

Modification to Labeler & TwinPrint® Print/Apply Streamlines E-Commerce Shipping Line

On-line Maintenance, Repair, &
Operations Products Distributor



		Code 1
Code Description:		Robot LFN
Label Length:	Inch	2.250
Label Height:	Inch	2.250
Symbology:		Code 128C
Number of Characters:		10
Narrow Width:	MM	
Code Length:	Inch	1.750
Code Height:	Inch	1.625
Container Material:		Cardboard
Printing Method:		Direct Thermal
Bar Color:		Black
Space Color:		White
Code Under Plastic:	Yes/No	No



- 10 digits
- Barcode is an incremental, generic number created by print and apply equipment
- Leading digit of barcode is always constant according to robot box size:
1 = Small box
2 = Medium box



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FOX IV was able to eliminate the need for a workstation at the line by programming the sequential number function directly into the PLC.

Growth & Impact



Integration
Systems added to integrated shipping line.



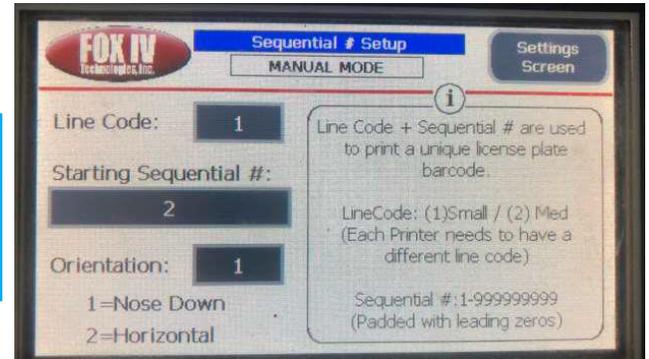
Software
Sequential numbering programmed directly into Labeler PLC.



Efficient
Software modification and combined labeling processes create streamlined system

Modification to Labeler & TwinPrint® Print/Apply Streamlines E-Commerce Shipping Line

FOX IV's ability to modify the labeler PLC to include the sequential numbering function streamlined the shipping lines by eliminating the need for a workstation at the lines.



Background

An on-line maintenance, repair, and operations products distributor needed to add automated sequentially numbered 9 digit Code 128 “license plate” labeling to their shipping lines along with automated packing list/shipping labels.

Each license plate label corresponds to the order inside the shipping box. The customer uses two different sized boxes.

APPLICATION:

Each box was to be labeled with a sequentially numbered license plate label. There were two different sized boxes with separate line codes. The license plate label would then be scanned and a middleware software provided by the integrator would determine the shipping method and shipping label information as well as send order information for the packing slip. A dual sided packing slip/shipping label would be printed and applied to each box.

ENVIRONMENT/SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

Temperature controlled factory environment.

Solution

FOX IV provided a 6954 PLC controlled label printer applicator for each license plate labeling line as well as our patented TwinPrint® dual sided label print and apply systems for the packing slip/shipping labels.

FOX IV's in-house engineering department modified the 6954 programming to include password protected sequential numbering functionality directly in the print and apply instead of using an external source such as a workstation. This eliminates additional equipment at the line and enables equipment flexibility. The license plate label format is stored in the print and apply system. The operator selects the line code according to the box size and enters the initial sequential number along with the machine orientation. The sequential number is automatically incremented by one with each label print. The program automatically pads the initial number with leading zeros to create the nine digit barcode.

Following the license plate label application, the outside integrator's middleware software scans the license plate label and sends the appropriate order and shipping information to FOX IV's TwinPrint® dual sided shipping label/packing slip label print and apply system and each box is labeled according to order.

This solution enabled the customer to streamline the shipping lines by eliminating a workstation at each line and combining the shipping label/packing slip process into one – eliminating additional equipment and expenses associated with it. Additionally, 55% of the shipping label waste is repurposed as the packing list, eliminating it from the waste stream.

“By combining processes and doing a software modification, we were able to help create a more efficient shipping line for our customer.”

Ed Fox, Sales Director, FOX IV Technologies, Inc.