

The Doorway

A Publication of The Gill Corporation

High-Performance Composite Products Since 1945 • www.thegillcorp.com

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80 YEARS
1945 - 2025



ANTIMICROBIAL TREATED

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

THE LEGACY OF THE GILL CORPORATION

OUR JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

As we celebrate 80 years since our founding, we look back with pride on a legacy of innovation, quality, and growth. Established on September 11, 1945, by Merwyn C. Gill, known as "M.C.," in a modest garage in Montebello, California, The Gill Corporation has grown from a small family business into a global leader in advanced composite materials.

OUR BEGINNINGS

M.C. Gill foresaw the potential of plastics as a material for the future. He started the business by producing "Wallfab," a durable plastic wallpaper that proved to be challenging to install. His early entrepreneurial spirit also saw him experiment with various consumer goods from laminate placemats and lampshades to plastic-coated balsa wood baseball bats for children.

Despite the initial challenges, M.C.'s perseverance paid off.



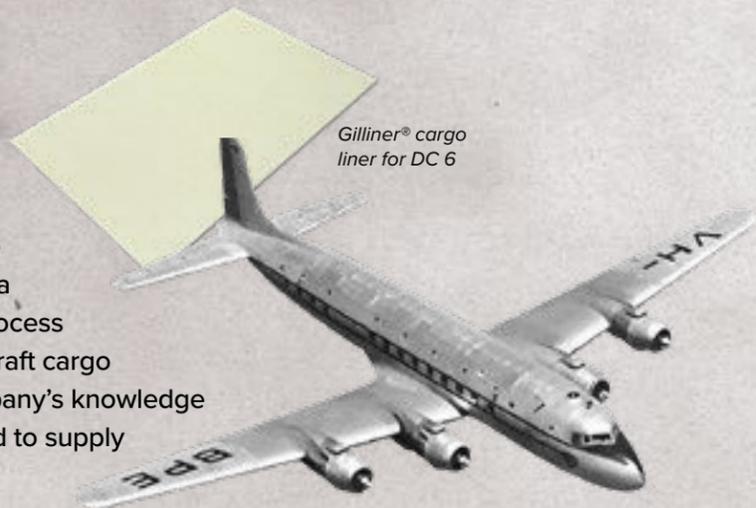
A chance encounter defined our path in the aerospace industry. Douglas Aircraft Company was searching for a manufacturer that could apply a plastics production process to make fire-proof wall lining material for the DC-6 aircraft cargo compartment. That successful application of the company's knowledge of plastics production processes was quickly expanded to supply specialty laminates to other major airlines.



Our First Home
403-1/2 Montebello Boulevard
Montebello, Calif
September 11, 1945.



Wallfab® Wallpaper



Received 1st order from Douglas Aircraft

FAMILY AND GROWTH

The company was truly a family affair, with M.C. Gill not only at the helm of production but driving sales and product innovation. His wife and business partner Ellen, managed the financial activities of the business establishing a culture for minimizing waste and maximizing customer value that continues today. As the company grew, their children Phillip and Stephen began working part time where they learned everything from the ground up. Their hands-on experiences not only instilled a strong work ethic in them, but deepened their knowledge of all aspects of the business.



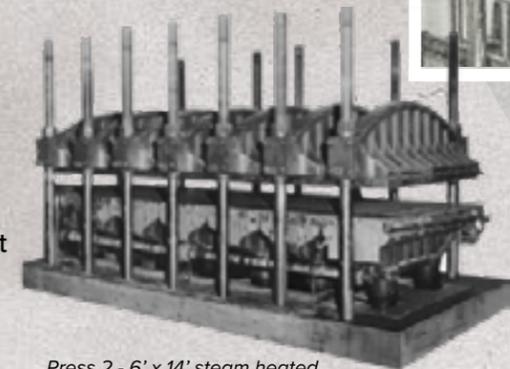
The Gill Family



Stephen Gill started his career at M.C. Gill Corporation

MILESTONES IN INNOVATION:

1955: M.C. made a strategic investment to acquire a large hydraulic press, known as "Press 2" that allowed us to produce larger laminates while gaining a competitive edge. This press remains in operation at our El Monte facility, symbolizing our commitment to reinvest into the business with process improvements, quality products and innovation.



