



## **Panther Industries Creates Custom Labeling Automation Solution for Mountain Man Nut & Fruit Co.**

### **Features and Benefits**

- Elimination of errors and increased throughput due to labeling automation.
- Labeling versatility for multiple product packaging requirements.
- Re-tasking of labor resources to support business growth areas and opportunities.

**Industry Group:** Solutions Community



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*The final Panther Industries labeling automation solution for Mountain Man Nut & Fruit Co., incorporating two Panther P8 pneumatic label applicator systems integrated with a hugger belt and corresponding outriggers.*

### **Background**

Mountain Man Nut & Fruit Co. produces packaged nuts, candies, and chocolate for distribution throughout the Midwest and western United States.

Mountain Man relies on packaging equipment to bolster its employee base and ensure timely production of their products. Ensuring that the equipment has a high Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) is paramount.

Panther Industries has been a trusted partner of Mountain Man for nearly two decades, providing labeling automation solutions for their packaging and shipping fulfillment processes.

### **Challenge**

Traditionally, Mountain Man has used plastic bags for product presentation at their point-of-sale

locations. However, their customers have requested the use of rigid plastic containers for greater durability and enhanced product presentation.

Mountain Man required the labeling process for the new packaging to be automated, allowing them to eliminate the need to hand apply labels, reduce errors, and reallocate employees to other key functions to grow their business. To support this initiative and assist in the implementation of this upgraded packaging solution, Mountain Man engaged with Panther Industries – a trusted partner whose labeling automation solutions have always performed as promised.

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### **Approach**

It was determined that two plastic container labeling solutions were needed – top and bottom labeling for a smaller container and bottom-only labeling for a larger container.

The Panther team engaged its sales, application specialists, and engineering areas to assist Mountain Man in determining the ideal solution for both labeling applications. During the process, there was collaborative communication and ongoing technical dialog to ensure the end solution would meet every parameter for the end-users.

### **Solution**

To accommodate both the smaller *and* larger package labeling requirements, two Panther label systems were utilized (with one being offset and inverted to handle the lower label). Integrating the labeling applicators within Mountain Man's conveyance system required a hugger belt conveyor and corresponding outriggers as part of the overall solution.

Panther was able to deliver this labeling automation solution to Mountain Man Nut & Fruit Co. seven weeks from the date of the order. During factory acceptance testing (FAT), the system performed as expected, achieving throughput at over 45 products per minute (substantially higher and more accurate than results attained with manual label application).

The final solution directly bolstered the main intent of the collaboration – automation of the label application process for two different product package types, and the elimination of high operating costs and errors due to manual labor processes. Mountain Man’s team indicated that a minimum of four employees could now be re-tasked within the company to support other key business growth areas.



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