

Tilted to the label

cab printers are used to support the packaging of sockets at Jung

Since 2004, Abrecht Jung GmbH, in Schalksmühle, has been collaborating with cab, printer manufacturer in Karlsruhe. Automatic barcode label printers take on the task of labelling sockets.

In 1912, the electrician Albrecht Jung established an electro-technical manufacture. The focus was put on the production of a patent-pending invention: a pear switch with one-eighth turning. The principle of short-travel actuation still remains the basis for all switches the company develops. Reacting to the needs of the market, the company which is still family-owned specialized in manufacturing switches and sockets.

Today, Jung is in a position to offer to the craft sector a wide range of devices and systems. It includes switches and sockets, dimmers and guards in different designs and for all applications. Furthermore, the company offers devices and systems taking on special managing jobs in the house or flat.

About 570 employees are working for the Jung company in Schalksmühle and Lünen. In Schalksmühle, central focus is put on the sockets assembling. The Lünen site includes the switches assembling as well as the high-bay warehouse with despatch department.

Pear switch with one-eighth turning

Today, the more and more design sockets are produced that need to be packed separately to avoid damages during transport and storage. "We have changed working processes and introduced the single-part production" explains Thomas Herzig, working as safety expert for special projects in Schalksmühle. "Partly, two employees are working at one line that in consequence leads to a change in cycle times". "In the beginning, we only had one packing machine that shortly became the bottleneck. Now, we are using seven packing machines."

Today, each of these machines has a cab labelling system. "We previously printed all relevant information directly on the plastic packaging, so Herzig." However, there was increasingly

demand for a future-oriented solution. "The labels were not well readable, but that is what our customers are looking for to prevent mistakes and confusion. And they should also be barcode readable."

First, a contact is initiated by a light barrier; the socket drops into a plastic bag. At the same time, a label is generated and automatically applied on the bag. The bag is then separated, heat-sealed and moved forward. It drops into a tub, is forwarded, taken out of the tub and put into a plastic box. "We thus reach 25 cycles per minute", tells Herzig. "No problem at all for the printer. However, we depend on the welding times and therefore still face certain limits." Each label shows the company name with internet logo, product details and EAN Code with barcode number in clear text in two different languages. The labels are always printed with 300 dpi.

Layout-to-Print

The first contact between Jung and cab Produkttechnik GmbH & Co. KG had been at the Motek Trade Fair in Sinsheim in 2004. For more than 30 years cab has been developing and producing devices and systems for the identification of products in industry, trade and services. "The stable printers with metal cabinets and the robust covers out of shock-resistant plastic material convinced straight away, so we rapidly decided to start with a desktop printer," tells Herzig. Today, besides two desktop printers, another seven label printers from the A4+ series with applicator A1000 for label printing in real time are used in the Schalksmühle site. Furthermore, another three automated systems are used at the Lünen plant.

Besides the label printers A4+, the peripheral device for the integration into production lines or the semi-automatic operation cab also supplies scanners for the automatic product identification, memory cards to i.e. save label formats and texts, and the Software Database Connector to be connected to the company's database. The Software enables to get direct access to data out of a central and SQL capable database and to have it printed as a label. At the same time and the time a printing process is running, data can be written back and changed. In addition, a label software provides to generate and print labels, if this is required. All consumables, like self-adhesive labels 50mm x 50mm and ribbon are supplied by cab. According to staff reports, the handling of the consumables is easy, as these can be changed quickly and easily. The same goes for the maintenance, the employees report. The printer includes an allen key very handy to maintain and exchange wear parts and to assemble peripheral devices.

According to cab, all printers are basically set and adjusted to the label requirements of the customer in the cab works so that he has nothing but to add the label and to start the printing process. cab handled the project completely, from the hardware to the consumables and additionally provided all kind of software support necessary. So, Jung benefits from two key advantages, only one whom to contact and everything from one single source.

Laser requested

The demand for a complex system solution made this application for all those involved working closely together. "In the beginning, we at Jung had difficulties in the database management due to the numerous label printer accesses. However, thanks to the excellent cab support we had been able to quickly solve the problems", summarizes Herzig.

The label printers are integrated into the packing line in an inclined position of about 45°. "We entered new ground", says Bernd Bürger, working as cab sales representative. "Until now, we always recommended to install the printer and applicator in vertical position. " Tilting the packaging machine and the label printer became necessary due to the transport path the filled bags are taking: This worked perfectly right from the beginning." The successful partnership between Jung and cab aims to be expanded. Herzig means: "Currently we are discussing about laser marking. cab provides samples and if the results are satisfying we are looking forward to a further collaboration."