



Tagger fights shoplifting

In response to shoplifting from retail outlets Sessions of York has developed the Tagmatic Acousto-Magnetic (AM) security tag applicator.

The Tagmatic is designed to apply self-adhesive AM tags in reel form to a range of products of virtually any shape. The bench mounted semi-automatic unit enables the operator to change product shape within seconds whether square, round or otherwise.

Claimed to provide a visible and effective deterrent to shoplifters, Sessions' design team developed the machine for a large High Street retail store operator specifically to combat shoplifting of its range of cosmetics.

The Tagmatic has a patented application head which collects and applies the AM tags from the reel to the product quickly and effectively with consistent positional accuracy, says the company. As well as applying single tags from the reel the applicator can also incorporate the AM tags into Sessions' self adhesive Gard-Tag labels.

Other features of the machine are that it is light, can be easily relocated and requires only a single-phase 13 amp supply.

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Precise powder filling with servo-driven auger

Bosch Packaging Technology's new auger filler FVS 3201 allows precise filling of products such as milk powder, flour and baking mixtures, icing sugar, soups, ground coffee, tea and spices, as well as various chemical and pharmaceutical applications.

Compliant with stringent food safety standards, the filler can achieve up to 120 filling operations/minute, with a total throughput of up to 180 litres/minute.

Product is fed into the agitator funnel via either a direct in-feed or a frequency-controlled cross feed auger. Within the funnel, a stirring unit achieves consistent product density and



homogeneity, explained Bosch. The servo-driven auger screw provides precise dosages while a sensor situated in the funnel checks the filling level.

To process products with varying consistency, the FVS 3201 offers optimised conical, gate, cut-off or pressure-disc closures. Optimal port closure prevents any after spill and avoids contamination in the sealing area of the packaging, ensuring that packs are leak proof and accurate in weight.

The swivelling agitator funnel folds open for fast and easy cleaning and product changeovers, for example from gluten-free to gluten-containing or allergen-free products, are fast and efficient, with the option to use a second horizontal in feed auger, states Bosch

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High output tablet press

The PERFORMA™ S tablet press from GEA Courtoy is capable of producing up to 374,000 tablets/hour when fitted with conventional dies and up to 389,000 tablets/hour when the company's Die Shells technology is used.

No other single-sided tablet press can match these output figures, it claims.

Die Shells have thin walls and the reduced external diameter of

each die means the number of punch positions on the die disc can be increased significantly. Machine output can rise by up to 33 per cent, says GEA.

The press features Courtoy's tablet weight control system and can be supplied with its Dual Control system, which enables the monitoring of tablet weight and hardness simultaneously, yet independently. The PERFORMA™ and MODUL™

tablet press ranges are now available with optional, adjustable dwell time at pre-compression.

This function allows an increase of dwell time independently from machine speed, resulting in higher machine output and more consistent tablet quality, says GEA Courtoy.

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Bigger seal area for caps

Relco UK has announced a new automatic induction cap sealer designed for large diameter closures and for wax bonded foil seals.

With the current trend to smaller machines, the sealing head of the induction cap sealers has reduced dramatically in

length, typically just 400mm. This has caused problems for customers when trying to seal large diameter containers at speed or when sealing wax bonded induction foils.

The new model MICS-3 features a longer sealing head of 750mm and a lower frequency

generator. The longer sealing head now gives a significantly longer dwell time and, with the low frequency, allows any wax lamination to be fully separated. The footprint of the machine remains the same.

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Zephyr flow wrapper is happy at medium speed

PFM Packaging Machinery has extended its range of flow wrappers with a medium-speed electronic machine aimed at bakery, confectionery and similar food products.

The Zephyr was developed in conjunction with another PFM Group company SPS, which specialises in high speed count lines and biscuit packaging, and offers speeds up to 450 items/minute.

Chris Bolton PFM's sales and operations director said "Since many bakery and confectionery manufacturers do not require the extremely high speeds of SPS equipment, typically 700/minute, the Zephyr has been designed to provide the



same cost/performance ratio, but at lower speed and hence capital outlay."

The machine is capable of a broad size range, with pack length extending to 350mm for multipacks, and is based on a cantilever design for hygiene, with all drive elements separated from the product handling areas.

Four-axis servo drive is standard and there is a range of feeding and collation options to suit particular products. These include specialist biscuit handling equipment designed specifically to operate at high speed with delicate products.

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MACHINERY BITES

X-Guard™ from **Axelent** is a new series of machine guards that meet the updated requirements of the Machinery Directive for fixed guards. The change due to come into force at the end of December means that attachment devices must remain in place on the guard or on the machine when the guard is removed.

It is quick to assemble, easy to renew, change and supplement to suit different applications, says the company. A special key designed for the rapid release of a panel allows removal of the panel from the outside, but when the key is rotated in its handle it can be used for removing panels from the inside.

