

A winning design



H J Weir's Vacfeed Low Line has proved very successful and many machines have now been installed worldwide

The Vacfeed Low Line is a single-lane, multi-station automatic spreader-feeder that can be used for both large and small flatwork pieces.

H J Weir launched this feeder in 2007 and it now has installations worldwide, including those in long haul destinations, such as Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and the USA, and installations in mainland Europe as well as in the UK home market.

The company has always been willing to adapt to customers' requirements and although the Low Line is produced in 3.0 or 3.3m widths as standard, Weir has successfully built machines in widths up to 4.2m.

All machines can be supplied with two, three or four loading stations and the company includes its WISE (Weir Intelligent System Electronics) control as standard.

Continued development

"H J Weir continues to enhance the Low Line and currently the company is designing a system that will allow users to re-tape ironers without the need for a catwalk/gantry bridge or for installing tracks in the ground to pull the feeder back.

Many laundries re-tape their ironers from the feeding end and this task can often be repeated several times per day. Catwalk/gantry bridges involve working at height whilst retracting the feeder on tracks can be time consuming.

Details of how H J Weir will overcome these problems remain under wraps until testing has been

completed but the development will certainly prove advantageous.

The Low Line feeder has helped H J Weir's customers to increase their productivity and after its installation laundries have reported hourly throughputs of up to 1,000 sheets or 500 duvet covers of various sizes.

Such throughputs make this feeder one of the most productive available.

The feeder is very easy to use and its name derives from the design of the clipping system and feeding stations, which have been placed at a comfortable and safe height for operators.

Assisting small piece feeding

Another plus point is that the feeder's load stations can be raised to expose a powerful suction conveyor that can be used to assist in the feeding of small pieces such as napkins and pillowcases. This feature is also useful for feeding irregularly shaped pieces of linen, such as round table cloths, which may prove awkward to clip into the load stations.

Making an impressive entry

H J Weir director Ross Weir is very pleased with the Low Line's entry to the world market.

"Our UK sales team and global distributors have really done a fantastic job of introducing this feeder to customers. Slowly but surely, it is beginning to be regarded as one of the best automatic spreader-feeders on the market today.

"This has been proved not only by our customers'



COMFORTABLE HEIGHT: The Vacfeed Low Line has been ergonomically designed so that the clipping stations are at a comfortable working height for the operators

testimonials but also by our global reference list and by our current orders for the Vacfeed Low Line."

Visitors are always welcome

Ross Weir encourages any laundry considering buying or replacing a feeder to view the Vacfeed Low Line.

"Our factory doors are always open and we welcome any customer that wants to come and view the machine during building and testing.

"We are also happy to take you to see machines in operation in the field."

Ross Weir says that the leading and trailing edge of pieces that the Vacfeed Low Line presents to the ironer are fantastic, not only on sheets but also on duvet covers and on varying sizes of table linen."

He sums up: "The machine's small footprint, competitive price, low energy consumption and high performance, coupled with H J Weir's outstanding after-sales service makes the Vacfeed Low Line a real winner! **LCN**



CONVEYED BY SUCTION: Raising the load stations reveals a powerful suction conveyor that can be used to feed small pieces or irregularly shaped linen, such as a round table cloth, that does not fit conveniently into the loading clamps

Workers are more efficient



Bourne Textiles of Lincolnshire recently purchased two Vacfeed Low Line feeders from H J Weir.

Engineering manager Kevin McNally says that he is particularly impressed by the machine's reliability. He adds that the feeder's energy consumption is lower than that of other machines in the laundry.

McNally believes that the feeder's simple design has helped operators to work more efficiently and so increased their output. Operations director Richard Clark reports that the Vacfeed Low Line consistently produces an average of 800 mixed sheets and 550 duvet covers per hour.

McNally praises Weir's sales and service support saying that the company paid great attention to detail during the initial planning, ordering and commissioning processes ensuring that the transition to the machines went smoothly.

Clark adds that he found the open invitation to visit the H J Weir factory during the machines' production very useful.

Hourly rate has increased



SATISFIED CUSTOMERS: Gary Allen and Express Linen's managing director Mark Bruce with their Weir machines

Express Linen in Blackpool recently replaced its feeder, folder and stacker with machines from H J Weir.

Senior manager Gary Allen says he is extremely happy with the installation, which is the company's first purchase from Weir for several years.

Allen comments: "Since the installation of our new Vacfeed Low Line, Foldmaker 55 and Triple Autograding Drop Stacker, we have experienced a great increase in productivity." He adds that the machine produces 900 mixed sheets and up to 1,000 single sheets per hour.

"The operators are really enjoying working with the new equipment and the system allows us to have very detailed hourly production figures at our fingertips."

Allen adds that he is happy both with the products and with H J Weir's after-sales service.