Press 2 - 6' x 14' steam heated press, largest in the industry



Gillfloor® 5007 was used as replacement panels

INTRODUCTION OF "GILLINER" as a superior polyester cargo liner that outperformed competitors and "Gillfloor® 5007," an extremely robust aircraft floor panel that delivered revolutionary improvements with its combination of lightweight materials and water-resistant end-grain balsa wood core.



Developed secret cargo liner formulation for "Gilliner®" 1066

1960s: Relocation of the business to the El Monte, California campus where Building #1 was established.



M.C. Gill at his new office in El Monte, CA

M. C. GILL CORPORATION
FIBERGLASS AND SANDWICH LAMINATIONS



Manufactured bulletproof flooring for helicopters in the Vietnam war

1970s: Developed bulletproof panels for military helicopters and pioneered in-house woven prepregger technology, enhancing our composite manufacturing capabilities.

1980s: Transitioned to in-house honeycomb production, expanding our product range and solidifying our market position. M.C. Gill was honored with the Outstanding USC Engineering Alumnus Award for his contributions to engineering.



GLOBAL EXPANSION AND FURTHER INNOVATIONS:
1990s: Key acquisitions of Insoleq™ and Castle™ expanded our global presence and capabilities, alongside significant contracts for aerospace products.

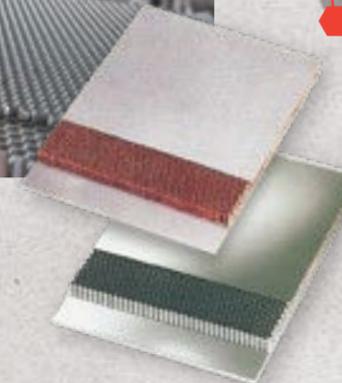
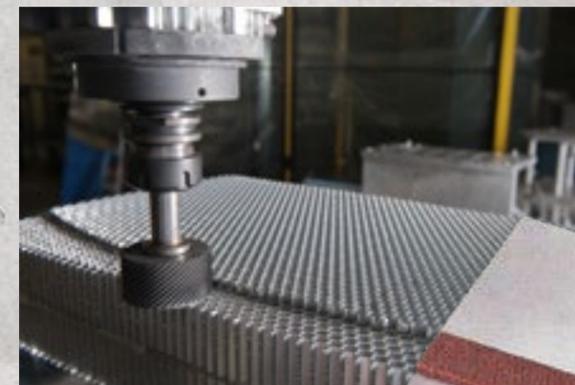


Acquired Insoleq™ rebranded as TGC-Europe and Castle™ consolidated into TGC-EM

2000s: Acquisitions of Alcore™ and Alcore Brigantine™ further stretched our international footprint providing aluminum honeycomb core and capabilities for large-scale, complex bonded assemblies with aluminum, meta-aramid and para-aramid honeycomb.



Acquired Alcore™ rebranded as TGC-Maryland and Alcore Brigantine™ rebranded as TGC-France





2010s: Despite the loss of M.C. Gill, the company continued to thrive, renaming to The Gill Corporation (TGC) and securing major contracts and developing new technologies like GillIVANA®.



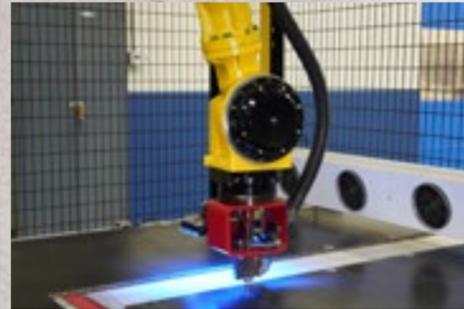
GillIVANA® Vibration and Noise Attenuation



Floor Panel

2014: Awarded contract from Boeing to supply fabricated floor panel assemblies for the B787 aircraft.

