C, shows more aromatics, including alpha-methyl styrene, in addition to the styrene and acrylics seen in previous runs.

Equipment: **PYROLYSIS**

Pyroprobe

Valve Oven:	250°C
Transfer Line:	300°C
Pyrolysis:	500, 600, and 750°C
Time:	1 second

GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY

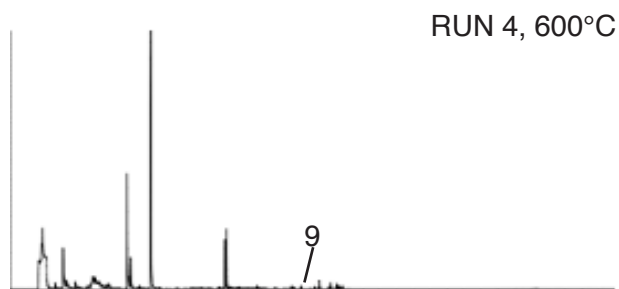
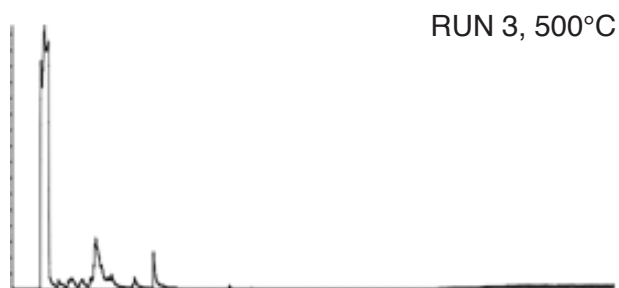
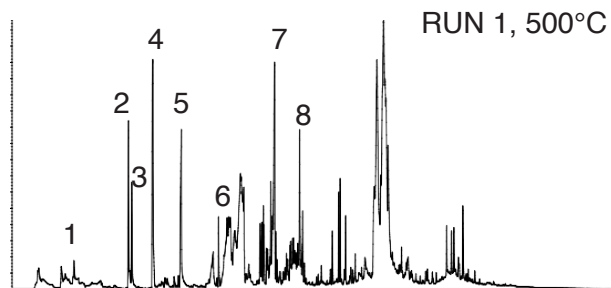
Carrier:	Helium
Column:	35%phenyl, methyl silicone (30m x .25mm)

GC Program:

Initial:	40°C for 2 minutes
Ramp:	10°C/min.
Final:	300°C

Table 1. Peak Identification

1. Methyl methacrylate
2. Butyl acrylate
3. Styrene
4. Butyl methacrylate
5. Hydroxyethyl methacrylate
6. Fatty acids
7. Hexane diisocyanate
8. Tributyl phosphate
9. 5-isocyanato,1-isocyanatomethyl trimethyl cyclohexane
10. Toluene
11. Alpha methyl Styrene



For more information on this and related applications, we recommend the following readings:

T. P. Wampler, G. A. Bishea and W.J. Simonsick, Recent Changes in Automotive Paint Formulations using Pyrolysis-Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry for Identification, *J. Anal. Appl. Pyrolysis*, 40-41 (1997) 79-89.