

NEW CUSTOM GLUER FOR MVPS

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY BUILT A 10-FT WIDE SPECIALTY GLUER THAT ADDS SIGNIFICANT CAPACITY AND OPENS UP NEW MARKETS FOR THE DAYTON SHEET PLANT.

BY JACKIE SCHULTZ

On Memorial Day in 2019 multiple tornados hit Ohio's Miami Valley region, killing two people and causing an estimated \$1 billion in damage. One of the tornados, an EF4, came perilously close to Miami Valley Packaging Solutions' (MVPS) 100,000-sq-ft facility. While it didn't demolish the building it did cause more than \$5 million in damage. Incredibly, the

only piece of equipment that was destroyed was a custom engineered and hand built folder-gluer designed to run large corrugated sleeves. The C-flute sleeves or envelopes hold glass panels that are manufactured by a long-time customer that does a significant amount of business with MVPS, with the potential to do even more. Losing the gluer to the tornado was a major blow.

With the urgency of finding a replacement, Kenny Phegley, VP of Manufacturing, contacted Bernie Czerwinski, Salesman at American International Machinery (AIM). AIM is the exclusive North American distributor of Signature folder-gluer. Czerwinski rushed to the plant with a flashlight and a laptop ready to discuss options, the end result of which was to build a one-of-a-kind

Don Chmiel (left), Jamie Williams (middle) and Kenny Phegley



Do you still use PP bands ?

TOM PE tape tying machine



For more info about PE tape



Movie of TOM YTC145-D



1. Cost reduction

PE tape, which is less expensive than PP bands, can reduce 55 percent of the running cost in the maximum by replacing the 7mm wide PP bands with 50mm wide PE tape.



2. Improvement of productivity

PP bands require at least 2 seconds per strapping. TOM tying machine can tie 1 bundle for just 1.7 seconds. YTC150-H2 can tie 40 bundles per minute, so you can save 625 hours per year.



3. Dealing with automation

For reducing labor costs and measures against labor shortage, Japanese beverage manufacturers are increasingly automating their corrugated case production lines.

PE tape, which is easy to cut, take out, remove, and collect, is the most suitable for automation of the feeding process.



4. Conservation of the environment

Just by replacing PP bands with PE tape, the usage amount of plastic material can be reduced. PE tape is flexible so that it can also reduce its disposal volume, thus you can greatly reduce CO2 emissions and contribute to the global environmental protection.



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81 years of producing tying machines, We have 100% share in Japanese market, and also our machines are No.1 tying machines and loved in the world.

“This is the first large format machine that we’ve made with a turning module that turns the carton,” says Kevin Koplin.

Signature Albatross specialty gluer.

“They came up with a machine that would do all of the things that we needed it to and then some,” says Jamie Williams, MVPS President. “It’s a specialty gluer that also does straight line, four corner, and six corner trays and has the unique capability of running these sleeves.”

The machine is 10 ft wide and can easily handle the sleeves, which can be as big as 118 inches. It also can run any blanks off MVPS’ two 120-inch rotary diecutters. “That was the logic behind the size,” says Williams. “The yielding blank off of the diecutters maximizes what we can feed through that machine.”

A key feature is a turning module that can turn the sheets and re-orientate their direction to accommodate cross folding and gluing. “This is the first large format machine that we’ve made with a turning module that turns the carton,” says Kevin Koplin, AIM Managing Director. “You can turn it 180 degrees or 90 degrees. That’s unlike anything that has been done in the corrugated industry.”

A full line of glue is applied on each panel of the sleeve prior to going through the turning module and then folded to form a pocket. The gluer has 12 Baumer hhs cold glue heads. The turning module is used primarily for the sleeves, which are produced in several sizes. Williams anticipates that this business will grow, especially with the installation of the Signature



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“We went from running 5000 in a day to running 50,000 in a day,” says Kenny Phegley.

