



Factsheet Art Protection & Restoration Products

Sympatex Technologies GmbH:

Laminates to protect and restore works of art and furniture

Sympatex supplies a specific selection of laminates to meet the growing demand for products to protect works of art in the form of its "Art Protection & Restoration Products".

In the field of **painting restoration** the condition of an object often means that it must be protected from direct contact with moisture. For example, wet cleaning may quickly lead to the fibres swelling, resulting in permanent damage to the object. The Sympatex membrane is used to ensure that paintings can be cleaned despite this problem. The 100% waterproof and also water vapour-permeable Sympatex membrane brings the applied moisture in gaseous form to the surface of the object without the object actually coming into direct contact with liquids.

How it works:

The compact hydrophilic Sympatex membrane is combined with various non-woven materials to produce user-specific laminates. Depending on the requirement, these accelerate or slow down the absorption of liquid or gel-type solvent-based substances. They are suitable for the gentle removal of laminations, water stains, sources of adhesives and for smoothing paper. The "sandwich process" used for this purpose sees the object packed in several layers, like a sandwich. It is then moistened in controlled conditions using solvent-based liquids (acetone, isopropanol or ethanol, for example) or gels on one or both sides without the object actually coming into direct contact with the drops of liquid (see figure).

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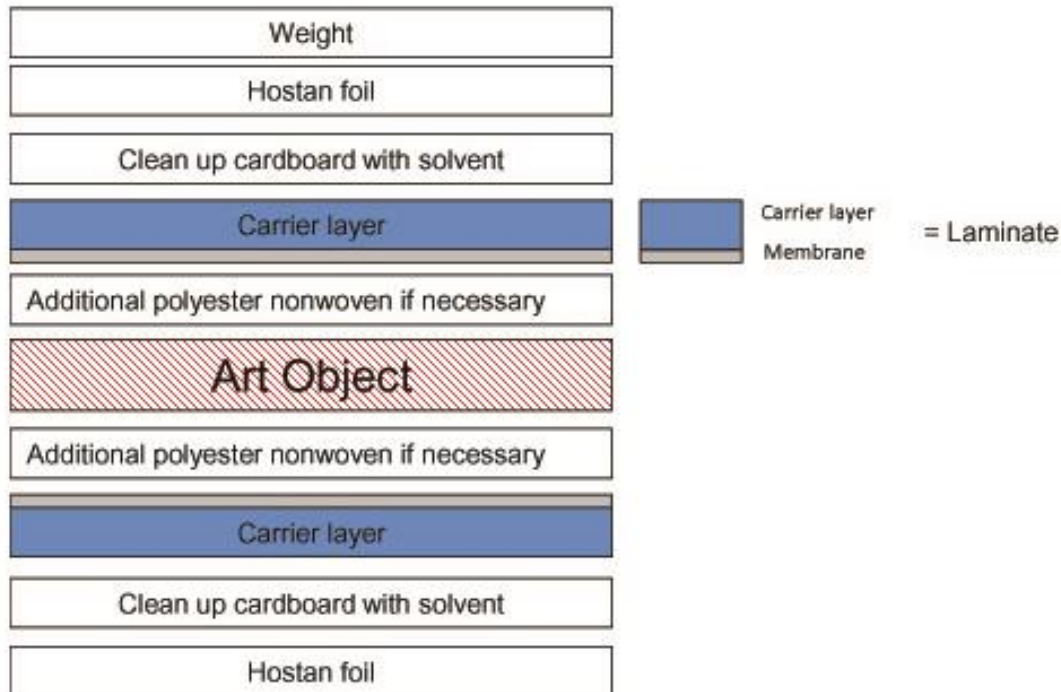


Figure: Sandwich structure for moistening both sides

In addition to their use for many years in the restoration of paintings, in March 2015 as part of a dissertation at the Academy of the A.R. Göhring Institute in Munich, the value of membranes for **furniture restoration** was also studied.

The result was that if the object's surfaces are treated cautiously with liquids in a gaseous state, Sympatex laminates produce very good results, above all for separating and removing layers, regenerating painted surfaces and removing shellac coatings.

If aqueous solvents are used, the new, innovative Moisture-tech® by Sympatex 3-layer laminate produces particularly good results. As a result of the strongly absorbent interim layer it has good wetting properties and distributes the liquid over a large proportion of the membrane to moisten the objectives quickly.

Sympatex laminates have also been used to **protect works of art** in the art world. These works must be protected from the external effects of liquids, moisture, dust and other aggressive substances, particularly for the transportation and storage of paintings. At the same time it must

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be ensured that moisture which forms under the cover in the form of condensate does not harm the works.

All these applications benefit from the 'guaranteed green' Sympatex membrane. It is made of harmless polyetherester (a chain of polyester and polyether molecules) and is therefore 100% recyclable, just like a PET bottle. This means that the product also conserves resources, thus also benefiting the environment.

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