

Turntable-Style Stretch Wrapper Improves Shipping Ergonomics

Features/Benefits Provided:

- The low-profile unit sits less than an inch above floor level, and has an overall diameter of 4-ft plus, providing ample space for standard pallets.
- Hand Pallet Jack Accessible



The Problem:

Shipping is an area where companies can make ergonomic improvements while also enhancing productivity without making a major investment in equipment. A company located in New Hampshire, found a way to remedy poor ergonomics in its manual stretch wrapping operations, for example. The remedy: low-profile powered turntable/stretch wrapping equipment.

Until recently, finished products arrived in the company's shipping room in boxes on pallets. They were manually stretch wrapped for shipping to the company's customers around the world.

Shipping personnel would attach the "tail" of a roll of stretch wrap film to the base of the pallet load. Then they would walk backwards around the pallet, circling it six or eight times until the load was wrapped fully. The company's head shipper, said that walking backwards, particularly in the stooped position necessary to wrap the bottom portion of the pallet, made her "feel dizzy," and was also somewhat hazardous. The company started looking into ways to correct the problem. The powered turntable/stretch wrapper provided a decided ergonomic advantage.

The Solution:

"We selected the turntable/wrapper after a month's trial period," the internal sales and promotion manager told us. "Our head shipper immediately fell in love with it."

In contrast to other stretch wrapping equipment, the powered turntable unit features a low-profile design. This feature permits loading pallets onto the turntable with a hand pallet jack rather than with a lift truck. The low-profile unit sits less than an inch above floor level, and has an overall diameter of 4-ft plus, providing ample space for standard pallets.

To operate the unit, the shipper activates the turntable with a foot switch. The roll of film rises on a counterbalanced film carriage by operator control as the film unwinds and wraps the load.

The head shipper who once "hated to see a pallet load arrive at the wrapping station, now says, the new equipment is a "life saver. Nobody is taking this wrapper away from me."

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