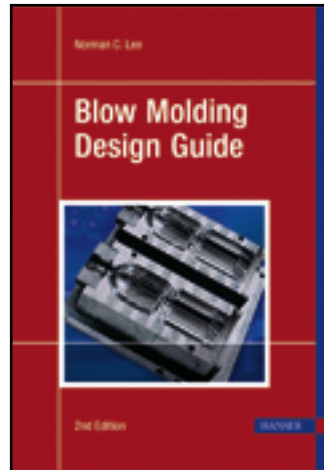


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Preface

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Preface

Designing plastic blow molded parts can be an extremely difficult task because of the complexities of part geometry and the molding processes. It is challenging to even experienced designers. To produce an effective design it should be:

- Functional and achieve the objective for which it is intended,
- aesthetically pleasing, within the limits of the process,
- practical, utilizing the right material, maximizing the benefits of the process,
- cost efficient, with consideration of tooling cost and methods and run quantities.

Therefore, the objectives of this book are to give the reader an understanding of plastic blow molding, materials and processes, thus enabling him to design a blow molded part that optimizes the effectiveness of the plastic materials used, process employed, as well as the function of the part. It includes the application of bottles, industrial and structural parts. It is intended to be a no-nonsense, practical hands on book, that forgoes a scientific language that most ordinary people do not understand and concentrates on real life, day to day problems faced by those working to create cost-effective blow molded parts. It is a good introduction to the overall picture, for those who then wish to delve into more detailed and academic aspects of anyone of the many processes discussed.

Because the work includes so many diverse subjects it is not possible for one individual to be an expert in them all, thus, I have relied heavily on experts in their relative fields for information and advice. These of course are acknowledged at the end of each chapter. In many cases I have drawn from the published work. I make no apologies for this, since I am not able to improve on the original work. Also, much of the matter presented is leading edge technology and development by the originators.

I also acknowledge several who have helped me put this manuscript together. Loretta Lee, graduate student at A & T State University, a UNC System in Greensboro, NC, who took it on as a Masters project. Dr. Brent Strong, Brigham Young University, reviewed the manuscript, corrected errors, and made suggestions for changes. The review committee of the S.P.E. blow molding division headed by James Parr, Exxon Company, Robert Gilbert, Equistar; and Robert Read, Dow Brands, made valuable suggestions for improvement. Several diagrams were drawn by Sam Huffine, Huffine Associates, Greensboro, NC and Auto-CAD drawings by James lee, Ashboro, NC.