

Description Plexus® AO420 is a two-part methacrylate adhesive designed for structural bonding of thermoplastic, metal, and composite assemblies¹. Combined at a 10:1 ratio, AO420 is a rapid-curing system. Plexus AO420 is the standard choice for composite bonding applications in the transportation industry because it requires virtually no surface preparation. In addition, this product provides a unique combination of excellent fatigue endurance, outstanding impact resistance, and superior toughness. Plexus AO420 is available in amber, blue, or black colors and is supplied in a ready-to-use cartridge, 5-gallon (20-liter) pails, or 50-gallon (200-liter) drums to be dispensed as a non-sagging gel.

General Characteristics

Room Temperature Cure

- Working Time² 4 – 6 minutes
- Fixture Time³ 18 – 22 minutes
- Operating Temperature⁶ -67°F – 250°F (-55°C – 121°C)
- Gap Filling 0.03 in. – 0.375 in. (0.75 mm – 9.5 mm)
- Mixed Density 8.2 lbs/gal (0.98 g/cc)
- Flash Point 51°F (11°C)

Chemical Resistance⁴

Excellent resistance to:

- Hydrocarbons
- Acids and Bases (pH 3-10)
- Salt Solutions

Susceptible to:

- Polar Solvents
- Strong Acids and Bases

Typical Physical Properties (uncured) – Room Temperature

Viscosity, cP (x 1000)
Color
Density, lb/gal (g/cc)
Mix Ratio by Volume
Mix Ratio by Weight
Mixer Recommendation

Adhesive

100 – 125
Off-White/Amber
8.1 (0.97)
10.0
9.1
Cartridge (490ml)
Bulk:

Activator

35 – 80
Off-White, Blue, and Black
8.8 (1.05)
1.0
1.0
Sulzer MFQX 10-24T mix nozzle
Refer to ITW Polymers Adhesives

Typical Mechanical Properties⁸ (Cured) – Room Temperature

Tensile (ASTM D638)

- Strength, psi (MPa) 2,700 – 3,000 (18.6 – 20.7)
- Modulus, psi (MPa) 75,000 – 100,000 (517.1 – 689.5)
- Strain to Failure (%) 30 – 50

Lap Shear (ASTM D1002)

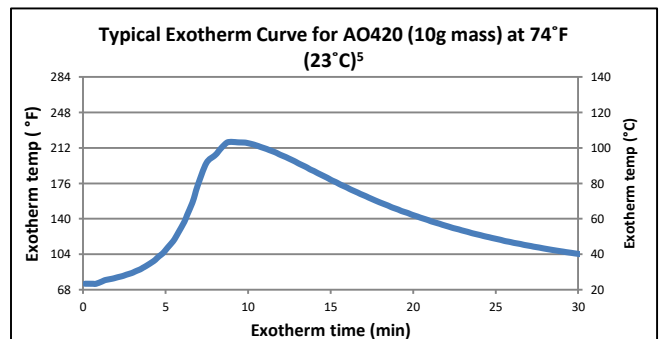
- Cohesive Strength, psi (MPa) 2,800 – 3,200 (19.3 – 22.1) (Grit Blasted Al, 0.030 in (0.76 mm) gap)

Recommended for:

- ABS
 - Acrylics
 - FRP
 - Gelcoats
 - Steel, Carbon*
 - PVC
 - Polyesters (including DCPD modified)
 - Aluminum*
 - Steel*, Stainless*
 - Styrenics
 - Urethanes (general)
 - Vinyl Esters
- * Plexus Primer Suggested⁷

VOC's	% (g/L)
During Cure (see back page)	<2 (<20)

Shelf Life	Months
Adhesive (A Side)	13
Activator (B Side)	10
B Side Black	7
Standard Colors in Cartridges	10
Black in Cartridges	7



TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

AO420/MA420

PLEXUS®

SAFETY & HANDLING: Plexus® adhesive (Part A) is flammable. Contents include methacrylate esters. Keep containers closed after use. Wear gloves and safety glasses to avoid skin and eye contact. Wash with soap and water after skin contact. In case of eye contact, flush with water for 15 minutes and get medical attention. Harmful if swallowed. Keep out of reach of children. Keep away from heat, sparks, and open flames. For more complete health and safety information, contact ITW PP for a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

Note: Because of the rapid curing features of this product, a large amount of heat may be generated when large masses of material are mixed at one time. Further, the heat generated by the exotherm resulting from the mixing of large masses of this system can result in the release of entrapped air, steam, and volatile gases. To prevent this, dispense only enough material as needed for the application and for use within the working time of the product and confine gap thickness to no more than its maximum gap fill capability. Questions relative to handling and applications should be directed to ITW PP at 855-489-7262.

