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INTRODUCTION

by Peter Wylie
Managing Director
APS Europe

Here at Automated Packaging Systems, we are excited to announce a major boost to our Mail Order Fulfilment offering, with the Autobag 850S, a system designed specifically to handle larger parcels, with an innovative method of gripping the bag open to ensure a flat, neat seal every time.

Staying on the subject of mailing solutions, a new machine for the manufacture of our FastWrap protective packaging material has been installed and commissioned at our European HQ in Malvern. This major investment is another indication in our confidence in the market place, and will ensure sufficient capacity to meet our growth plans for the next few years.
The Autobag® 500™ and Autobag® 550™ Next Generation Baggers

Automated Packaging Systems has announced the introduction of a new series of bag packaging systems with advanced technology and ergonomic design for maximum productivity. The Autobag® 500™ and Autobag® 550™ baggers are the most advanced in a long line of market-leading bagging systems, built on more than 50 years of Automated Packaging Systems’ know-how and customer insights.

Autobag 500 series offers easier and faster loading, even for bulky and hard to handle items. An innovative adjustable pass-through automatically opens the bags much wider than traditional systems. And with no light curtains and less guarding, they offer unrestricted access to the pre-opened bag without compromising operator safety.

The user-friendly Android-based HMI utilises an intuitive, graphic-based interface for simplified set-up and operation. Built-in memory function stores data for faster changeover between jobs.

Both Autobag 500 and 550 systems have been engineered to meet global safety and quality requirements, including CE and CU certification. They feature fewer wear items, faster operating speeds, easier loading, and high reliability, making them ideal for all bag packaging applications.

Steve Dougan, European Product Manager for Automated Packaging Systems, concludes: “It’s still recognisably an Autobag but under the skin there’s been a major overhaul. We’ve kept the features critical to success, such as the seal flatteners, and the bags aren’t changing, so there’s no stock issues.

The Autobag 500 is on a slightly smaller footprint, has been solidly engineered to ensure it upholds the reliability legacy, and based on the same platform as the proven Autobag 850S.”
PEI Genesis added an Autobag PS 125™ to its armoury of Automated Packaging Systems baggers

CASE STUDY

THE PROBLEM
“We handle thousands of product lines and components, many of which are small and indistinguishable from each other. Getting them packed and labelled quickly and accurately means we send the right product to the customer on time, every time, and that’s the key to repeat business, reputation and, ultimately, to growth,” explains Industrial Engineering Manager Steve Watson.

“We produce a small but significant number of much larger EX zone connectors, which, although they are unlike the rest of our output in scale and value, need to be packed with the same care and professionalism as every other PEI Genesis product.”

THE SOLUTION
The challenge of packing hard-to-handle high-value, low-volume items such as the PEI Genesis’ larger EX zone connectors require a different solution. The Autobag PS 125 we supplied in April 2014 is ideal for two main reasons: accessibility and scale. Although it’s a desktop machine it runs bags in a range of sizes and is more than capable of packing PEI’s larger connector units. And because the bag is open at the front of the system and at waist height, it’s possible to place items in and lift sealed bags off, rather than drop them in and have them drop into a collection bin.

THE RESULTS
“The PS 125 is doing exactly what we bought it for and more,” explains Steve Watson. “We’re also using it to pack kits and to overbag orders, reducing returns by improving traceability and helping customers keep track of the parts they’ve ordered.”

“We’ve used ¾ million bags in the 12 months to date and are looking to upgrade to branded bags in the near future – we’re working with the Automated Packaging Systems studio now on bag development.”

THE PROBLEM

“The PS 125 is doing exactly what we bought it for and more.”

PS 125

SUMMARY

MAXIMUM FOOTPRINT
480 x 560 mm

BAG SIZE
W 50 - 265 mm
L 100 - 420 mm

SPEED
Up to 25 bags per minute

STANDARD FEATURES
• Available with or without printer
• Small footprint, 550 mm x 480 mm, frees up valuable tabletop space
• Stores up to 10 jobs in memory for rapid recall
• Automatic bag sealing and indexing

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS
• Automotive & appliance parts
• Hardware & electrical
• Hobby & craft
• Cosmetics & beauty aids
Morris Quality Bakers invests in two FAS SPrint Revolution™ bagging systems

CASE STUDY

THE PROBLEM
“We were packing our tea cakes by hand,” explains bakery general manager Carl Green, “which limited throughput but gave us flexibility and a guarantee of quality. I hadn’t found a system that was right for our levels of output and could increase packing speed without compromising pack quality until I spotted the FAS SPrint Revolution™ on Automated Packaging Systems’ website.”

