



ITMA 2003- PREPARATION

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ABSTRACT

Wet processing equipment for preparation was reviewed at ITMA 2003. No major innovations were seen, but several interesting offerings are summarized.

Keywords: Preparation Desizing Scouring Bleaching Washing

Introduction

Preparation is the first stage of textile wet processing and perhaps the most significant one since the quality of all subsequent processes depend on uniformly and properly prepared substrates. It has been estimated that a majority of all final fabric defects can be traced back to faulty preparation.

With the obvious importance of preparation processes, it is not surprising that machinery manufacturers only change preparation equipment very cautiously and carefully. As a result, new and innovative preparation processes and machinery are rarely seen. The 2003 ITMA was no exception; only incremental changes were seen in the basic preparation equipment.

One clear trend was noted, however. Manufacturers in Asia are taking European

machinery designs and offering lower cost alternatives by taking advantage of their lower manufacturing costs. Another trend was increased focus on elastic fabrics.

Although no significant innovations were present, the following products deserve mention.

Fabric Handling

Tacome, Valencia, Italy, has developed new machinery for loading rolls of greige fabric into continuous processes. The machine allows one operator to load and sew together large rolls of fabric easily and safely. The rolls are entered into the machine with a fork lift and then the rolls are automatically taken by conveyor belt to the sewing station as needed.

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