

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss textiles [English edition]  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss office for the development of trade  
**Band:** - (1963)  
**Heft:** 4

**Artikel:** A new elastic fibre and its possibilities of use  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-798680>

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## A new elastic fibre and its possibilities of use

This autumn, the European office of the American firm of Du Pont presented its new elastic elastomer fibre « Lycra » (Regd. Trade Mark) to the textile press and distributors of corsets, girdles, etc. at special showings held in Zurich, Lausanne and Lugano.

« Lycra » is not a discovery hit upon purely by chance, but an invention that is the outcome of many years of systematic research with a view to creating a synthetic fibre possessing, for specific uses, the advantages of rubber yarn but without its drawbacks. In 1959, after 18 months of practical trials, the manufacturer decided to release the new fibre for general production; in 1962, « Lycra » made its first appearance in Switzerland in the corset industry.

« Lycra » is not merely a transformation of an existing textile material, but an original, entirely man-made product. It possesses a resistance to breaking two to four times greater than that of ordinary elastic fibres and an elasticity twice as great. Furthermore, in use, it keeps its properties of resistance and suppleness much longer. It is proof against perspiration and cosmetic products as well

as detergents and washing products. It is supplied in very soft, absolutely white yarns, which therefore require no bleaching and can be used either just as they are or sheathed, whichever is required. The « Lycra » used industrially comes in the form of a smooth filament, which is in actual fact composed of a large number of extremely fine strands. It is this feature that makes it possible to dye and print fabrics made of « Lycra » in fast colours; in addition, sewing needles pass right through the yarn without cutting it.

All these features make the new Du Pont yarn an invaluable aid to the elastic fabrics and ribbons industry as well as for the manufacture of corsets and similar articles. It can also be used for a great many other purposes, in fact wherever an elastic yarn is needed.

In Switzerland, there are five factories producing « Lycra »-based elastic fabrics and three manufacturers of elastic ribbons. In addition there are over thirty firms using these fabrics to make corsets, girdles, bras and swimsuits.



OMBRETTA A.G., KLINGNAU  
Girdle and bra

BALLY ELASTIC LTD.,  
SCHÖNENWERD  
Printed elastic fabric in « Lycra »  
Photo King, Zurich