DISPENSING ADHESIVE AND APPLICATION: Plexus Adhesives may be applied manually or with all stainless steel bulk dispensing equipment. Automated applications may be accomplished with a variety of 10-to-1 meter-mix equipment delivering both components to a static mixer. Avoid contact with copper or copper-containing alloys in all fittings, pumps, etc. Seals and gaskets should be made of Teflon, Teflon-coated PVC foam, ethylene/propylene, or polyethylene. Avoid the use of Viton, BUNA-N, Neoprene, or other elastomers for seals and gaskets. For more information, contact ITW Plexus. To assure maximum bond strength, surfaces must be mated within the specified working time. Use sufficient material to ensure the joint is completely filled when parts are mated and clamped. All adhesive application, part positioning, and fixturing should occur *before* the working time of the mix has expired. After indicated working time, parts must remain undisturbed until the fixture time is reached. Clean up is easiest *before* the adhesive has cured. Citrus terpene or N-methyl pyrrolidone (NMP) containing cleaners, degreasers, and soap and water can be used for best results. If the adhesive is already cured, careful scraping, followed by wiping with a cleaning agent, may be the most effective method of clean up.

EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE: Application of adhesive at temperatures between 65°F (18°C) and 85°F (30°C) will ensure proper cure. Temperatures below 65°F (18°C) or above 85°F (30°C) will slow down or increase cure rate significantly. Temperature affects viscosities of Parts A and B of this adhesive. To ensure consistent dispensing in meter-mix equipment, adhesive and activator temperatures should be held reasonably constant throughout the year. Adhesive in cured state behaves differently at elevated and low temperatures. See ITW PP for specific values.

STORAGE AND SHELF LIFE: Shelf Life is based on steady state storage between 55°F and 77°F (13°C and 25°C). Exposure, intermittent or prolonged, above 80°F (27°C) will result in a reduction of the stated shelf life. Exposure above 100°F (38°C) can quickly degrade shelf life and should be avoided. Shelf life may be extended by cool storage between 45°F and 65°F (7°C and 18°C). If stored cold, allow product to return to room temperature before using.

PRODUCT USE: Many factors beyond ITW PP control and uniquely within user's knowledge and control can affect the use and performance of an ITW PP product in a particular application. Given the variety of factors that can affect the use and performance of an ITW PP product, the end user is solely responsible for evaluating any ITW PP product and determining whether it is fit for a particular purpose and suitable for user's design, production, and final application.

EXCLUSION OF WARRANTIES: AS TO THE HEREIN DESCRIBED MATERIALS AND TEST RESULTS, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES WHICH EXTEND BEYOND THE DESCRIPTION ON THE FACE HEREOF. ITW PP MAKES NO OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. SINCE THE USE OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED INVOLVES MANY VARIABLES IN METHODS OF APPLICATION, DESIGN, HANDLING AND/OR USE, THE USER, IN ACCEPTING AND USING THESE MATERIALS, ASSUMES ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE END RESULT. ITW PP SHALL NOT OTHERWISE BE LIABLE FOR LOSS OF DAMAGES, WHETHER DIRECT, INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL, REGARDLESS OF THE LEGAL THEORY ASSERTED, INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE, WARRANTY, OR STRICT LIABILITY.

Notes

1. ITW PP strongly recommends that all substrates be tested with the selected adhesive in the anticipated service conditions to determine suitability.
2. Working Time: The time elapsed between the moment Parts A and B of the adhesive system are combined and thoroughly mixed and the time when the adhesive is no longer useable. Times presented were tested at 74°F (23°C).
3. Fixture Time: Varies with bond gap and ambient temperature. Present values were measured at 74°F (23°C).
4. Resistance to chemical exposure varies greatly based on several parameters including temperature, concentration, bond line thickness, and duration of exposure. The chemical resistance guidelines listed assume long-term exposures at ambient conditions.
5. In a typical bond line, exotherm temperatures will be lower than the temperatures shown.
6. All adhesives soften with temperature and should be evaluated at expected conditions. Consult with ITW PP for values at a specific temperature.
7. Exterior applications require the use of coatings or primers that inhibit oxidation of the steel.
8. Attained test values will vary with test method, approach, speed, etc.

NOTE: The technical information, recommendations, and other statements contained in this document are based upon tests or experience that ITW PP believes are reliable, but the accuracy or completeness of such information is not guaranteed. The information provided is not intended to substitute for the customer's own testing.

ITW Performance Polymers (ITW PP)
30 Endicott Street
Danvers, MA 01923 USA
TEL: 855-489-7262
FAX: 978-774-0516
e-mail: plexusinfo@itwpp.com

Plexus AO420 Rev 10 10/2020

