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### **A Review of: “Gunter Oertel (editor): Polyurethane Handbook, Hanser, Munich, 1985, 680 pp., \$128. Distributed by Macmillan, New York”**

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## Book Review

GUNTER OERTEL (editor): Polyurethane Handbook, Hanser, Munich, 1985, 680 pp., \$128. Distributed by Macmillan, New York.

This 15-chapter book contains excellent information covering a wide spectrum of polyurethanes. It is written in a manner to serve research, marketing, and production personnel, particularly those who are new to the field of polyurethanes. The book covers a wide range of subjects from foams, cast elastomers, millable gums, coatings to thermoplastics, adhesives, and fibers. There are numerous references at the end of each subject, making it relatively easy to obtain greater detail in any particular area.

The chapter on "Chemical and Physical-Chemical Principles of Polyurethane Chemistry" gives a good grasp of the basic chemistry that one has to be familiar with to be successful in this field. The inclusion of the transport, storage, handling, and quality and analysis sections for polyols and isocyanates is very good, particularly for people thinking of going into the business of manufacturing polyurethane prepolymers. The chapter on polyurethane processing is very extensive. There is much detail concerning metering and mixing equipment, including numerous detailed schematic diagrams. These are a common feature in all chapters and greatly assist the reader (there are 544 figures and 121 tables). There is a detailed chapter on the "Determination of the Composition and Properties of Polyurethanes." Included is a good discussion on how to prepare test specimens, a subject that is unfamiliar to many. The chapter on "Polyurethanes and Environment," especially the section on "Industrial Hygiene in Manufacturing and Processing," which covers the ecology of polyurethanes, is particularly useful.

This is one of the better and, certainly, one of the most comprehensive books on polyurethanes, and I recommend it as a good reference to any one working in the field.

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