



Araldite®

Structural Adhesives

Araldite® adds style to Audi R8

Case History

Araldite® RTM System used to produce stylish carbon composite side blade on Audi's latest high performance sports car.

Fischer Composite Technology GmbH, based near Salzburg, Austria specialises in the development and production of complex carbon fibre composites for use in the automotive, aerospace and sports leisure equipment industries.

In a recent project for Audi AG, Fischer worked closely with Huntsman Advanced Materials using Araldite Resin Transfer Moulding (RTM) and specialist bonding technologies for the production of the carbon side blades on the Audi R8 sports car.

Measuring 900mm x 500mm, the side blade is made from two RTM shells which are later bonded together using Araldite® 2015, a two-component epoxy adhesive paste with a highly resilient bond. Sag resistant up to 10mm, Araldite® 2015 is particularly suitable for SMC and GRP bonding applications.

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During the Araldite® RTM process to produce the side blade, some dry pre-formed carbon fibres are put into a mould and injected with epoxy resin. The inner shell is cast with all the fixing devices to mount the side blade on to the car already in place, so no additional auxiliary component bonding or finishing is required.

The outer shell comprises a three-layer CFK/GFK structure. Once mounted, the visible outer side of the side blade is a 6K Twill 2/2 carbon fibre surface, protected from UV sunlight with a clear, glossy lacquer finish.

"Audi AG required a ready-to-install side blade assembly with all fixing and mounting items included," said Gerhard Kölbl, Sales & Marketing Manager at FCT. "It also had to meet Class A surface finish requirements, including protection against ultra-violet and other effects of the weather.

- **Application:**
Araldite® RTM and specialist bonding systems used on production of carbon fibre automotive side blades
- **Special service conditions:**
ready-to-install side blade assembly with all fixing and mounting items included
- **Advantages for customer:**
 - highly resilient bonding
 - particularly suitable for SMC and GRP bonding applications
 - one step RTM composite part production
- **Advantages over the competition:**
 - Class A surface finish on composite parts
 - Good UV light resistance and environmental resistance
 - No additional auxiliary component bonding or finishing required
- **Araldite® adhesive used:**
Araldite® RTM System
Araldite® 2015
- **Customer location:**
Salzburg, Austria

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The Audi R8 is now available worldwide, and Fischer Composite Technology are currently manufacturing around 4000 sets of the side blades per annum.

For further information on Fischer Composite Technology go to www.fischer-ct.com

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