

Solutions in Action

Pack West Machinery



Model 200 Automatic Inline Spindle Capper from Pack West



Allen-Bradley® CompactLogix®
Programmable Automation Controller



Allen-Bradley PowerFlex® 40
AC Drive

Whether it is hot sauce or cosmetics, bleach or motor oil, if a product comes in a container, chances are that a **Pack West Machinery** machine can fill and cap it – quickly, accurately and efficiently. Pack West designs and manufactures precision-engineered liquid inline fillers and inline cappers for the packaging industry.

The company was established in 1971 and is a division of Pacific Packaging Machinery. Customers from 30 countries specify the company's quality machines, which are used in the pharmaceutical, chemical, personal care, automotive, and food and beverage industries.

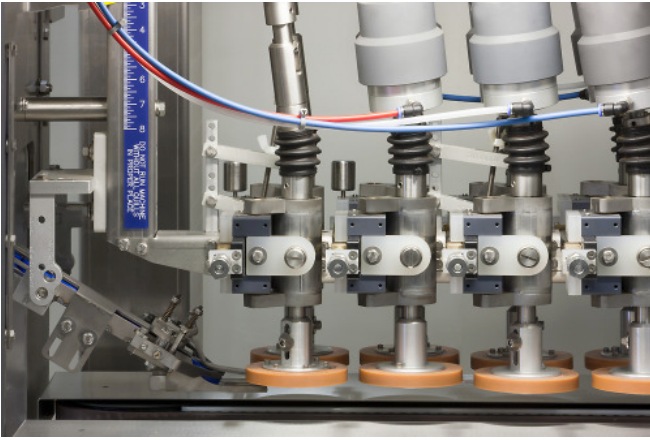
Pack West has earned a global reputation for manufacturing quality, heavy-duty inline cappers that consistently yield high-efficiency output levels for customers. "We always aim high," says Loren Lauxen, general manager for Pack West. "Our goal is to produce the highest quality, most effective machinery for the customer's packaging line."

The company's design engineers work closely with customers to assess their container needs, adapting caps and closure systems to meet end-user needs and comply with requirements of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and other organizations.

"Pack West equipment is so versatile that we can meet the most demanding closure and container requirements – from unique torque specifications to chemical-resistant, child-resistant or tamper-evident closures and caps," said Lauxen. "We even have equipment for explosion-proof products."

Recently, Pack West updated a legacy capping machine. The **Model 200 Automatic Inline Spindle Capper** orients, applies and torques caps up to 300 containers per minute. This versatile performer can accommodate short containers measuring just three-quarters of an inch in height to 2 ½-gallon containers that measure 14 inches in height.

LISTEN.
THINK.
SOLVE.™



Model 200 Automatic Inline Spindle Capper from Pack West

The Model 200 capper can accommodate up to five different cap delivery systems and a wide range of cap sizes, shapes and styles – from hot sauce caps that measure 4 millimeters in diameter to condiment and snack food caps that measure 130 millimeters across. It features a universally adjustable cap chute and escapement, and comes equipped with adjustable air clutches and quills for precise closure alignment and torque control.

The fully automated, stainless-steel machine applies caps to containers that travel from an existing conveyor line, applying caps that are sorted and fed by the Pack West Cap Elevator, Sorter and Feeder System or other compatible sorter systems. As motion-controlled container grippers guide containers through the system, the capper's quills orient the caps and apply proper torque for the closure.

The Model 200 capper requires few change parts and no tools when adapting to new cap sizes or styles. If machine operators need to increase capping output, Pack West can easily expand the number of quill assembly stations in the field, up to a total of four.

To alter various capping parameters, operators simply input a new recipe using the Allen-Bradley PanelView™ Plus 600 human-machine interface (HMI). The HMI provides a user-friendly interface between the machine and operator monitoring the capping process.

An Allen-Bradley MicroLogix™ 1400, CompactLogix or ControlLogix® programmable automation controller (PAC) from Rockwell Automation manages all control and motion execution on the Model 200 capper. With one controller for motion and machine control, Pack West's customers have fewer components and spare parts to maintain.

Pack West also uses Allen-Bradley PowerFlex AC drives to control the machine's power functions, providing end users with a wide range of communications options, including embedded EtherNet/IP™ connectivity and USB programming for simplified configuration and startup. To help ensure operator safety, Pack West employs Allen-Bradley GuardMaster® Safety relays and sensors.

By listening and responding, Pack West has earned a long list of loyal customers over the years – including some who own 30 or 40 of the company's machines. That is one reason the company standardized on Rockwell Automation.

Explains Lauxen, "Our large end users insisted on Rockwell Automation, and we received enough other requests that we knew it was time to standardize. Our customers count on Rockwell Automation systems to save them time – from installation and startup to maintenance and troubleshooting. And they know they have the flexibility they need to make future changes, too."

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