



RUBBER & PLASTICS CORP.

MONMOUTH RUBBER & PLASTICS

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American Icon Returns to Being 'Made in America'

After nearly 25 years, U.S. manufacturer Monmouth Rubber and Plastics Corp. puts the 'Made in America' label back on an iconic American product.

Some products are just synonymous with America. But these days, your grandma's apple pies are one of the few products that are actually still made here. During the past few decades, many U.S. manufacturers have been outsourcing the production of some of America's most iconic products to cut down on manufacturing costs. Even America's greatest past time, baseball, is played with balls stitched together in Costa Rica; and many of Mattel's most iconic American toys, like the Barbie doll, are now made in Hong Kong.



The neoprene Wetsuit is another true American icon. It symbolizes the 'surf culture' that has evolved from denoting the 1950-1960s carefree waterlogged rebel with a tanned muscular build and sun-bleached hair, to now reflect more contemporary attitudes which embody freedom, adventure, the responsible use and care of our planet's natural resources, and the possibility to explore uncharted territory in a different type of world found under the deep blue sea.

However, there was a time when wetsuits didn't exist. Certainly the Hawaiians had no use for them with their year-round endless summer. But once the addictive sport was exported to California, surfers dove in to the sometimes-frigid Pacific Ocean, and the dire necessity for insulation took on urgency. As we all know, necessity is, indeed, the mother of invention!



The story of the birth of the neoprene wetsuit is actually quite an interesting one. It begins back in the late 1940s and early 1950s in the town of South Amboy, N.J. A company called Parkway Fabricators & Weiss Clothing was in the business of manufacturing men's clothing suits. Dan and Fred Weiss, the sons of the owner, were seasoned drysuit scuba divers. In the type of drysuit they used, air was pumped down to the head chamber so the diver can breathe under water for prolonged periods of time.

During this same time period in Bedford, Virginia, Rubatex Corp. began manufacturing a material made of 100% neoprene rubber in a sheet measuring 40" x 120". This material was known as Rubatex G231N. It was manufactured through a unique process using a nitrogen gassing chamber.

At that time, no other company had a gas blown material, and more importantly, no one had a 100% neoprene material with the high physical properties of the Rubatex G231N.

Dan and Fred Weis discovered the existence of Rubatex G231N and came up with the idea of using it to make an insulated wetsuit to help keep divers warm in cold water temperatures. Since they were both Cloth Cutters by trade, they were well-versed in cutting shapes out of various types of materials to make a suit.

The first wetsuits manufactured actually had a skin on one side of the neoprene material. There was no fabric lamination. Talcum powder was used to stretch the material over the skin. The Weiss brothers introduced the concept to the U.S. Navy and subsequently, Parkway Fabricators became the worldwide leader of making wetsuits in an exclusive arrangement with Rubatex.

Several years went by, and in 1962 the Japanese introduced a new type of chemically blown wetsuit material. It soon found its way into Taiwan. Over the next 25 years, the Japanese in concert with the Taiwanese became the worldwide leaders in manufacturing wetsuit material. The Taiwanese added textured designs to the rubber surface and fabric laminations - commonly referred to as four-way stretch nylon. By the early 1990s, Rubatex Corp. was no longer a contender in the wetsuit market, and by the turn of the century, there was no more skin diving material made anywhere in the United States. With Rubatex G231N now knocked off the market, the only neoprene material available was chemically blown, and it could only be found outside of the U.S. Unfortunately, many companies who purchased the imported 'knock offs' discovered they simply didn't measure up to the quality of the previous material made by Rubatex.

For many years, Gasket Cutters, Fabricators and OEMs searched worldwide for a manufacturer that could match the quality of Rubatex G231N. Then in July of 2012, Monmouth Rubber & Plastics Corp., with its proprietary technology, decided it was going to be a game changer. It announced new Rubatex equivalents that now complete the full line of obsolete Rubatex stocks - including G231N and G207N, which customers found impossible to find suitable replacement materials. As a result, doing so brought the production of neoprene wetsuit material back to the U.S.A. with the development of a product called Durafoam™ N231.

Durafoam™ N231 is a 100% neoprene closed-cell material EQUAL to the physical properties previously exhibited by G231N Rubatex material. Through the results of extensive product testing and performance, and the unique superior physical properties of this flagship material, the sales of Durafoam™ N231 have skyrocketed. Gasket Cutters, Fabricators and OEMs were ecstatic that they could finally, once again, match the quality of Rubatex G231N with the newly developed technology of Durafoam™ N231 - available only at Monmouth Rubber & Plastics Corp. in the U.S.A.