THE SOLUTION
“We set-up the FAS SPrint Revolution and ran some samples,” explains Malcolm Vale. “The potential was clear from the start – we were offering them a system that combined the benefits of hand packing – careful, precise and delicate handling – with the speed of automation.”

THE RESULTS
“This system gave us a return on investment within a year, largely because it has enabled us to increase throughput significantly. We’ve been able to produce up to 2500 packs of 12 tea cakes in a day which is a substantial increase on what we could achieve beforehand.”

“By switching from non-resealable six packs to easy-open zip-lock packs of 12 we’ve made it easier for caterers. The zip-lock bags mean they can easily keep rolls fresh overnight, reducing catering waste and helping them cut costs.”

Previously a team of four could bag and label 200 packs of 12 tea cakes per hour. Today they can pack twice as much product in a bag, twice as fast, and with half the number of people.

The system was working so well that Morris Quality Bakers ordered a second FAS SPrint Revolution, just three months after taking receipt of its first. Carl Green explains: “It’s opened up new possibilities and, as a result, we’ve added some new lines to our product range.”

FAS SPrint

SUMMARY

MAXIMUM FOOTPRINT
1190 x 4500 mm

BAG SIZE
W 50 - 500 mm
L 75 - 475 mm

SPEED
22 metres per minute

STANDARD FEATURES
• Operates at speeds up to 22 metres per minute
• Adjustable 1.5 m load area accommodates multiple infeed configurations
• Entire system mounted on casters for mobility
• Footswitch for manual bag indexing

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS
• Frozen foods
• Meat, poultry, fish and meat by products
• Fresh produce, fruits and vegetables

Previously a team of four could bag and label 200 packs of 12 tea cakes per hour. Today they can pack twice as much product in a bag, twice as fast, and with half the number of people.
The Autobag 850S™ combines state-of-the-art engineering and superior ergonomics to create a mail order fulfilment system with a small footprint that is easy to use and inherently safe.

Autobag 850S runs mail bags up to 558 mm wide – 50 mm wider than any other fulfilment bagger on the market today. Innovative bag opening technology grabs and securely grips the bag in load-ready position, creating a pass-through up to 279 x 279 mm, making it ideal for bulky or multi-item orders. This arrangement also enables the use of a smaller, more completely filled bag to reduce material costs.

A compact thermal transfer imprinter is positioned directly over the next bag to be loaded, applying shipping labels, graphics, barcodes and text directly on the bag, eliminating the cost of printing and affixing separate shipping labels. The Autobag 850S fully integrates with warehouse management systems for fast and accurate mail order fulfilment packing and shipping.

Bag size changeovers are easily accomplished in less than five minutes with simplified threading and a new tension control system that automatically centres and monitors the film throughout the bagging process. A modular bag storage shelf built into the bagger conveniently supports genuine Autobag pre-opened bag-in-box materials.

Mail order fulfilment and shipping applications that can benefit from this next generation bag packaging technology include clothing, sporting goods, shoes, fashion accessories, automotive parts, hardware and plumbing accessories, nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals, and a wide range of internet-based products in medium to large volumes.
Cengage relies on AirPouch® Fastwrap™ block-and-brace tubes to ensure books arrive in perfect condition

CASE STUDY

THE CHALLENGE
Cengage Shipping Manager Rob Lawrence explains: “We used a paper system but it wasn’t up to the job. Once the boxes had been handled a couple of times, the paper compressed and the goods inside the box began to move about. We were getting too many returns and reports of damaged goods.”

THE SOLUTION
“We were drawn by the option of the reprocessed GeoTech material Automated Packaging Systems offered. There was initially some reluctance to switch from paper – an option which was perceived to have good green credentials – to plastic. However, as GeoTech is reprocessed it addressed those concerns, and we’re no longer paying for extra PRNs when we fill out our annual waste packaging reports.

THE RESULTS
“Compared with our old paper system, the FastWrap is saving us 46% on the cost of packaging materials. Plus, we also have saved between 5-10% on our international shipments as the airbags are lighter.
“We’ve saved on storage space. Historically, a pallet of paper would last less than two weeks, whereas a pallet of tubes in boxes lasts us around 3 months.”

