Turning up the speed

Adding automation to the wire harness workflow equation

As the world demands more and more wire harnesses for everything from vehicles to vending machines, a quick look at the manufacturing process reveals a potential bottleneck: it's a labor-intensive process, with approximately 85% of all wire harness manufacturing operations being carried out manually. To be more competitive, wire harness shops are turning to faster alternatives, like automation. And it's been paying off, as wire harness producer Omnitronix Corporation has proven, year after year.

Challenge

Omnitronix Corporation, an Illinois-based custom cable and wire harness assembly firm, needed to increase production speed to provide quick turnaround times for their customers. But between the rush orders and an uptick in new orders due to competitor supply chains issues, Omnitronix needed to boost production to move orders out faster. Hand placing labels took too much time and they couldn't sustain both the new volume and the time-sensitive nature of their orders, something that has been part of their business model for more than thirty years. So, Omnitronix turned to equipment, not people, for a solution. And this led to the discovery of Brady automation.

Solution

Looking for both speed and quality placement of labels (both customer expectations), Omnitronix set their sights on Brady's Wraptor™ A6500 Wrap Printer Applicator. Designed for efficiency, this device automates labor-intensive tasks, like wire identification. In less than five seconds, it prints and applies labels — with sustained precision. After witnessing the Wraptor™ A6500's capabilities at a trade show, they requested a demo, which displayed the type of efficiency they were looking for.

At a glance

Company: Omnitronix Corporation
www.omnitronixcorp.com

Challenge: Low-to-mid volume manufacturer of custom cable and wire harness assemblies needed to cut back on time-consuming labeling processes.

Solution: Added the Wraptor™ A6500 Wrap Printer Applicator, a device that automates labor-intensive tasks, like wire identification. In less than five seconds, it prints and applies labels — consistently and neatly.

Result: With the addition of the Wraptor™ A6500 Wrap Printer Applicator, Omnitronix successfully reduced labeling times and increased production speeds, saving 25% in labor each year. Plus, due to this device's precision placement, they have increased the accuracy of their label placement: +/- 0.125 inch. This has allowed them to be more competitive, and they can now handle increased volumes while still providing customers the quick turnaround times and quality they've come to expect.

Results

Going beyond what Omnitronix thought was possible, the Wraptor™ A6500 dramatically reduced labeling times and increased production speeds. With this device, they've been able to:

Save 25% in labor per year

Increase the accuracy label of placement: +/- 0.125 inch

Use it 100% of the time, each day

In addition to providing much-needed speed and added efficiency, Brady's Wraptor™ A6500 has also proven to be a solution for the accurate placement of labels. For larger harnesses, up to one hundred wires need to be identified — and labeled, accurately. Dan Gonzalez, Quality Manager at Omnitronix, uses this device in-line, noting it has been "incredible regarding repeatability" when used for jobs with a tolerance of -/+ and eighth of an inch, which some customers demand. "Once we set it up, it hits spot-on, which customers are really happy about. Quality is a given with our customers, and the Wraptor™ A6500 is really reliable … for wires, cables and PVC tubing, it handles really well." And Dan Gonzalez should know. In the last ten years Omnitronix has purchased four devices from Brady. In his words, "The machine sells itself."

As businesses like Omnitronix continue to grow, they're realizing they need more than just new ERP systems and bigger production spaces. They need automated equipment. When it comes to the wire harness industry, using devices like the Wraptor™ A6500 can eliminate the most labor-intensive processes, paving the way for greater efficiencies and increased customer satisfaction. If you're looking for growth, automation can certainly help you get there.

USA
Customer Service: 1-888-272-3946
Inside Sales: 1-888-311-0775
BradyID.com

Canada
Customer Service: 1-800-263-6179
BradyCanada.ca

Mexico
Customer Service: 1-800-262-7777
Inside Sales: 1-800-262-7777 ext 177
BradyID.com.mx

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