

Xytron™ U3020E

PPS–I

Extrusion, Improved Impact

Print Date: 2024–05–16

Despite the fact that the above–mentioned grade is an extrusion grade, when using it for an injection molding process, the document below describes the typical injection molding recommendations.

Provisional information

The recommendations for Xytron™ U3020E are based on best practice so far. These recommendations are provisional. In the future these recommendations might be revised.

GRADE CODING

Xytron™ PPS non–reinforced extrusion grades.

MATERIAL HANDLING

Storage

In order to prevent contamination, supplied packaging should be kept closed and undamaged. For the same reason, partial bags should be re–closed before re–storage. Allow the material that has been stored elsewhere to adapt to the temperature in the processing room while keeping the bag closed.

Packaging

Xytron™ grades are supplied in polyethylene bags.

Moisture content as delivered

Xytron™ PPS grades show hardly any moisture pick up. The moisture content is not specified.

Conditioning before molding

To prevent moisture condensing on granules, bring cold granules up to ambient temperature in the molding shop while keeping the packaging closed.

Moisture content before molding

Since Xytron™ has a low moisture pick up and is not hygroscopic, still the advise is to dry Xytron™ U3020E for a short time. The advisable moisture level before molding is maximum 500 ppm.

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Drying

Hot air ovens or hopper driers can be used for pre-drying Xytron™ grades, however preferred driers are de-humidified driers with dew points maintained between -30 and -40°C / -22 and -40°F . Vacuum driers with N_2 purge can also be used.

Moisture content	Time	Temperature	
		[°C]	[°F]
as delivered	6–8	70–90	158–194

Regrind

Regrind can be used taking into account that this regrind must be clean/low dust content/not thermally degraded/dry, of same composition and similar particle size as the original material. The acceptable level of regrind depends on the application requirements (e.g. UL Yellow Card). Be aware that regrind can cause some small color deviations.

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MACHINERY

Xytron™ grades can be processed on general injection molding machines.

Screw geometry

Typically 3-zone screw designs with volumetric compression ratios of approximately 2.5 work fine.

Steel type

Abrasive-resistant steel types which are generally used for glass fiber reinforced, high temperature, polyamide or PPS materials are also to be used for the Xytron™ grades in tools, nozzles and screws. Failing to do so may result in wear, especially of the screw/barrel (due to the high temperatures involved there), which can lead to decreasing processing performance.

Nozzle temperature control

The use of an open nozzle with good temperature control and an independently-controlled thermocouple nearby the tip and heater bands with sufficient output is recommended.

Hot runner layout

Try to achieve a close contact with your hot runner supplier and Envalior as the material supplier, to be sure that the right hot runner system is chosen.

When processing Xytron™ with hot runners, keep in mind these basic rules:

- Central bushing heated separately
- Only use external heated system
- Manifold heated from both sides
- Tip with thermocouple in front (near gate)
- Very accurate temperature control in the gate area

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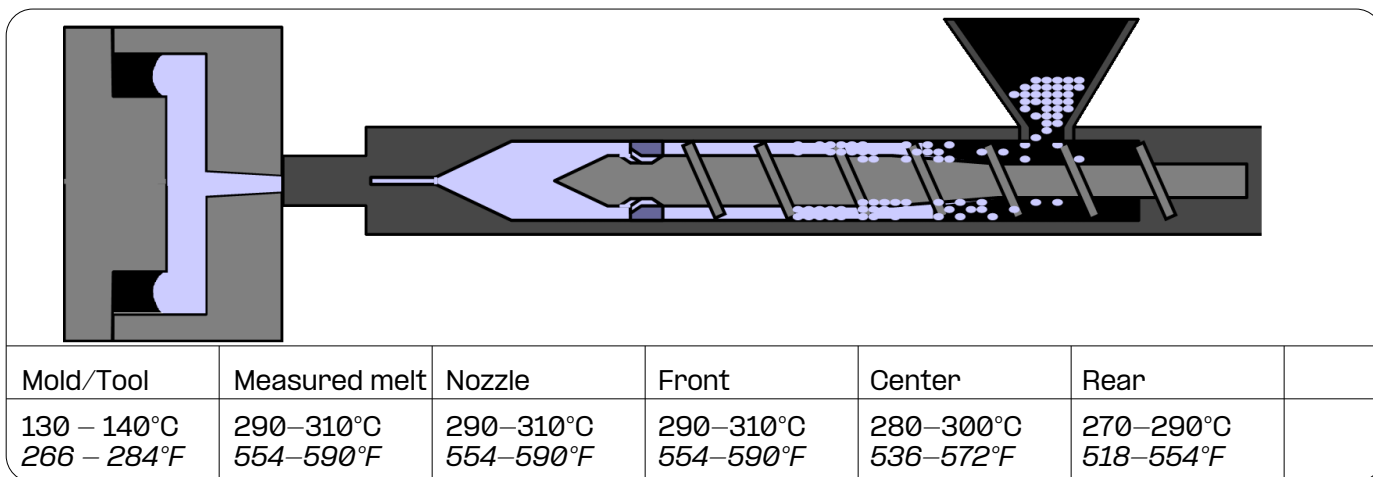
TEMPERATURE SETTINGS

Mold temperature

Xytron™ tool temperature is general in the range of (130 – 140°C / 266 – 284°F). This to secure best crystallization, good dimensional stability, flow properties and surface aesthetics of the molded part. However, grade or application wise it may be needed to adapt the given range. This to secure good mold release without influence to part performances.

