

PennTech Newsletter

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Quote of the Week:

"Keep on going and the chances are you will stumble on something, perhaps when you are least expecting it. I have never heard of anyone stumbling on something sitting down"....Charles F. Kettering

Next Week's Topic:

- PennTech's Future Outlook -

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Recent Advances - PennTech Vial Washers

It has always been PennTech's goal to develop, offer and ultimately have installed the most advanced vial washers available in the industry. Each and every project teaches us something new and this helps make each machine just a little better than the last. Below are the latest updates and the rationale for each.

Dual Belt Infeed

The dual belt infeed is exactly as it sounds. Rather than having one infeed belt, we have gone to a dual belt system. Why? Our experience is that the new system offers a more positive infeed of the vials into the cassettes (vial holders) and more importantly eliminates any potential scratching of the vials. With the traditional single belt design some vials (generally the smaller tubular style) had a tendency to spin when inside the belt thus rubbing against each other resulting in a fine line scratch from time to time. The dual belt system eliminates this completely. This system is now standard on all model vial washers.

Revised Outfeed Design

PennTech has eliminated the chain and pulley system underneath the outfeed plate of all model vial washers. This traditional design (used for over 10 years) had a tendency to wear resulting in stretched or broken chains, faulty adjustment springs, worn pulleys etc. Standard since 2006 is a new system incorporating a simple yet very precise servo operated lead screw. This system is not only less complicated, it requires no maintenance, has one moving part, and it is also faster than the previous design.



Cassette Discharge Blocks

PennTech has implemented Delrin "discharge blocks" in all new and existing customer cassettes since 2005. Simply stated, a discharge block (see the white plastic block inside of the cassette pictured to the right) is placed inside of the cassette therefore at the outfeed of the machine, the pusher pushes against the discharge block, not directly on the inner most vial. Why is this important? With the traditional design the outfeed pusher pushed directly on the vial closest to the center of the machine, pushing the vials out of the cassette. Often times, due to the nature of the cassette's design, the pusher pushed at or below the vial's center of gravity thus sometimes causing the vials to cock and get stuck in the cassette. With the discharge blocks, the pusher pushes the discharge block, the block then pushes the entire surface of the vial (top to bottom) thus eliminating vial cocking and therefore outfeed jams. This relatively silly feature is likely the single most important improvement to our vial washers since our inception.

Of course there are other improvements however these are just a few of the most important ones. Overall the machines have gained much efficiency from these improvements while maintaining their simplicity.