



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



A PRODUCT PROFILE ON **CARTOSTRIP**



Doug Johnston of Packology.

We ask Doug Johnston, Managing Director of Packology (Consulting) Ltd, to give his views on the use of hand held stripping tools for folding carton and corrugated converters. His views are based on his own experience of using these tools in manufacturing environments. Launched to market in 2010, the Cartostrip hand held stripping tool is available as either an

electric or pneumatic model. Simple to use and easy to maintain, Mr Johnston goes on the record with his thoughts on the latest tool to help make operators lives a little bit easier in the converting environment.

■ **Q:** Why should a converter consider a hand stripping tool, rather than rely on manual labour?

■ **DJ:** There were two main reasons why we chose to invest in

stripping machinery. Firstly, we could see that there was potential for a huge reduction in time taken to strip a pallet — our own operators saw time savings of between 70 and 90 per cent depending on complexity and substrate. This was a direct cost benefit to us. Secondly, we found that using this type of tool allowed us to free up staff from undertaking a 'zero-added value', monotonous and physical job of hand stripping.

■ **Q:** Does a stripping tool suit every style of die-cut job?

■ **DJ:** Certain complex jobs tend not to lend themselves to stripping by tool, but these are very much in the minority. Equally, designs with cut-outs, slots or windows still need to be hand stripped; to avoid double handling these are generally not tooled up to be stripper-friendly. However, assuming that forme-makers and designers understand the very

simple knifing requirements for tools, the vast majority of die-cut cases or cartons could, in our experience, be handled.

throughput in the die-cutting and gluing department increased significantly.

Q: What sort of time can a converter expect to save using a power hand-tool?

DJ: We found that a regular pallet of die-cut pieces could be stripped in less than 10 minutes by a competent user, compared to around 45 minutes typically for hand stripping. But I think it should be noted that it is not just the time saved in stripping that is important; it is also critical to the improved throughput of a complete job. For example, if an item required down-stream gluing, the saving was doubled because a bottleneck process was effectively removed, thereby avoiding having machines standing awaiting delivery of stripped blanks. The whole



Q: What would be considered a realistic return on investment for a hand held stripping device?

DJ: I've been fortunate enough to operate these kinds of tools in both a corrugated factory and a folding carton plant. Our own estimation would see ROI for use in a corrugated sheet plant in approximately 2 months. For use in a carton factory, we estimated ROI was approximately two weeks!

Q: Are they simple to use?

DJ: Our operators universally acknowledged that they are extremely straightforward and safe to use, and very easy to become competent on. They are simple to clean and maintain and as long as operators look after them properly, offer a long lifetime of use. ■