

Autobag[®] SPrint[™] Doubles Production



The Autobag SPrint system has helped Estes Industries, Inc. to increase throughput by 100% in the packaging of kits for its model rockets.

The two SPrint systems at Estes are operated on a nine-hour shift, six days a week, producing more than 54,000 kits per week on average. They have replaced the previous packing method where eight employees were hand bagging and sealing its kits of rocket parts, at a rate of 600 finished kits per hour.

Since the installation of the SPrint systems, Estes Industries has maintained labor requirements, using four operators per machine, but has dramatically increased throughput to 1200 kits per hour.

"We purchased the SPrint bagging systems to provide a solution to the labor shortages we face in this area," explains **Harry Nachtigall, Industrial Engineer** for Estes Industries. "Our products are sold worldwide and we must adhere to strict production schedules to ensure we meet growing volume requirements."

Each bagged kit typically comprises of 12 parts. The majority of the kits are packages in clear polyethylene bags, however Estes also produces rocket kits in attractively printed retail bags for hobby and model outlets.

One of the key benefits of the SPrint system for Estes industries is the ease of set-up and flexibility of the system, enabling fast and easy changeover between bag sizes and rocket kit components. "The SPrint systems have proved extremely flexible and cost effective, enabling us to make significant improvements in production throughput while minimizing labor requirements," says Harry Nachtigall. "Furthermore, the reliability of the systems has proved to be particularly outstanding."

He continues, "Since the Sprint systems were installed, we have received excellent support from APS, including a thorough operator training program during start-up that has enabled us to run the machines virtually unaided since they started running."