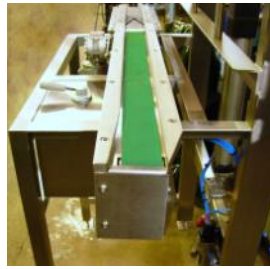


Chewing Gum Packet Slitter



Client:
The Wrigley Company

Location:
Asquith, NSW Australia

The Project

Wrigley's wanted to eliminate the labour intensive manual task of opening damaged pack of 'EXTRA' to reclaim the gum for further use. Wrigley's engaged Australis Engineering to design and manufacture a system to cut the base off a pack of 'EXTRA' chewing gum based on a vegetable peeler but using conveyors to feed the gum past the cutting blade.

Australis provided the following outcomes:

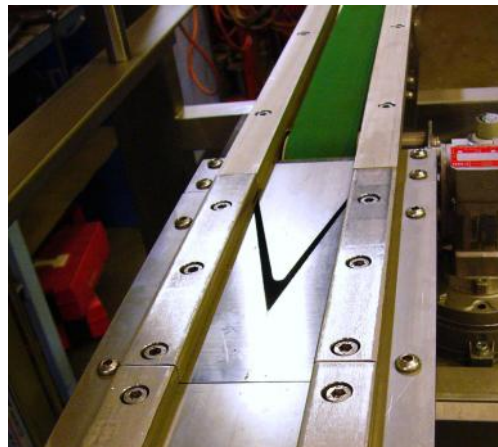
- Research & development into the requirements for a chewing gum packet slitter.
- Designed and manufactured a unit to cut the base off a pack of 'EXTRA' chewing gum to allow the gum to be reclaimed.
- Top and bottom conveyors were provided to grip the pack and push it past the cutting blade. The bottom conveyor stopped short of the blade. The top conveyor continued over the top of the blade.
- The top conveyor was mounted on linear guides and fitted with a pneumatic lift cylinder to allow the top conveyor to be lifted clear when accessing the cutting blades. It also incorporated a lock to prevent the conveyor from lowering if the air lift failed.
- The cutting blades formed an inverted 'V' to provide the best cut and were designed in two sections to allow them to be re-sharpened.
- Grip belt pressure and cut depth were allowed for in the design.

Packet Cutter

Lift-up Conveyor

Machine Safety

Research & Development



The Result

Australis Engineering provided The Wrigley Company with a proto-type solution that minimises OHS concerns, reduced costs and improved manufacturing throughput.

The benefits of Australis Engineering's system include:

- Undertake R&D to design and manufacture a prototype chewing gum packet slitter;
- The final system reduces manufacturing costs by eliminating a labour intensive manual job;
- Maintain OHS outcomes by providing safe access to the packet slitter cutting blade area by incorporating a lift up top conveyor;
- Complied with OHS concerns by completely covering the cutting area and grip feed point.



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