2016: Completion of the 8th building (Fabrication Center of Excellence) on the El Monte campus bringing the total square footage to 340,000.



Fabrication Center of Excellence— 140,000 sq. ft. (left & below)
6-Axis Robotic Insert Installation (above)

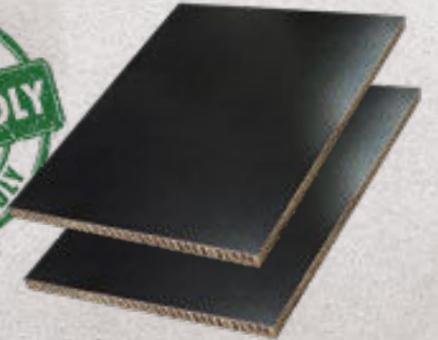
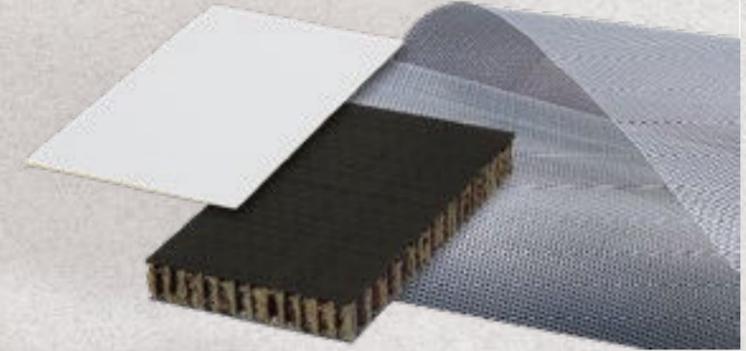


2022: Achieve FAA approvals to supply finished parts directly to the airlines, extended partnerships with OEMs around the world, and launched new high-performance materials.

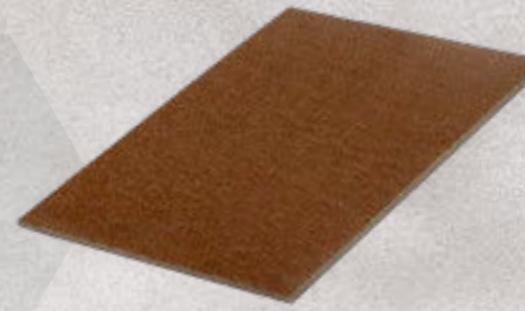
2024: Introduced Gillfab® 5023A foam panel, Gillcore® HK110 honeycomb core & panel, GillBOND™ adhesive, alongside environmentally friendly “green” panels, showcasing our commitment to sustainability and innovation.



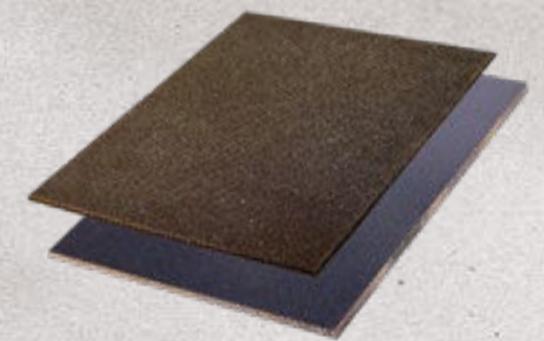
GillBOND™ adhesive



PFA Environmental Friendly Panels



Gillfab® 5023A Foam Panel



Gillcore® HK110 Ultra Lightweight Honeycomb Core & Panel

LEGACY AND FUTURE

Our path has been shaped by the commitment of our team, the trust of our clients, and the foresight of our founders. From our origins in aerospace to our expansion into military, defense, space, transportation, rail, marine, and more, we persist in innovation while cherishing our heritage. We look forward to future chapters filled with excellence, creativity, and worldwide influence at The Gill Corporation.



AN INTERVIEW WITH STEPHEN GILL

CHAIRMAN & CEO

How did The Gill Corporation (TGC) get started?

