



Left to right: Thomas Mayer and Ulrich Wolz.

CAPACITY INCREASING INSTALLATION FOR MAYER KARTONAGEN

A BAHMÜLLER USER FOR MANY YEARS, THIS GERMAN INDEPENDENT ADDS POWERPACKER FOR ITS JETBOX HIGH SPEED SPECIALITY GLUER.

A REPORT BY DANIEL BRUNTON

Established in 1958, Mayer Kartonagen is a privately owned corrugated box plant, headquartered in Haiterbach in the famous Black Forest region, close to Stuttgart. The company also has a factory in Ottersweier, not far from the German-Franco border, keeping them close to customers in the Baden region in southern Germany.

The company is currently run by the second generation, which took over in 2000. The business employs a little over 100 people

and has been a specialist producer of packaging for the automotive, food and electronics industries.

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THOMAS MAYER, MANAGING DIRECTOR

automotive sector over the COVID lock down months,” remarks Thomas Mayer, Managing Director. “That part of our business pretty much stalled from April this year, so we needed to look at expanding the work we were already doing in the food sector, but also take on new types of packaging, such as e-commerce. It was certainly a challenging period, but by August, we had our volumes pretty much back to pre-lockdown targets, thanks to our ability to be able to react and develop new markets.”

COVID Changes

The company very quickly implemented some significant changes to the way it operated. “We split our teams into two clearly defined teams, handling one shift each,” continues Thomas. “This way, we could maintain strict ‘bubbles’ and we allocated our plant manager to lead one shift and I took care of the other. We also tried to ensure as little movement around the different areas of the factory as possible, keeping specific people in specific areas to minimise human interaction. It was tough, but the team all pulled together and we managed to keep the team fully motivated and safe.”

Next Generation

Bahmüller has now delivered the 100th speciality gluer, a machine that has been successfully installed at Mayer Kartonagen. Both the JETBOX and TURBOX are well known to the market and excel in the expectations of many managers and operators.

With the combined folding unit, DYNAMIC FOLD ECO, Bahmüller has launched a new component for the

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ULRICH WOLZ, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BAHMÜLLER



market-entry machine Jetbox. Not only does the new system save space, in combination with newly designed HMI and pre set-up scheme, the economical solution brings benefit directly to the shop floor. With a belt speed of 180m per min, it allows for a shorter press conveyor; its length is about 3m shorter compared to a Turbox line.

Mayer had been running a simple Jagenberg gluer for many years and in 2015, looked to upgrade the machine. “The gluer was not able to handle some of the work our customers were presenting us with,” explains Thomas. “We already had a good relationship with Bahmüller for many years and we decided to look at their Jetbox line. We liked what we saw and ordered the machine in 2015. I believe it was only the second ever Jetbox to be installed. It has certainly made us faster and therefore gives us a cost and price advantage. Currently, our main production and gluing demand is for die-cut RSCs, crash-lock and 4-corner boxes.”

But the partnership with Bahmüller runs deep – the support goes well beyond the sales process and is

reflected in the continuous support through the process engineers. “The Jetbox allowed the development of new market segments for us, with the ability to produce 4-corner lids, for example,” continues Thomas.

Being pleased with the installation, the problem for Mayer was always to find ways of coping with the output of the Jetbox! The workload was too heavy for the operators and Thomas Mayer wanted to find a way to automate certain aspects of the process.



The Powerpacker module was installed on the existing Jetbox over a three week period in late May. “We had to undertake really detailed planning, as we moved the Jetbox and then installed the Powerpacker,” explains Thomas. “Due to the restrictions placed upon us, we had to co-ordinate the training very carefully as well, across the two shifts. But we knew that Bahmüller would have us moved, installed, trained, up and running in a speedy fashion.”

“Automatic packer solutions for specialty folder gluers are specially designed to significantly increase the performance of the gluers and reduce the physical strain on qualified machine operators,” explains Ulrich Wolz, Managing Director of Bahmüller. “This has a positive effect on the available operator resources. The Powerpacker can be completely integrated into the BOXFLOW® Solutions and is a significant component to achieve maximum performance. Advanced high-performance drives and an intuitive operating concept provide maximum

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comfort. The Boxflow® Control fulfils the requirements for Industry 4.0.”
 With 15 years of experience in end of line technology, Bahmüller decided to boost the output on Powerpacker IV further with a modular design. Thanks to a new linear guidance system and a higher stacking pit for higher bundle

counts, the output has been increased significant. The latest version is capable of increasing the output by up to 22% thanks to the ability to build higher batches.
 An assessment showed that the work mix Mayer Kartonagen is running could be handled by the Powerpacker

‘Basic’, with a reduced layout (Basic means without the Speed Module, building a buffer between the turning device and the pit for batch building). This has helped Mayer to extend the logistic area for a better through put.
 With the new generation Powerpacker, the system also comes with a Mosca bundle strapper, with the latest Ultrasonic system. An ATS Tanner banding system offers two widths of 15mm and 30mm.

Die-Cutter Ordered

Mayer Kartonagen has also chosen to enhance its production of partitions and other die-cut items by ordering a Baysek C-170 die-cutter. The 1400mm x 1700mm format nick-free, multiple-out, C-170 die-cutter is the perfect selection for the demand-optimised packaging that Mayer

produces. No special tooling or make ready is necessary. The servo driven C-170 automatically shear cuts, fully strips waste, accurately counts and neatly stacks up to 60 individual 100% perimeter cut pieces at a maximum rate of 1800 sheets per hour with just one operator.

Forward Looking

“It has certainly been a challenging year, but one that we can look back on with pride,” concludes Thomas. “We see any adversity as a chance to grow our business and the COVID-19 pandemic is certainly an adversity that we have come through and use the positive changes we have made to our business as a springboard for further growth. The Powerpacker was a smart move, as it meant we could get more productivity from the Jetbox, with fewer people. But first and foremost, the safety and well-



being of our team and our customers is paramount. The addition of this new equipment allows us to grow our production without jeopardising the

well-being of our operators. We are delighted to continue our relationship with Bahmüller and other suppliers as we shape our business for the future.” ■