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To handle the additional capacity, C&M Conveyor installed automated intake, out feed and a load former on the Albatross, and three Signode bundlers were added.

Albatross. "Being able to produce the sleeves quickly is paramount if we're going to get the bigger volumes we're expected to get," he says.

Great Versatility

After the tornado destroyed the original gluer, MVPS was hand gluing the sleeves. It would take 10 hours to hand glue 500 blanks. That same volume takes one hour on the

to run four-corner trays for local breweries. Board grades run on the machine have ranged from E-flute to B/C doublewall. It can run at speeds up to 1100 ft per minute.

"We've been able to do much deeper, longer boxes on the new gluer than we could have done on the Speed King," says Williams. "It's very versatile. We haven't even touched on everything we can do with it."

minutes for straight line boxes.

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The gluer has opened the door to many new opportunities. "Our biggest customer who buys a ton of in-lined glued product grew to the point where his products fit in really



Miami Valley Packaging Solutions offers a diversified product mix, from custom boxes to corrugated plastic.

Signature Albatross. Its efficiency and productivity has greatly streamlined workflow through the plant. MVPS can now run large volumes and warehouse the inventory, eliminating the need to stage jobs and alleviating bottlenecks on the production floor.

In-line box styles were produced on an International Speed King gluer. The new gluer can handle a wider variety of jobs, including in-line diecuts, RSCs, FOLs, lock bottoms and the sleeves. There are even plans

Phegley says the Signature Albatross can also run very small boxes, as small as a 2- x 2- x 6-inch sheet, as well as longer volumes than the original hand-built machine, logging significant productivity gains. "We went from running 5000 in a day to running 50,000 in a day. That's how well it runs. I'll even run 500 boxes on it if we have the time." The average order size on the gluer is about 10,000 to 15,000, and setups take anywhere from an hour for lock bottoms to 20

well with that machine. We're able to handle a much larger volume of those in-line glued boxes," says Williams.

"What we would call a four-way bottom, we were semi-automatically feeding 2000 to 5000," says Don Chmiel, VP of Sales and Marketing. "Now we're running 20,000 to 40,000 across the new gluer."

The market is wide open for existing as well as new customers, even other box plants. "There's a lot of people out there that can't produce

a box because they can't glue it and we can do that," says Williams, adding that he recently received an inquiry from another plant about gluing a 7- x 6- x 48-inch box that would normally have to be hand fed through a semi-automatic machine. "We could feed that on the Albatross. I feel like we'll get some more of that type of business. We have the capacity."

The machine has been up and running since July. It was ready to ship from the manufacturing facility in Korea in early 2020, however the pandemic disrupted the delivery. Williams credits AIM with finding a way to get the gluer to MVPS. "The guys that built the machine and disassembled it in Korea were supposed to be the ones to come here and re-assemble it. That didn't happen. Kevin's team did a great job

being versatile and getting this thing done in a completely different manner than planned."

MVPS' Journey

Investing in the Albatross is just one chapter in the history of MVPS's journey to become a premier and diverse sheet plant. Williams, Chmiel and Phegley purchased the assets of B&L Packaging in 2009 and created MVPS. They had been working for B&L for more than 20 years. In 2014, they moved the company to the current 100,000-sq-ft facility.

The sheet plant is vastly different today, with a more diversified product mix and modern equipment. In 2009, during the recession, the company expanded into corrugated plastic. "That was a steady business and kept us busy and it has grown

along with the rest of our business," says Williams. "We've tripled in size in employees, capabilities and annual revenue since we bought the company and we'll go beyond that this year." They started with 12 employees. There are 36 today.

"We are customer focused. A lot of people say that, but that's part of what got us into plastics as well as designing this specialty envelope for our customer's needs," says Chmiel. "We're very open to unique and new ideas for our customers. That's a lot different from the B&L days. We're willing to run anything, whether it be quantity, size or material. We focus on satisfying the customer to solve their packaging issues as well as developing designs and this new gluer makes all the difference in the world." ■

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