The Gill Corporation is a family-owned business that was founded in 1945 in a rented garage in Montebello, CA. After surviving WWII, my father believed that plastics were the future and decided to enter that field. He began by producing commercial products and achieved moderate success. In 1952, a cloth salesman persuaded him to create a polyester laminate for the cargo compartment of the Douglas DC-6 aircraft. This venture was successful, and we have been in the aviation business ever since. Our company has grown from a single person to over 700 employees, and we continue to expand.

Why is vertical integration important to TGC?

We want to be vertically integrated so that we can control the quality and delivery. We purchase raw materials and produce our own honeycomb and preregs. By manufacturing our raw materials in-house, we oversee the entire process—from production to shipping. This ensures that we can consistently achieve the quality standards we desire.

What sets TGC apart from the competition?

As a family-owned business, we have the flexibility to make long-term decisions without needing to explain to headquarters. Our core values focus on producing high-quality products and ensuring timely delivery, which I am committed to upholding. Additionally, our vertical integration allows us to control quality and delivery from start to finish.

What excites you about working at TGC?

I've spent my entire career here, and I absolutely love it. I love making the right product. I love making it on time, delivering it on time and making the customer happy. At the end of the day, I go home feeling accomplished because my name is associated with the work. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

"I love making the right product. I love making it on time, delivering it on time and making the customer happy."

Why should customers buy or partner with TGC?

We've been in business for 80 years, with the majority of that time spent in commercial aviation. Our extensive experience and expertise are backed by a dedicated 30-person R&D lab. We're qualified to meet nearly all major specifications for flooring, cargo liners, and military honeycomb, among other products. We know what we're doing and we will take care of you.

What excites you about the future?

The future looks incredibly exciting to me. The industry is on the brink of significant changes, including the potential for spacecraft traveling to Mars, air taxis, and battery-powered airplanes. While we've been producing the same types of airplanes for over 50 years, these upcoming advancements are set to revolutionize the field. With our 30-person R&D department, we're well-prepared to take on the future.

FUN FACT:

HISTORICAL AIRLINE POSTERS

WE HAVE HISTORICAL AIRLINE POSTERS ON OUR WALLS. WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THEM?

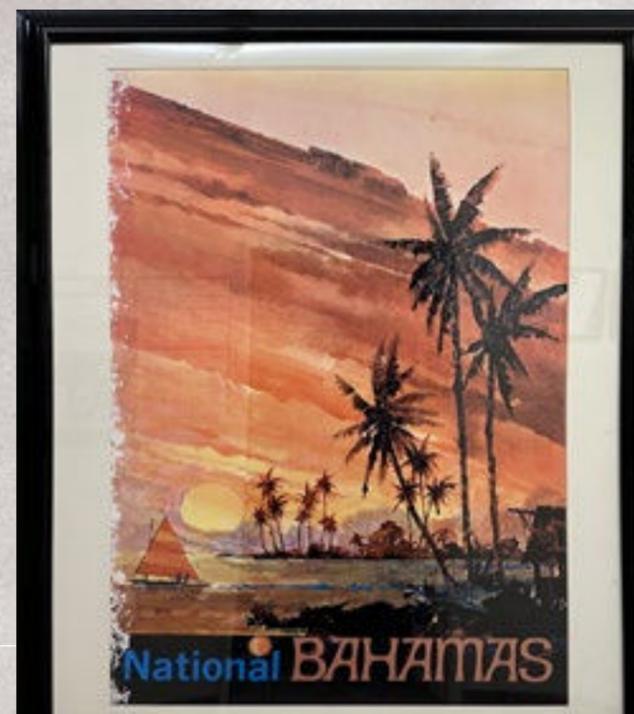
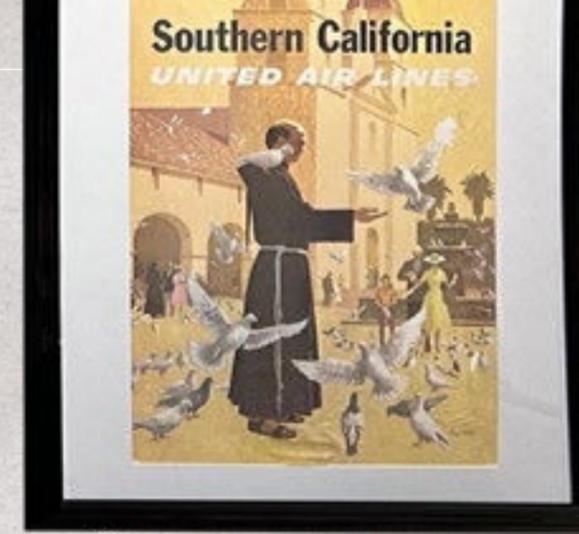
Stephen Gill (*Chairman & CEO*): When visitors enter our corporate offices, they often ask about the airline travel posters, and I'm going to explain.

