

# Cable Lore



BY POWER CABLE ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH

Issue No. 24

February, 1968

## UNIBLEND: CONCEPT, NOT COMPOUND

In 1962 Anaconda introduced a revolutionary new medium-voltage power cable to the electrical industry. The name — UNIBLEND. What made this new cable revolutionary? It wasn't Butyl insulation. After all, Durasheath cables utilized Butyl as the insulating material. The revolution was in the general design concept of the cable — the UniBlend Concept.

This new concept was not born easily or quickly. It took five long, hard years of continuous research and development work in order to gather the overwhelming amount of data necessary to substantiate the theory behind the concept.

As a result of this work three outstanding developments were incorporated into the UniBlend design concept. These are:

1. Extruded strand shield
2. Homogeneous compound mixing
3. Simultaneous extrusion and vulcanization of strand shield and insulation

Oddly enough, the ideal of "reduced wall thickness" is not a part of the UniBlend concept but rather a result of it.

The particular advantages of each part of the concept are well documented and will not be gone into here except to say that they are more than significant. The three work in unison; and the absence of any one of the parts seriously impairs the validity of the whole.

UniBlend was the first commercially available power cable to incorporate extruded strand shield, or homogenous mixing, or simultaneous extrusion and vulcanization of strand shield and insulation. Since that pioneering effort was begun our competitors have time and time again attested to the validity of our concept by incorporating one or more of the part in their own constructions according to their own capabilities and knowhow.

The choice of Anaconda (AB) Butyl as the insulation in UniBlend cable was coincidence. At the time it was the best all-around insulating material available for medium-voltage applications. Durasheath (AB) cables gave an excellent record of in-service reliability of (AB) Butyl.

Times change however, and technology moves on. New and better materials have evolved that meet the ever increasing demands of the electrical industry. These materials didn't just happen. They were painstakingly developed through sweat and tears and a lot of old-fashioned hard work. So change occurs, not merely for the sake of change but to move ahead.

But, material changes have no effect on the UniBlend concept because none of the principles are based on material choice. Therefore, no matter what insulating material is incorporated into the finished product, if it is called a UniBlend cable it will have —

1. Extruded strand shield
2. Homogeneously mixed insulation
3. Simultaneous extrusion and vulcanization of strand shield and insulation.

UNIBLEND IS NOT BUTYL! UNIBLEND IS A CONCEPT!

R. Sinatra