

LOOKING GOOD

Coatings Magazine knows looks matter. Here's the latest batch of new and redesigned appearance instrumentation products available on the market.

ATLAS: SUNTEST XLS+

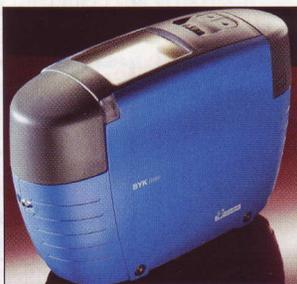
Atlas Material Testing Technology has overhauled its SUNTEST XLS+ weathering device. The primary focus of the redesign is to improve flexibility and ease of use. One enhancement is the new, digitally controllable specimen spray, which turns the XLS+ from a testing device into a full-fledged weathering instrument, says the company. The immersion system and cooling aggregate were modernized as well to combine flexibility with modern control options. Atlas designed both accessories as stackable sub-frame systems to ensure the space-saving table-top principle remains intact for all applications.

According to Atlas, the SUNTEST XLS+ unit is frequently used for engineering and quality tests of plastics, packaging, and coatings. Companies with reduced testing needs or small 3D test specimens use the XLS+ due to its compact design. www.atlas-mts.com/

BYK-GARDNER: TOTAL COLOUR IMPRESSION OF EFFECT COATINGS

BYK-Gardner has introduced a new instrument to objectively characterize the total colour impression of effect coatings: the BYK-mac. Special effect coatings play a dominant role in automotive applications as they make an object distinctively appealing. The new BYK-mac is designed to objectively measure two

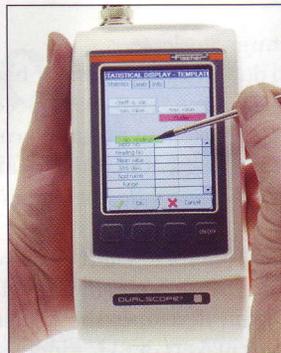
parameters in one portable device. It measures flake characterization with a camera that measures the visual impression of sparkling and graininess, simulating effect changes under direct and diffuse lighting conditions. It also performs multi-angle colour measurement before and behind the specular reflection to give more information about the colour travel of special effect finishes.



The BYK-mac uses a patented illumination system designed to guarantee stable, long term and temperature-independent readings to ensure accuracy and low maintenance for many years, says the company. The shape of the instrument is designed to ensure easy handling and portability. For stable readings on flat and curved samples, the BYK-mac is equipped with trigger pins on the bottom plate of the instrument. The unit features menu-guided operation according to customer-specific sampling procedures, designated buttons for standard and sample readings and a large display for quality control of effect finishes. www.byk.com/instruments/

FISCHER TECHNOLOGY: THICKNESS CONTROL

Fischer Technology has introduced the new Dualscope FMP100 coating thickness gauge,

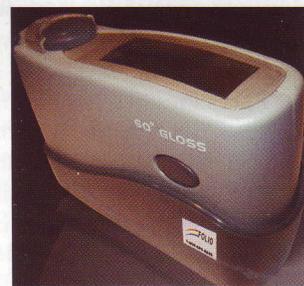


which utilizes the magnetic induction and eddy current test methods allowing for measurements over ferrous and non-ferrous substrates. The robust housing and durable plug-in type probes deliver non-destructive, high precision measurements of coatings, says the company. The large colour display is made for viewing results in a manufacturing environment as well as outdoors. The display is touchreen enabling the user to quickly select the function required. Softkeys for functions, such as calibrate, zero, block result, final result and application and name can be configured. The Dualscope FMP100 uses Windows CE-based application software to simply settings, measurements, and data evaluations. Graphics such as a company logo can also be transferred from a PC to the unit for inclusion in an inspection report. www.fischer-technology.com

FOLIO INSTRUMENTS: GLOSS METER

Folio Instruments has introduced what it claims is the first ever Canadian brand-named gloss meter, The Folio Mini Gloss. The Mini Gloss meets ASTM 523 and is a simple 60° gloss meter, says the company. There are no menus, just a straightforward 60° measurement instrument. Once calibrated, the Folio Mini Gloss will continuously

measure the gloss of the sample without further operator intervention. Simply pass it over a product and it can scan it continuously, says Folio.



The Folio Mini Gloss is a third of the cost of the leading competitors, claims the company. It will be sold through Folio Instruments' new web site. www.coating-gage.com

KONICA MINOLTA: COLOUR MEASUREMENT

The new CM-700d spectrophotometer from Konica Minolta is a compact and lightweight instrument that allows fast measurement of samples that were previously difficult to control, says the company. The CM-700d



is designed to make measurements of shaped and round samples easy and repeatedly controllable. The unit features bluetooth wireless data communication with a PC or printer (USB communication is also available), as well as a colour LCD screen display. The bright 2.36-in. TFT display shows colour data in more detail and improves operability, claims the company. www.konicaminolta.com