

MECCANOTECNICA

News

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Ipex preview: the new Aster 180C

The international trade fair Ipex has always been an important date for Meccanotecnica. During the 2006 edition the company previewed its new Aster 180C. This new model replaces the Aster 160 OS and sets out to be the new benchmark for small and medium-sized binders. The new Aster 180C is the most compact sewing unit currently available on the world market and has a top speed of 180 cycles/min. It incorporates the same construction and cutting-edge solutions found in the superior class of Aster sewing machines, such as the well-known Aster 220 SA. Just a few days at the fair were enough to make the world of binding appreciate all the qualities of this new model. The Aster 180C is rapidly making a name for itself on both the Italian and the main world markets thanks to its easy use,

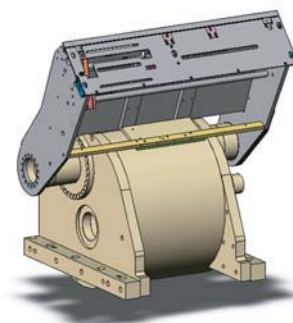


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fast size change, enviable performance and the possibility to be integrated in a Uniplex gathering/sewing line. The opening head incorporates the LAP device for mechanical opening of the signatures with either a top or bottom lap (especially useful when opening signatures coming from "back-and-forth" rotary presses). The extensive use of carbon fibre components, such as the new signature register device on the sewing saddle and the new leveller bar, guarantees better stiffness and lightness and the total absence

of vibrations. The heart of the machine is still the sewing saddle that's 100% controlled by a sealed cam box containing the cam shafts that work in a permanent oil bath, thus guaranteeing ultra long life for the cams. In a market where production runs are getting shorter and shorter and paper types more difficult to handle, the Aster 180C is the perfect product to guarantee excellent value for money.





The new Iglue line at Companhia Editora Do Minho LDA (Portugal)

The Gludo back-gluing machine was world-premiered at Drupa in 2004. This was a very important event that catalysed the attention of customers. Over the past two years it has been upgraded and improved on, meaning the final stage of the project has now been reached: Iglue. The concept of producing the book block in a single gathering/sewing/gluing cycle is seen by increasing numbers of binders as an absolute necessity: for this reason the Iglue line is popular with small and medium-sized binders needing an ad hoc line for the production of sewn books (hardback or softbound). And this is where the Iglue offers a great novelty compared to that launched at Drupa: the new Iglue line can be set up as a back-gluing machine, complete with end sheet feeder; for the preparation of the book spine, or as a soft-binding machine, complete with drum cover feeder; for the preparation of sewn softbound books. Many users of the Multiplex SA gathering/sewing line are now assessing the technical feasibility of connecting their



lines directly to the Iglue line via the automated Magix emptying system.

Companhia Editora Do Minho LDA (Portugal), already

using a Multiplex SA gathering/sewing line, has recently installed an Iglue line consisting of: Fido book block feeder, dual end sheet insertion station, lining station, cover station, delivery conveyor/lay-down device and a series of

conveyor belts directly connected to a three-side cutting machine.

The customer's aim is to produce hardback and softbound books of exceptional quality and the Iglue line is the perfect solution, capable of maximising output via centralised control of all the units in the line, not to mention superior reliability and total flexibility for small, medium and big production runs.

The New Multiplex SA line at Stürtz (Germany)

In view of its need to increase its output capacity more rationally and its positive experience since 2000 with the installation of its first Multiplex line, Stürtz has decided to buy a second Multiplex SA line with a configuration capable of guaranteeing a high degree of automation, excellent output and total flexibility for the production of small, medium and big runs. In fact, the line consists of a 30-station MX gathering machine that incorporates the new correct signature sequence control system - the Signalynx- plus three Aster 220 SA Super

Automatic sewing machines, the 100% automatic Magix stack emptying system and direct connection to the gluing line via the Fido book block stacker.

After being sewn, the blocks are stacked, emptied and sent to the Kolbus finishing line where the books are made up.