Just to give you a little background on Neoprene - or the chemical name Polychloroprene (CR) – it is a specialty type of synthetic rubber that is produced by the polymerization of chloroprene monomer. It has a diverse combination of technical rubber properties that are quite unique amongst synthetic elastomers, which makes it a very desirable and versatile material. Applications vary from molded goods, cables, various types of belts, profiles, adhesives, and of course, sponge or wetsuit material. CR has good mechanical strength; high ozone and weather resistance; good aging resistance, low flammability; good resistance toward chemicals; and moderate oil and fuel resistance.

Unlike other neoprene products, Durafoam™ N231 is not oil-derived. It is also not dependent on Butadiene Monomer or Petrochemicals – so less oil use means lower carbon emissions into the atmosphere. The manufacturing process is GREEN because the raw material is based on Limestone, a sedimentary rock that can be found naturally throughout out the world. Through the Acetylene process, Limestone is converted to Chloroprene Monomer to ultimately make Durafoam™ N231 – which is used by Gasket Cutters, Fabricators and OEMs to make all kinds of end products - including neoprene wetsuits.

Located in Long Branch, N.J, Monmouth Rubber & Plastics Corp. is one of the few remaining manufacturers that solely keeps shop in the United States. *"U.S. manufacturing is critical to maintain a strong economy. American people spending American dollars on American products equals American jobs. These jobs are the foundation of a thriving economy,"* says Founder and General Manager John Bonforte, Sr. *"When many 'expatriot'*

manufacturers left the country and set up operations overseas in search of cheaper labor costs, subsidy offers, and the desire for better access to international markets, Monmouth Rubber and Plastics Corp. stayed loyal to the U.S. To keep our factory on U.S. soil may appear to decrease our bottom line, but that type of thinking is short-sighted. You have to look at the big picture. At the end of the day, when our economy thrives, we thrive."

The fact of the matter is, all U.S.-based manufacturing underpins a wide range of homeland jobs that stretch far beyond the common icon of factory line workers and machines. U.S. manufacturers additionally support higher-skill jobs that include accountants, bankers, lawyers, and other professionals that are associated with any industry, as well as a wide range of other jobs including research, technology development, product and process engineering and design, operations and maintenance, transportation, testing, lab work, and marketing.

So why have Monmouth Rubber and Plastics Corp. refused to jump on the 'outsourcing bandwagon' perchance to increase its own personal profits for the past 50 years?

"The bottom line is recycling. When you buy U.S.-made products, the proceeds remain in the U.S. economy. The money you spend then pays the workers who directly or indirectly created the product you purchased. When workers spend their money on U.S.-made products, the dollars continue to be recycled, and our economy prospers," says Monmouth Rubber and Plastics President John Bonforte Jr. *"We not only realize the power of recycling dollars back to our own economy, we even offer a full line of recycled cellular rubber and plastic material under the trade name BONDAFLEX™. We also have a Trash to Cash program where we show our customers how to go green, save money, and turn their own trash into cash using our recycling program. Everyone wins!"*

Monmouth Rubber & Plastics Corp. is a leading manufacturer of closed cell sponge rubber and plastic foam products. Visit the company's website at www.MonmouthRubber.com to learn more about its green manufacturing practices, as well as its recycled rubber products, and flagship Durafoam™ N231 used to make neoprene wetsuits.

LET'S LAY OUR FACTS ON THE TABLE

nylo-prene

A NEW CONCEPT FROM PARKWAY FABRICATORS

No need for talcum powder or tugging, even though your **nylo-prene** wet suit fits snuggest of all. Slip it on in a hurry... **nylo-prene** is smooth as silk. Slip it off easily... wet or dry **nylo-prene** can't grab or bind. The amazing strength of **nylo-prene** takes the "tear" out of "wear-and-tear," and Parkway guarantees the **nylo-prene** lining never to crack, snag or stretch out of shape. Three sixteenth and quarter inch **nylo-prene** wet suits, complete with **nylo-prene** hood, boots and gloves are available only from your authorized Parkway dealer. Contact him today for further information, or write: Dept. ND-64.

PARKWAY fabricators
348 Bordentown Avenue,
South Amboy, New Jersey

SKIN DIVER—October 1962

Circa 1960's

shark-skin two! A NEW KIND OF TREASURE — A NEW KIND OF PLEASURE.