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Syspal has launched a range of utensil sinks which feature a strong, hygienically welded under frame and a removable sheet shelf to facilitate cleaning.

The sinks come in several formats: single sink with single drain; double sink with single drain; and double sink with double drain. All sinks are fully assembled and offer adjustable levelling feet.

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LAC Conveyor Systems has launched a new standard range of pallet handling conveyors. Its Pallet Roller conveyors feature a heavy duty, powder coated mild steel framework for strength, while also allowing easy maintenance.

Two standard roller pitches are available, 182mm and 103mm which, combined with the 80mm diameter rollers, provide good support for loads of up to 2,500kgs/pallet, says LAC.

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Pack'R 'CIPs' into action

Pack'R, represented in the UK by Springvale Equipment, has developed and patented an advanced 'clean in place' (CIP) system in association with a major detergent manufacturer which allows very rapid change over between products with enzymes to non-biological products.

Several machines have been delivered to this one customer, the most recent of which was a monobloc 24 head filler (with 2 capping turrets each with 8 head screw capping heads) producing 180 containers/minute for 3-litre bottles.

CIP features include: the level of cross contamination lower than 10 packs/minute (10g in a tonne); change of product in less than 5 minutes; CIP effluent less than 150 litres; CIP is achieved with water at room temperature; product and effluents are in a closed circuit

so there is no risk of operator contact.

Pack'R, which supplies weigh filler/cappers for liquid and viscous products, also offers indexing rotary machines for lower outputs (5 litres at 20

containers/minute) or the Compact continuous motion rotary machine (5 litres at 45 containers/minute) with the same CIP system.

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MACHINERY BITES

Doyen Medipharm, a specialist supplier of converting and packaging machines for the medical and pharmaceutical industries, has opened a dedicated converting process development area at its manufacturing site in Wymondham.

The new development area has been set up to assist transdermal and wound care manufacturers in establishing the best converting process for their product.

Although accommodating a wide scope of services, the development area is home to material trials and proof-of-principle testing, which form an important part of Doyen's development of customised machine solutions.

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Festo has entered the low-cost electric actuator market with the launch of a toothed belt drive axis which marries cost-optimised design with precision engineering.

Costing some 65 per cent less than Festo's EGC high performance series, the ELGR toothed belt axis is designed primarily for applications needing short stroke lengths and low moments on the guide, such as pick & place tasks and transporting small masses. Its axis is also ideal for positioning, centring and pushing functions on conveyor belts, and for activating safety doors on processing machines.

Unlike conventional toothed belt axes, the ELGR axis is only supported at either end, and relies on the rigidity of the steel bearing guides to ensure straight line movement of the carriage.

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Sleeve feeder for food provides the X-Factor

KBA-Metronic has introduced a new UDA sleeve feeder, the UDAFORMAXX, to code sleeves and watch strap bands with use-by dates, batch or lot codes and/or spot promotional labels for food retailing applications.

Its stack-to-stack feeding system can be integrated with all the major coding and marking technologies for offline coding of sleeves, cartons and watch strap bands in the food industry, says PrintSafe, which represents KBA-Metronic in the UK and Ireland.

Launched recently at the FachPack 2009, this latest development for the UDA range is available with multilingual software as standard and state

of the art touch screen, says the company.

Sleeves and cartons are fed at speeds of up to 90 metres/minute. A wide range of card thicknesses (up to 8mm) can be used. The feeder is available in a variety of widths and lengths to suit all sizes of carton and sleeve.

Integration with all the latest technologies is possible including continuous ink jet printers, thermal transfer and hot stamp units and laser coders as well as self-adhesive



labellers for spot labelling applications.

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Matrix provides versatility

Matrix, a new side-feed collating and shrink wrapping machine from Linkx Systems, has a handling capacity of up to 300 cartons/minute, as much as 50 per cent more than typical machines with similar functionality, says the company.

Suited for use in high-volume production environments and capable of dealing with many different applications, it features

a colour touch-screen operator interface which gives easy access to real time and historical production information.

It also makes switching between pre-programmed products simple, says Linkx.

Additionally the interface allows users to access the machine's diagnostic system and, as an aid to rapid

commissioning and faultfinding, it stores full copies of the operator manuals and other machine documentation.

Servo drives, which are used for all major functions, facilitate performance and versatility of the Matrix.

A ten-axis precision servo system ensures all motions are accurately controlled, giving total repeatability, even when the machine is operating at full throughput.

Suitable for use with cartons from 130 x 90 x 25mm to 225 x 180 x 60mm, the collator/wrapper features modular construction for customisation and incorporates energy efficient drives and shrink tunnel to minimise its environmental impact and running costs.

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