

Logistics optimisation and vision systems in the food industry

Flying wafer biscuits

Sweet tasting, finely layered, packed in pink – it is not only in Austria that Manner hazelnut wafer biscuits are extremely popular with consumers. Production is highly automated, and the manufacturer relies on the high-speed vision system SBOC-M from Festo for its packaging process. A barcode scanner, part of the logistics system created by the company's in-house machine builders, helps save time.



Manner wafer biscuits:
a success story for over
100 years.

It was as early as 1889 that the Manner wafer biscuits were first mentioned in a written document as “Neapolitan Biscuits No. 239”. The name was very apt, since originally the nuts for the filling, made from sugar, hazel nuts, cocoa butter and cocoa powder, came from the Naples area. The original recipe and the bite-sized format have

been retained to this day. And with great success, as these pink-wrapped biscuits are still the most sought-after item in all of the Manner product range.

Aroma-sealed pack is a design classic
Josef Manner & Comp. AG is a rare example of a large successful Austrian company which has for the most part re-

mained family-owned ever since its foundation. In 1960 this company took the step forward into the modern technological age with its aroma-sealed biscuit packs. The Manner biscuits, packed in an airtight double-thickness aluminium foil with its typical red tear strip are now regarded as a milestone in the history of product design. Festo components have been part of this story for many years. They make an important contribution to the process of ensuring that the delicious biscuits are packed at the maximum possible speed.

Barcodes ensure prompt re-stocking

In order to achieve this, an innovative solution is used in the logistics chain in the company’s in-house machine building department in the town of Perg. A barcode scanner saves time and ensures that the flow of components is maintained. The scanner greatly simplifies the company’s logistics. All the necessary components are stored in different compartments, and each compartment has its own barcode. When there are only a few left of a given component, a worker scans the barcode, connects the scanner to a computer and sends the data to the Festo Online Shop. It takes only a few mouse clicks to place an order. It is equally easy to use the company’s own part numbers and generate parts lists in an internal materials management system.

The system operates with various different label sizes, standard barcode formats and the most commonly used languages, making it suitable for universal use. To ensure a high level of flexibility, Festo supplies all the necessary labels, which incorporate a picture of the product concerned. These pictures make it easy to find and store components.