My love for aviation was born in the late 1950s, aboard an Ozark Airlines DC 3, flying from Chicago's Midway to Mason City, Iowa. At a mere few thousand feet above the ground, the view of the world below was entrancing, and this experience ignited my passion for the airline industry. This passion was further deepened by our company's pioneering role in manufacturing cargo compartment wall liners for Douglas Aircraft.

Upon returning from my sabbatical in 2004, our company was soon expanding, setting up new offices. Instead of opting for the usual office art, I decided to celebrate our aviation heritage and my interests with flying by purchasing airline posters. This choice wasn't just about decoration; it was about celebrating our connection to the aviation world.

I began with a TWA poster, beautifully framed and hung, a decision that has since expanded into a collection of over 208 posters across our eight building campus. These posters, mostly claimed as originals, with some exceptions like the beautifully reprinted Pan Am posters, capture the essence of airlines that have been, and continue to be, one of our most significant customers. Among the posters, you'll find TWA, T.I.A., Southern, Aerolineas Argentinas, BEA, Ozark, Panagra, Bonanza, Qantas, PSA, Egypt Air, and Caribair.

Each poster tells a story of aviation history, of destinations and dreams. They serve as a constant reminder of our roots and our ongoing journey in the airline industry. This collection has become a talking point, offering visitors not just a visual treat but also a conversation starter about "what and why" or "why and what" these posters represent in our corporate culture.



Fun Facts

One of the World Trade Centers was built to be 1,776 feet tall on purpose to reference the year the Declaration of Independence was signed.

The word "kimono" literally means a "thing to wear." Ki is "wear," and mono is "thing."

It snows metal on planet Venus! There are two types that have been found, galena and bismuthinite.

Tic Tacs got their name from the sound they make when they are tossed around in their container.

Only official members of federally accepted Native American tribes may legally possess or collect eagle feathers. If a normal citizen has one, it is illegal.

By the time they have been retired for 2 years, 78% of former NFL players have gone bankrupt or are under financial stress because of joblessness or divorce.

500 seeds of 5 different types of plants were taken into orbit around the moon and later planted around the U.S. as well as a few countries. They were called Moon Trees.

In order to protest the high tariffs enforced by a U.K. censorship board, a filmmaker sent in a 10-hour "movie" of white paint drying. They had to watch the entire film.

The popular LMFAO group that created the viral hit, Party Rock Anthem, is made up of an uncle-nephew duo.

50% of apartments in Los Angeles don't come with a fridge. This is legal, as fridges are considered an "amenity," and therefore, landlords are not required to provide one.

There is a village in Russia called Tsovkra where every resident can tightrope walk. It is a tradition that dates back over 100 years, but no one knows how it started.

Both of the drummers from Queen and Duran Duran had the same name – Roger Taylor.

There is a company in the U.K. that offers "being hungover" as a valid reason for calling off work. They are allotted four hungover days per year.

The majority of blind people in the U.S. and the U.K. cannot read braille. Statistically, less than 1% of blind in the U.K. and under 10% in the U.S.

It's not just humans who are right or left-handed. Most female cats prefer using their right paw, and males are more likely to be left-pawed.

There are only two countries in the world that have the color purple in their flags: Nicaragua and Dominica.

A bolt of lightning can reach 53,540 degrees Fahrenheit. That's 5 times hotter than the surface of the sun, which is 10,340 degrees Fahrenheit.



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