

CHIMIE

02-ESPACE

MATIÈRE

ébonite

Ebonite is a type of highly vulcanized rubber. More rigid than the flexible materials typically associated with rubber, it possesses unique properties that explain its success in many technical fields. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, it was used to manufacture scientific instruments, electrical components, mouthpieces for wind instruments, and even pens. Its dark appearance is sometimes reminiscent of ebony, hence its name. Ebonite reflects the diverse paths taken by rubber technology. While tires prioritize flexibility, ebonite emphasizes stability and durability. It belongs to an era when engineers were gradually discovering the possibilities offered by polymers. Through it, the transition from traditional to modern materials begins to take shape.