

Case Study

Effective Parts Packaging

One low-cost machine does the work of five people, and does it more accurately



One customer, a supplier of jewelry components such as fasteners and beads, was using a hand-counting and hand-loading system. The other customer also struggled with a hand-loading operation.

THE PROBLEM:

Low productivity plagued the jewelry supplier, while extremely high maintenance costs were the bane of the other company.

THE SOLUTION:

For the jewelry supplier, a Sharp MAX Proline Bagger with integrated thermal imprinter was the answer.

Previously, an operator would open a bag, count pieces (such as beads) into it, close the bag and put a label on it. Sharp's MAX Proline Bagger prints a label right on the bag. It blows open the bag, counts pieces and loads them using a Batchmaster III vibratory bowl feeder, then closes the bag. This automated system runs 24/7 with just one operator.

This customer uses a 2.0 mil general purpose film with a white opaque back and clear front. Thermal imprinting of barcoding on the front creates a scannable product and allows viewing of the contents. The blending of two types of film—high density on one side and clear on the other—is a Sharp Packaging exclusive.

We also offer a 2.0 mil high-density white film that mimics paper and provides extra strength for thermal imprinting.

All of our films are co-extruded, a more advanced process which achieves application-specific properties without sacrificing performance.

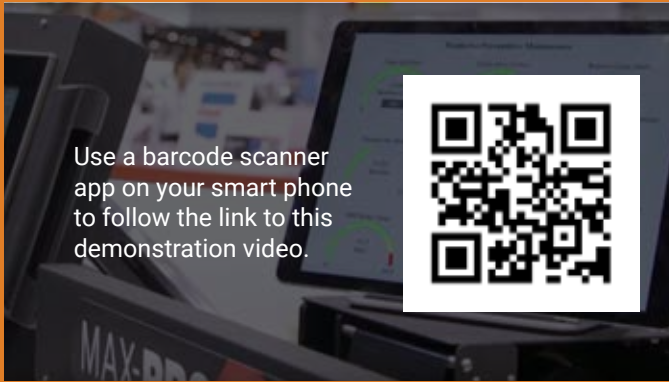


The Sharp MAX™ Proline Bagger with a custom dual-stage funnel allows this manufacturer to count / accumulate product and then seal the bag in one continuous process. As the product stream continues uninterrupted, the entire line keeps running even as the bag is sealed.



In the case of the other customer, the Sharp MAX Proline Bagger with vibratory bowl feeder was the answer as well. Compared to their previous system, which required proprietary parts, our Sharp Packaging equipment uses off-the-shelf parts, which saves time and money on maintenance. Customers increase the ability to service their own baggers, and downtime is decreased.

This customer also uses our 2.0 mil clear general purpose film.



“The fully automated capabilities of the Sharp MAX Proline Bagger allow the operator to set up a job and then move on to other tasks.”

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHtl1y7Sjlg>

OUTCOME:

The jewelry supplier previously needed five to eight people to meet its packaging requirements; now it requires just one employee for the same output. The company has saved 33% on material costs and increased productivity by 61%.

Accuracy has increased versus the old system of hand-counting or weighing, and the company has seen a decrease in customer giveaways or returns.

The fully automated capabilities of the Sharp MAX Proline Bagger allow the operator to set up a job and then move on to other tasks.

The other customer has achieved substantial savings on maintenance. Previously this company spent \$3,500 per year on maintenance; now it spends \$125 per year.

Productivity is three times faster due to the system’s simplicity and ease of operation. Accuracy of piece counts has increased by 40%.

ABOUT SHARP PACKAGING

Part of the Pregis family of companies, Sharp Packaging systems is a nationwide, innovative manufacturer of quality, flexible packaging solutions, including film, bags and packaging machinery systems. Opening our doors in 1984, we have steadily built a successful business and reputation on the foundation of unwavering commitment to integrity in all our business dealings. Employees, suppliers, customers and business community partners have come to associate Sharp Packaging with sterling performance and a high degree of urgency in meeting the needs of our stakeholders.

Sharp designs, develops and manufactures printed and plain flexible packaging and packaging machinery in-house at our Headquarters campus in Sussex, WI and southwest expansion facilities outside of Phoenix, AZ. Headquartered near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Sharp Packaging serves the electronics, pharmaceutical, mail order, select produce, medical components, hobby/craft, automotive and hardware industries; among others.