Barrel temperature

Optimal settings are governed by barrel size and residence time. Furthermore, the level of glass and/or mineral reinforcement has to be taken into account.



Melt temperature

To generate a good and homogeneous melt, the melt temperature should always be above 290°C / 554°F. Optimal mechanical properties will be achieved at melt temperatures between 290–310°C / 554–590°F.

We advise to frequently measure the melt temperature by pouring the melt in a Teflon cup and inserting a thermo probe into the melt.

Hot runner temperature

A hot runner temperature set to the same level as the nozzle temperature should work fine and not lead to excessive overheat of the Xytron™ grade. When starting up, an increased tip temperature may be necessary to overcome a frozen nozzle.

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GENERAL PROCESSING SETTINGS

Screw rotation speed

To realize a good and homogeneous melt, it is advised to set a screw rotation speed resulting in a plasticizing time that is just within the cooling time.

The rotational speed of the screw should not exceed $6500 / D$ RPM (where D is the screw diameter in mm).

Back pressure

Back pressure should be between 30–100 bars effective. Keep it low in order to prevent nozzle-drooling, excessive shear heating and long plasticizing times.

Decompression:

In order to prevent nozzle drool after plasticizing and retracting the nozzle from the mold, a short decompression stroke can be used. However, to prevent oxidation of the melt, which may result in surface defects on the parts, it is recommended to keep this as short as possible.

Injection speed

Moderate to high injection speeds are required in order to prevent premature crystallization in the mold during injection phase and to obtain a better surface finish. The recommended injection speed profile goes from fast (for sprue and runner filling) to medium (for part filling) to avoid excessive shear heating and allow air to escape from the mold. Adequate mold venting is required to avoid burning at the end of the flow path (due to diesel effect).

Injection pressure

The real injection pressure is the result of the flowability of the material (crystallization rate, flow length, wall thickness, filling speed). The set injection pressure should be high enough to maintain the set injection speed (use set injection pressure higher than the peak pressure if possible). Tooling air vents must be effective to allow optimum filling pressure and prevent burn marks.

Holding time

Effective holding time is determined by part thickness and gate size. Holding time should be maintained until a constant product weight is achieved.

Holding pressure

The most adequate holding pressure is the level whereby no sinkmarks or flash are visible. A too high holding pressure can lead to stresses in the part.

Cooling Time

Actual cooling time will depend on part geometry and dimensional quality requirements as well as the tool design (gate size).

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MELT RESIDENCE TIME

The optimal Melt Residence Time (MRT) for Xytron™ U3020E is ≤ 6 minutes with preferably at least 50% of the maximal shot volume used. The MRT should not exceed 8 minutes.

A formula to estimate the MRT is described below:

$$MRT = \frac{\pi D^3 \rho * t}{m * 60}$$

Whereas:

MRT = Melt Residence Time [minutes]

D = Screw Diameter [cm]

ρ = Melt Density [g/cm³]

m = Shot Weight [g]

t = Cycle Time [s]

Please note: In the calculation above, the hotrunner volume has not been taken into account. When a hotrunner is part of the setup, please add the hotrunner volume to the calculation. A full self-service MRT calculation can be done using the following [link](#).

SAFETY

For the safety properties of the material, we refer to our SDS which can be ordered at our sales offices. During practical operation we advise to wear personal safety protections for hand/eye/body.

STARTUP/SHUT DOWN/CLEANING

Production has to be started and stopped with a clean machine. Cleaning can be done with PA6-GF or PA66-GF, applicable cleaning agents or HDPE. Hot runners can also be cleaned and put out of production cleaning them with PA6-GF or PA66-GF.

PRODUCTION BREAKS

During production breaks longer than a few minutes, we advise emptying the barrel. The temperature of the barrel and the hot runner [if applicable] should be reduced to a level far enough below the melting point of the compound in order to stop decomposition of the compound.

When the hot runner, nozzle, or even the screw is blocked, be aware that under these conditions a sudden outburst of molten material can take place. Always wear personal safety protections for hand/eye/body.

TROUBLESHOOTING

See our trouble shooting guidelines on the internet.

Contact Envalior in case more information is required from the aspect of material or processing.

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