

Taking the long view

Globally, more than 1000 of Pemco's SHM series sheeters have been installed. Newest kid on the block is the SHM 1450 SR folio-size sheeter, which has been installed at Ohio based Diversified Converter Materials to sheet repositionable vinyl. While DCM built a new building to house it, Pemco stored the machine for six months free of charge!

As presses grow so do one sheeting company's capabilities – and DCM takes the long view. Thanks to their recent purchase of the SHM 1450 single rotary sheeter from Pemco, DCM can now produce a variety of sheeted pressure-sensitive printing materials.

"We grew steadily after acquiring our first SHM sheeter in the mid 90s to the point where we now sheet many different products, and last year we needed more capacity," says DCM president Scott Engler. "Given the original machine's performance history and Pemco's ability to provide greater cut-off lengths, the SHM 1450 SR was the natural choice," he adds.

Spurred on

The purchase was also spurred on by the growth in printing press size capabilities. "We were getting a lot of calls from our customers asking us to do larger sheets," says Engler. "We felt pretty comfortable that Pemco would be able to make the machine."

The SHM 1450 SR's standard cut-off length is 59in but Pemco was ready and able to expand that to 80in and now offers even longer lengths.

Most of DCM's output is 0.003-0.006in sheeted vinyl in a variety of

substrates including its Static Cling and Super Clear Pro brands. The company's flagship product, Magik-Stik, is a tough, durable, polymeric vinyl that employs a microsphere adhesive system that DCM created.

It is used for decorative wall graphics, point-of-purchase displays, automotive decoration and in many other products where removability or re-use is desired. The substrate's light-tack adhesive allows the end product to be applied, removed cleanly and repeatedly repositioned over a long period of time.

Registration issues

The ability to produce longer than 6.5ft is well suited to such products because smaller segments invite colour-matching and registration issues in the printed product. DCM's original SHM machine only cut up to 65in long.

"Previously, having to do it in half-sizes kind of crippled us," Engler says. "Now we can offer a sheet cut precisely at 54x80in and can do 5000-10 000 sheets in a relatively short time. With this piece of machinery we can split the roll in-line into two or three sheets or pockets of 27 or 18in widths."

DCM standardises on 54in rolls but their original SHM machine is capable of handling 55in rolls while the new SHM 1450 SR sheeter can handle rolls up to 57in wide. It also offers improved drive technology, a colour touchscreen with easy-to-use interface and other features.

No adjustments needed

DCM also sheets a twin-sided, mineral enhanced PP printing and converting film called VinylLike. Al-

though PP products sometimes sheet somewhat differently, requiring minor adjustments, Engler reports that Vinyl-Like sheets the same as the vinyl. "No adjustments are needed," he says.

Even so, changing sheet size and materials on the SHM 1450 SR sheeter is a simple process. The machine is computerised so the operator simply enters the new dimensions on a computer screen.

DCM shipped materials to Pemco's Wisconsin (USA) headquarters and took a look at an SHM 1450SR in action.

"I thought we'd have to tweak the machine to get what we'd want, but it actually ran much smoother," Engler recalls. "At one point we got it up to 500ft/min running 54x80in."

DCM changes substrates daily with no difficulty. It is a matter of swapping rolls on the stand and changing sheet size if necessary. The SHM 1450 SR is available with non-stop capability but Engler needs to stop the process briefly to change rolls. Stopping and starting has no adverse effect on the output quality.

Cutting, not ripping

The SHM 1450 SR is also known for its cut quality (cutting rather than ripping), stack quality, and absence of scuff marks, all of which improve performance of the product in printing. SHM sheeters can cut lengths as short as 11in. This enables converters to use a single SHM series machine to serve cut-size, digital size, and folio size markets simultaneously.

DCM currently sheets only vinyl and PP but the SHM 1450 SR can also sheet a range of other materials, including coated and uncoated



DCM's SHM 1450 single rotary sheeter from Pemco in action



SHM 1450 SR sheeter installed at DCM to sheet repositionable vinyl

paper, lightweight paper, watermarked paper, films and non-woven products, printed labels, self-adhesive materials, laminates, and carton board.

"They can all be sheeted on the same machine with no major modifications," says Pemco's key sales contact Sven Gruenwoldt. "You do some standard adjustments, like the decurler set-up or web tension but you don't have to buy upgrade packages in order to accommodate a wide range of materials and sizes."

Decurling systems

One secret behind Pemco machinery is the use of two- and three-bar decurling systems. To change from sheeting paper grades to coated board grades, the operator simply selects the required decurler (bar

Found - a good clean cut

B J Ball Papers, one of New Zealand's leading paper merchants and mill agents, has purchased a Pemco SHM 1650 dual rotary high precision folio-size sheeter through sales agent Graph-Pak.

"This new sheeter coincides with our new purpose built facility and will be a great asset," says divisional manager Thomas Ben.

Leading edge technology

An automatic paper and board sheeter and dual rotary cutting head with AC vector drive is evidence of B J Ball Papers' investment in leading edge sheeter technology.

The SHM 1650 DR is equipped with shaftless roll stands and side by side reel processing capability.



The automatic SHM 1650 DR folio-size sheeter offers a good clean cut with minimal waste

A dancer tensioning control system offers substrate stability at high speed.

The machine has been fitted with an automated stacker, which will supply press ready pallets of sheeted product. It also has a non-stop pallet change system to complete the automation.

Its specification is independent automatic web guidance allowing the processing of centre slit rolls with no need for edge trim to be taken thus reducing waste to an absolute minimum.

and roller) by means of a handle. This ease and versatility further increases the number of markets a converting operation can serve.

"It's a very well made, good quality product," says Engler. "Any time we've needed help from Pemco,

they've been very willing to help. That's what it takes to satisfy us," says Engler. So what became of DCM's original SHM 1400 machine, the one purchased in 1995? "It's also running daily in the new facility, strong as ever." ■

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