The main advantages of using an in-line system are: the elimination of all manual pallet stacking, loading and handling operations involving signatures leaving the gathering machine; the elimination of all manual

pallet stacking, loading and handling operations involving sewn book blocks; the elimination of manual feeding of the book blocks into the gluing line; fully automated size changes; less labour; better organisation of the production process.

During June 2005, Stürtz started production of a large order for 300,000 books, each weighing roughly 3kg (an order that is regularly repeated each year). This has been yet another chance to discover the benefits of less fatigue, a problem that previously affect-

ed the workers' output.

The company has a long tradition: set up way back in 1830, right from the start it gave due importance to the production of printed paper and this would prove to be its key to success in later years, allowing for rapid and constant expansion.

Later, in order to meet the growing demand for sewed books, the binding department was boosted with 6 Astric 180 sewing machines, quickly followed by the two Multiplex gathering/sewing lines.



With the recent installation of the second Multiplex SA sewing line output capacity has risen considerably. Today, Stürtz is fitted with cutting-edge machines, letting it meet market demands for the making-up of various printed products quickly and brilliantly (flat sheet or from rotary press), as well as hard-back books (mainly for schools, scientific university

papers and large industrial catalogues).

The Production Manager, Mr. Jurgen Kohrmann, is totally enthusiastic about the Multiplex SA line he's recently installed and is especially struck by the reliability of the plant that, when running at full speed, produces hitch-free in three daily shifts to his total satisfaction; he also stresses

the excellent co-operation with Buch Automation GmbH, a branch of the Meccanotecnica Group, offering advice and expertise without overlooking any aspect. A company that's also proved its great competence and willingness to help in technical matters. Finally, he points out that when making such huge investments it's always best to know you're in excellent

hands.

Trade fairs: Graphitec 06, Ipex 06, Grafitalia 2006, Expo Print Brasile and All in Print 06

The first half of 2006 has been animated by various trade fairs involving printers and binders in a rich calendar of events.

The Paris Graphitec 06 fair was the first of the year (15 - 18 March 2006) in the Porte de Versailles exhibition complex. Graphitec is France's top fair for the industry, with visitors even coming from Magreb countries and Canada. Organised at the same time as the Book Fair, it captured the attention of many publishers and printers.

The sector's most important fair - IPEX 2006 - was then held in April. Held in Birmingham (UK) from 4 to 11 April, IPEX saw over 80,000 visitors wanting to take a look at the latest technology on show. Meccanotecnica previewed its new Aster 180C sewing machine, the upgraded version of its back-gluing and soft-binding machine - the Iglue - and the latest version of the Signalynx signature control device, capable of checking text, images and barcodes.

The success of the new Aster



Ipex 06

180C sewing machine was repeated during the Italian

printing exhibition - GRAFIT-ALIA 2006 - held in Milan



from 9 to 13 May in the new Rho-Però exhibition centre. More than 40,000 visitors (from Italy and abroad) flocked to the various pavilions during the five days of the show.

Then, from 31 May to 6 June, it was the turn of EXPO-PRINT BRASILE, held in San Paolo (Brazil).

This is Latin America's most important fair; attracting huge flows of visitors from Mexico to Argentina. Meccanotecnica was present in the stand of its local dealer - Alphaprint - with an Astronic 180 sewing machine that met with great success, as hoped for, and was much appreciated by many printers and binders interested in a product offer-

ing the best of current technology.

This long list of fairs ends with the recent ALL IN PRINT 06 held in Shanghai from 14 to 17 June. Meccanotecnica was again present in a representation stand and formalised the opening of its new branch of customer service: Aster (Shenzhen) Co. Ltd based in Shen-

zhen (China). The fair was frequented by mainly Chinese operators, with very few European exhibitors. There was, however, a massive presence of Japanese machinery constructors.



Grafitalia 2006



All in print 06

Future fairs where Meccanotecnica will be showing

OPEN HOUSE SIGLOCH - Blaufelden (Germany), 29 - 30 September 2006

GRAPHISPAG - Barcelona, 19 - 26 February 2007

POLIGRAFIA 2007 - Poznan (Poland), 27 - 30 March 2007

DRUPA - Düsseldorf, May 2008



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