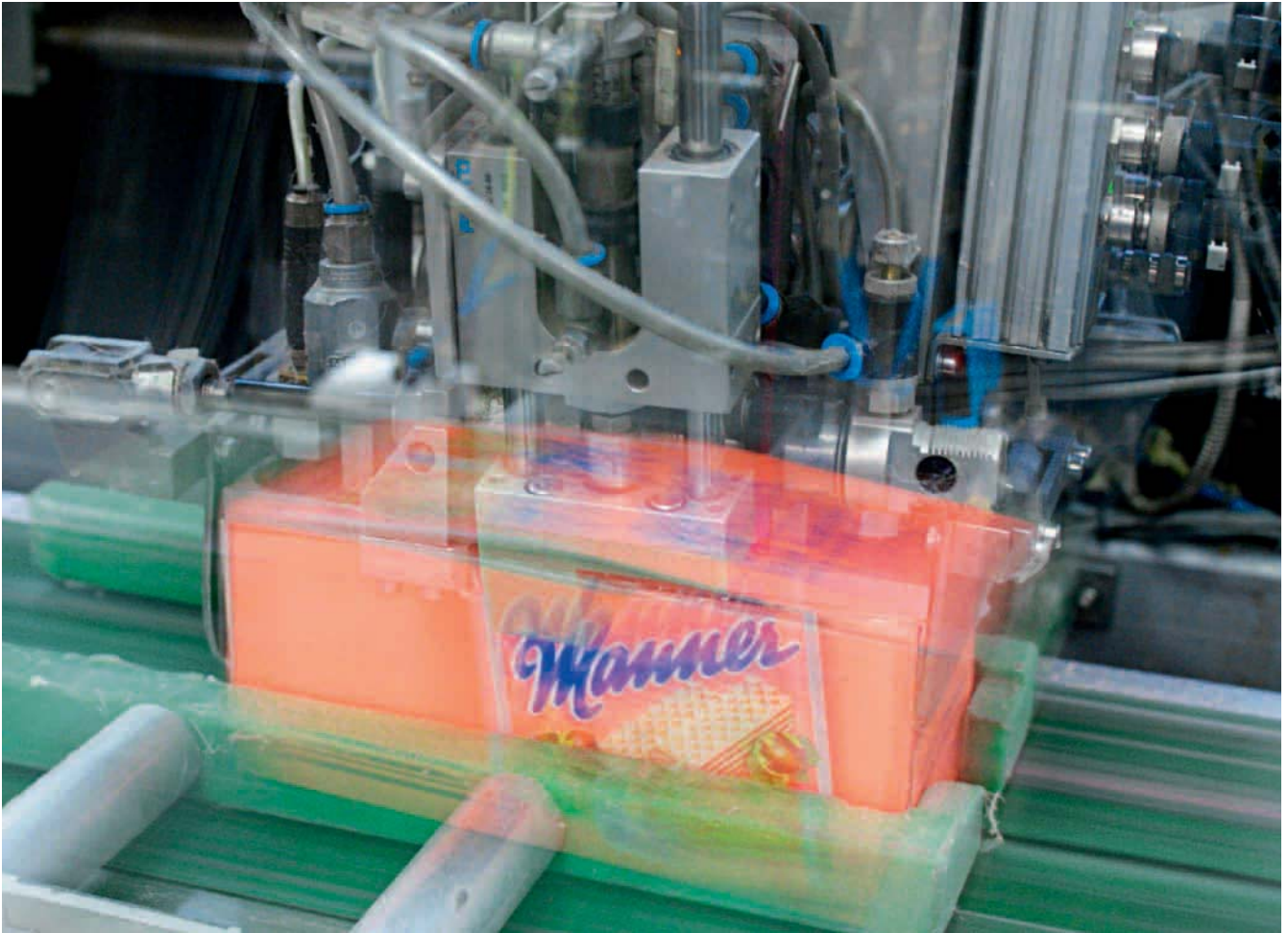
300 cartons of biscuits a minute

Festo displays its strengths not only in the company’s logistics but also in its production operations – for example, in the closing and gluing of carton lids. As 300 cartons a minute fly past, the observer sees only a flashing pink/blue blur. This is not a problem for the machine. To cope with this colossal speed, a horizontally mounted round cylinder DSNU centres and holds the carton steady while a vertical DSNU with a guide unit FEN places a lid on it. This requires absolute precision. Even the slightest deviations from the correct position at this speed will lead



▲ **Neat and tidy:** The components are stored in separate compartments, each of which carries a Festo barcode sticker.

▲ **Quick and easy:** Users need only plug in the scanner and data is transferred automatically to the Festo Online Shop.



300 cartons per minute are too fast for the human eye to follow. While a horizontally mounted round cylinder DSNU centres the carton and holds it in place, the vertical DSNU with the guide unit FEN fits the cover on the carton.



Fast fault-finding made easy with the high-speed vision system SBOC-M.

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Area of activity:
Production of confectionery
under the Manner, Casali, Napoli,
Ildefonso and Victor Schmidt brand
names.

to accidental collisions between cartons. If, for example, a tool is bent or a feeder chain is misaligned, the biscuits could break very easily. Fault diagnostics are provided by the high-speed vision system SBOC-M. It does not need any laborious programming or complicated setting-up and records events continuously in a ring memory for a given period of time. If faults occur, the recording can be stopped and the fault image can be easily transferred to a laptop and analysed in detail.

Intelligent eyes that see everything

The great advantage of the Festo high-speed vision system SBOC-M, in addition

to its extremely high speed, is its integrated data processing. There is no need for an external PC in "Record" mode. The classic area of application of the SBOC-M is fault analysis and sequence optimisation in production. Up to 2,000 images per second are recorded by the intelligent vision system. Thanks to its low weight, compact housing and flexible mounting options, the system can be integrated into all kinds of production machinery. ■