It works with you. It works for you. And it never leaves your side. **sharkskin two** has "hingeability." Each time you move, it moves with you. It bends, twists, bends, just as your body does.

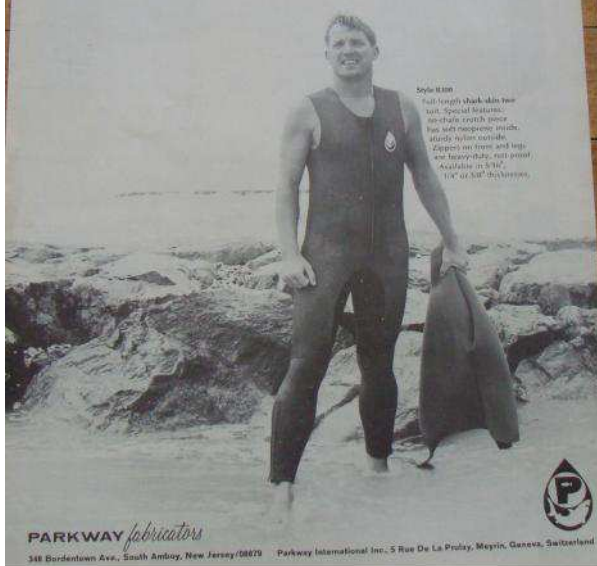
For each square inch of **sharkskin two**, there are about 85 tiny ridges. By spreading and closing, as your body moves, they adjust the suit so it's always comfortable.

sharkskin two comes in 1/8", 3/16", 1/4" or 3/8".

Available in all sizes. And for tall men — extra long; for short men — extra short. No extra charge! Ask your local dealer to show you the complete Parkway Line.

To get your new 1966 Parkway Dive Catalog send 25¢ in Dept. 503366.

extra position of sharkskin two



Style #1000
Full-length sharkskin two suit. Special features: neoprene stretch, stretch nylon outside. Drapery on front and legs and teardrop, rust-proof. Available in 1/8", 3/16", 1/4" or 3/8" thickness.

PARKWAY fabricators
548 Bordentown Ave., South Amboy, New Jersey 08879 Parkway International Inc., 5 Rue De La Prulay, Meyrin, Geneva, Switzerland.

THE SUN NEVER SETS ON PARKWAY

shark-skin[®]

Wherever in the world divers want the finest protection, they choose the Parkway shark-skin wet suit.

In the tropics, spearfishing deep on coral reefs, divers know the extra protection of the snug fitting, tough textured shark-skin suit.

Divers in the frozen north are confident. Even under the ice shark-skin's exclusive snivel locks can not pop open... No sudden chill.

From Brooklyn to Berlin, divers know that shark-skin's outer texture and inner lining gives them the one suit that is easiest to slip in and out of, and toughest to tear.

Combine this with fine nylon, completely rust and corrosion proof stoppers (see for women) and you know why Parkway is the largest manufacturer of wet suits.

For the best looking, best fitting, best wearing wet suits in the world ask your local dealer to show you his new Parkway catalog... or send 25¢ in coin to:



PARKWAY fabricators
348 Bordentown Ave., South Amboy, N.J.

Circa 1960's

DURAFOAM™ N231 & N207 100% NEOPRENE

TYPICAL PHYSICAL PROPERTY	TEST METHOD	DURAFOAM N231	DURAFOAM N207
POLYMER		100% NEOPRENE	100% NEOPRENE
ASTM D 1056-13		2C1	2C2 & 2C3
DENSITY (LBS/FT ³) APPROX	ASTM-D 1056	12	17
TENSILE STRENGTH (LB/IN)	ASTM-D-412 (DIE A)	200 PSI MIN	200 PSI MIN
TEAR STRENGTH (LB/IN)	ASTM-D-624 (DIE C)	40	40
ELONGATION (%) MIN.	ASTM-D-412 (DIE A)	400%	400%

Imagine the possibilities that N231 could do for your new products...



As an ISO 9001:2008 certified manufacturer, Monmouth offers **QUALITY VALUE & SERVICE** you can depend on.

DURAFOAM
CLOSED CELL SPONGE RUBBER
& PLASTIC FOAM
"SIMPLY THE BEST"

ASK JOHN



"ASK JOHN" is Monmouth's global technical support service. It's **free** and it brings real value to your company. It allows Monmouth's customers and visitors to have a 24/7 Technical Library, **absolutely free**. Do you have a technical question or problem? Just email johnsr@monmouthrubber.com, or call 1-732-229-3444 x12 and "Ask John".

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