

# MEDICI

## CASUAL BLACK KNITTED TOP WITH PLASTIC TRIM

The black and white and bronze coloured plastic trim used on this garment is unserviceable to a dry cleaning treatment that is significantly more cautious than that required by the 'Dry Clean Only' instructions on the attached care labelling.

### ENQUIRY

The client submitted a lady's plastic trimmed black rayon/nylon knitted top, labelled 'Medici Casual', for examination and report. The purpose of the enquiry was to comment on the most likely cause of the distortion of the shape of the attached trim and the loss of surface colour from the bronze coloured trim that have all become apparent after the garment was recently dry cleaned for the first time.

The client reported that the top was not pre- or post-spotted and that it was cleaned by itself with in-line refrigerated perchlorethylene, charged with a proprietary soap product, using a 7-minute cleaning cycle. The process used was intended to correspond with the more restrictive requirements of the underlined circled P dry cleaning symbol (P) rather than the 'Dry

Clean Only' instructions on the attached care labelling.

### LABELLING

- Designer/Manufacturer: Medici Casual
- Fibre Content Labelling: 68% rayon/32% nylon

■ Care Labelling: Dry Clean Only

■ Size Labelling: M

### EXAMINATION

The garment was examined under standard white lighting conditions and it was seen to be trimmed on the front with several horizontal



Above: This is what the garment looks like.  
At right: The damage to the bronze trim can plainly be seen

rows of small rectangular shaped black, white and bronze coloured pieces of plastic. It was evident that the individual pieces of the attached plastic trim had generally lost shape and become distorted and that there had been severe loss of colour from some of the bronze coloured plastic trim. The colour of the black and white trim had not been affected because it was made from solid black and white plastic.

## DISCUSSION

The 'Dry Clean Only' care instructions attached to this garment do not impose any restrictions on the dry cleaning process to be used, such as solvent type, process duration or temperature, and therefore any recognised dry cleaning treatment has to be considered as being fully compliant with them. However, the client has reported carrying out a much more cautious short cycle dry cleaning process using refrigerated perchlorethylene solvent.

The attached plastic trim has clearly exhibited distortion, loss of shape and loss of surface

metallic bronze colour as a result of this dry cleaning treatment that is significantly more cautious than that required by the attached care labelling. This failure of performance by the trim must therefore be considered to be the full responsibility of the manufacturer. In order to comply with the requirements of the Australian care labelling system, manufacturers must ensure that any trims used on their garments are fully serviceable to the attached care instructions.

Reference is made to two technical bulletins prepared by the International Fabricare Institute (I.F.I.) in the U.S.A. - TABS-221 Dissolving Trim and TABS-260 Damage To Sequin Trim - which both provide further information about this commonly encountered problem of trim being damaged during the course of correct dry cleaning treatments. Both of these technical bulletins point out the primary responsibility of the manufacturer in ensuring that any trims used on garments are fully serviceable to the required or recommended care treatments.

## CONCLUSIONS

Dry cleaners have no way of predicting how plastic trim will perform in dry cleaning and are entitled to accept that the attached care labelling is correct. In this case, a dry cleaning process that was much more cautious than the requirements of the garment's attached care labelling still has caused its plastic trim to become severely damaged.

Therefore, the responsibility for the failure of the attached plastic trim to perform satisfactorily to the required care treatment clearly lies with the manufacturer. The garment should therefore be returned to the original point of purchase, along with a copy of this report, so that the customer can receive appropriate redress for her loss.

## CERTIFICATE

I, Steven Donald Pyott, do hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above information is accurate. Being an Associate of the Textile Institute, I have agreed to be bound by the terms of the Institute's Royal Charters, By-laws and Professional Code of Conduct for the time being in force. The Textile Institute accepts no responsibility for the information contained in this reply to your enquiry.

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