

Competitive Advantage in Folio-size Sheeting and Packaging through Technological Innovation

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ABSTRACT

The substance of this paper relates to folio converting technology and the benefits to be achieved by converters through investment in technically innovative machine systems.

INTRODUCTION

Higher order frequency- Lower order volumes

The dynamics of the current global market have created a requirement for smaller more flexible machine solutions from responsive machine system manufacturers, we provide some answers with two new strategically targeted product developments.

- The latest evolution of the "Folio" Sheeter.
- A completely new and competitively priced manually fed automatic "Folio" ream wrapper.

Progress by design- a process of continual development

Through the application of state-of-the art electronics and a twin A.C. motor drive system the sheet length accuracy of the Model 1450 HS has been halved from +/- 1 mm to +/-0.5 mm. Adjustment of sheet length is now through a user friendly touch screen with changes effective immediately, virtually eliminating waste. Sheet squaring is digital, automatic and constantly monitored. The working width of the sheeter has been increased from 1400 mm to 1450 mm to allow easier two-pocket processing of 700 x 1000mm sheet formats.

Of greatest significance is the introduction of a Dual Rotary "Synchro" cutting head in addition to the traditional Single Rotary "Dead knife" version of the 1450HS of which there are over 600 existing installations globally. The availability of a Dual Rotary option in a sheeter of only 1450 mm width allows paper and carton board converters to benefit from the superior cut finish associated with "synchro" technology but at realistic, affordable prices. It is the wide range of technologies employed that allows evolution to take place quickly and effectively, the Dual Rotary cutting head used in the 1450 HS is a proven design. Finally, to reflect the many changes that have taken place inside the machine the overall appearance of the machine has also been redesigned to ensure that the outside is equally as impressive. The wide range of options and facilities available from SHM mean

that a sheeter specification can be tailored to meet the specific and varying needs of all individual companies no matter what budget or productivity requirements.

Automatic "Folio" ream wrapping has traditionally been the domain of paper producers and the largest of independent converters, the ground breaking design of the GREC challenges this conception. We launched this new and competitively priced manually fed automatic folio ream wrapper in December 2001. The GREC has a production speed of six reams per minute and will wrap and palletise folio sheet sizes with a minimum width of 297 mm through to a maximum of 900 mm and lengths of 420mm to 1200mm.

This versatile market entry wrapper, with a footprint the size of a large domestic saloon car, processes paper and carton boards grades between 40 gsm and 400 gsm and accurately delivers palletised and counted reams of height 15mm to 80mm. Reams can be wrapped in kraft or poly-coated paper supplied directly from a roll or alternatively from pre-cut sheets held in an easily accessible delivery unit under the machine. The GREC is currently available in five specifications accommodating both roll and pre-cut sheet fed wrapper delivery and also optional conveyors for the addition of a labelling unit. Additional technology for automated "Cartonising", pallet loading and shrink wrapping are available to support the GREC improving production efficiency and driving down overhead costs.

CONCLUSION

The Indian paper market is facing a significant period of change driven by quality aspirations from customers in the market, particularly the Printing and Packaging industries. This will increasingly put pressure on paper producers and converters for more consistent products both in finish and presentation. In conclusion, as a folio converting system these two machines offer flexibility and productivity to folio converters and represent the latest competitive advantage through technological innovation.