Airpouch Express 3

SUMMARY

MAXIMUM FOOTPRINT
220 x 520 mm

MATERIAL SIZE
200 m wide in various standard lengths

SPEED
15 metres per minute

STANDARD FEATURES
• EZ-Tear perforations for easy separation and handling
• Produces air filled cushions at a rate of 15 linear metres per minute
• Portable, all-electric table top design requires no compressed air
• Knifeless system

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS
• Mail order fulfilment
• Electronic supply
• Automotive
• Pharmaceutical
• Office supply

The FastWrap is saving us 46% on the cost of packaging materials.
**FastWrap – Ultra-light cost effective protective packaging**

**CASE STUDY**

Data from mail order glass and fragile goods specialist, Ampulla, compares pre-inflated and inflate-on-demand solutions. Ampulla ships up to 3,000 parcels a month on a fast turnaround – 24hr order to dispatch timeline from its base near Manchester, England.

Andy Brogan, Ampulla’s Warehouse Manager, compares the cost, convenience and efficacy of bubblewrap and FastWrap protective packaging.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUBBLE WRAP</th>
<th>FASTWRAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of material used per month</td>
<td>4 x (1500 mm x 100 m) rolls/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>= 100 rolls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>= 18,000 m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage requirement per month’s supply</td>
<td>1 roll = 1.5 x 0.8 x 0.8 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120 rolls = 90 m³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 box = 0.51 x 0.45 x 0.18 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 boxes = 0.41 m³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipping weight of monthly packaging requirement</td>
<td>Weight of 1 roll = 7.2 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120 rolls = 864 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weight of 1 box = 17.5 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 boxes = 175 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of material required for a typical parcel</td>
<td>4 m²*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to pack a typical parcel</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returns</td>
<td>40/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3/month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* includes cutting waste

“We were using 6ft rolls of bubble wrap – a three day supply occupied a large area of our warehouse. The material had to be cut to size by hand, generating waste and taking time. Small bubbles also meant we had to use multiple layers. We were using up to four £20.00 rolls a day.”

“We switched to a FastWrap system to increase packing speeds and improve security of goods in transit, cutting returns. We’re not layering anymore so we can pack more products in the box, saving shipping costs. That’s a saving we’ve passed on to customers who now pay an average of £4.00 less per order for shipping.”

One small box of FastWrap generates more than 422 linear metres of protective packing

All-electric system operates at 19 metres per minute

Optional machine stand and automatic film winder

**SUMMARY**

**MAXIMUM FOOTPRINT**
440 x 250 mm

**MATERIAL SIZE - QUILT**
300 mm width
533 m per box (uninflated)

**MATERIAL SIZE - TUBE**
350 mm width
533 m per box (uninflated)

**SPEED**
19 metres per minute

**STANDARD FEATURES**

- All electric design, does not require compressed air
- Reliable equipment, minimal maintenance requirement
- Compact design, small footprint
- Fast operation, up to 19 metres per minute

**TYPICAL APPLICATIONS**

- Electrical components
- Automotive aftermarket
- Cosmetics and health & beauty
- Hobby & craft products
- Glass & giftware
- Pharmaceutical and medical supplies

“* We switched to a FastWrap system to increase packing speeds and improve security of goods in transit, cutting returns. **
THE COMPLETE OFFERING

AB 500™
Packs 100 bags per minute

AB 550™
Packs 45 bags per minute, with printer

AB 850S™
Mail order fulfilment

PS 125™
Hand-load applications

PS 125 OneStep
Hand-load applications, with printer

Express 3™
Void-fill air pillows

FAS SPrint Revolution™
Food packaging

FastWrap™
Protective packaging

AUTOBAG.CO.UK
SYSTEM MATCHED MATERIAL

Low density polyethylene
- Anti-corrosion
- Anti-static
- Metal shielding
- Oxodegradable
- Mail order fulfilment
- Ultraviolet inhibitor

Low density polyethylene
- Anti-corrosion
- Oxodegradable
- Mail order fulfilment

Low density polyethylene
- EX premium low density polyethylene
- Oxodegradable
- Oxodegradable reprocessed
- Reprocessed
- Anti-static

Low density polyethylene
- Heavy duty premium low density polyethylene
- Oxodegradable
- Reprocessed
- Anti-static
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