

NEWS RELEASE

Maverick Tube Installs Its Third Braner/Loopco Slitter

Louisville, KY – Maverick Tube Corporation, a large manufacturer of structural tube, mechanical tube, and conduit has installed a compact heavy-duty Braner/Loopco Single-Loop Turret Head™ Coil Slitting Line in its new Louisville, KY manufacturing facility. The new Slitting Line joins 60,000# x 72" x 1/2" and 90,000# x 84" x 5/8" Braner/Loopco Slitting Lines operating in Maverick Tube facilities. The new Slitting Line is capable of processing 60,000# x 60" wide hot rolled black, pickled, cold rolled, and galvanized carbon steel coils in gauges from .015" through 1/4" at line speeds to 1,000 FPM. The Slitting Line is equipped with Entry and Exit 4-Arms, Radio Controlled Entry and Exit Coil Cars, Crop Shears, a 2-head x 9" x 150 HP quick-change Turret Head™ Slitter, quick-change Tensioner, and a 250 HP x 2-ratio Recoiler.



High-production 60,000# x 60" x 1/4" Single-Loop Turret Head™ Slitting Line conserves floor space.

Compact Line: The new Slitting Line employs Braner/Loopco's "compact" line design with an Uncoiler to Recoiler dimension of 40', much shorter than ordinary slitters. The compact design offers numerous operational benefits such as:

- * Floor space conservation
- * Easy operation
- * Fast coil threading
- * Improved coil tracking
- * All line elements from end to end are within the operator's sight line, an important safety consideration. Hodgepodge cameras and TV monitors are unnecessary.



The entire slitting line from end to end is within clear view of the operator, important for safety and operating efficiency.

The compact Maverick Tube Slitting Line also employs contemporary "hi-pass line" equipment arrangement that positions the strip-processing equipment above the coil OD, which eliminates "reverse-bending" as the strip is threaded and processed. Hi-pass line benefits include fast coil threading, elimination of equipment-induced coil-breaks, elimination of strip surface scuffing from entry and exit rolls, generates straight sidewall slit coils, and outstanding productivity.

Radio Controlled Coil Cars: The Coil Loading & Unloading Cars are operated via Braner/Loopco's new wireless radio controls instead of the common floor mounted or pendant controls. The wireless controls allow the operators freedom of movement and the ability to maintain a safe distance from the equipment and the coil. An additional benefit is the elimination of electrical pendant cable maintenance.



"Wireless" controls are installed on both Entry & Exit Coil Cars. Freedom of movement allows operators to safely control Coil Cars from 10' away.



Turret Head Slitter™: A 9" arbor x 150 HP 2-head quick-change Turret Head™ Slitter produces precise width tolerance slit strips with minimum burr throughout the entire range of gauges and mechanical properties. The Slitter arbors are supported in precision machine tool quality bearings installed into massive one-piece stress-relieved and 6-side precision ground solid steel housings that weigh nearly one-ton each. The rotatable Turret housing is supported on a 300,000# capacity anti-

friction bearing, and the hydraulic cylinder positioned out-board arbor bearing housing is mounted on zero-maintenance anti-friction precision machine tool slides. Huge aluminum-bronze gibs capture the vertically adjustable upper arbor bearing boxes and provide “zero” axial arbor movement. Huge upper arbor bearing boxes are positioned by motorized anti-backlash screw jacks equipped with electronic encoder digital position readouts for fast and precise positioning. The Turret Head™ Slitter design is more rigid and precise than any other Slitter design, and because the arbors are easily accessed with no obstructions re-tooling and head changes are accomplished faster than can be accomplished with any other slitter design.



Completely exposed and accessible arbors re-tools faster with less strain. No frames or bases obstruct the removal or installation of the slitter tooling. Head are exchanged in less than 2-minutes.

Quick-Change Strip Tensioner: The Maverick Tube Strip Tensioner generates strip tension necessary to rewind tight straight-wall slit coils. Rewind tension is adjustable and regulated from the main operator console. Entry strip separator tooling is mounted on a lightweight aluminum alloy arbor that can be exchanged with arbors that are pre-tooled off-line in 60-seconds. Multiple sets of Tension Pads allow pad re-covering off-line while the Slitting Line is running. Tension Pads can be removed and replaced in 60-seconds.



Quick-change Tensioner can set-up with new separators and tension pads in 2-minutes.

Exit End Equipment: The Overarm Separator is solidly attached to the Exit Unit frame to eliminate frame deflection and resulting misalignment that causes coil side-wall scuffing and coil oscillation. A “swing-out” arbor that supports a heat-treated tooling “sleeve” allows a pre-tooled arbor to be installed in 2-minutes. The Overarm is adjustable sideways to compensate for minor Overarm set-up misalignment. This unique feature consistently generates non-scuffed straight side-wall coils. A Hydraulic Feed Table acts in concert with an Overarm mounted deflector plate to form a threading “funnel” that guides slit strips directly from the Exit Pass Line Roll to the Recoiler gripper bar. The massive Recoiler drum is manufactured from custom forged 2” thick segments hardened to Rc 58. A huge 3” diameter solid steel gripper bar “bites” the slit strips against a heat-treated serrated steel anvil. A massive one-piece 250-HP parallel shaft helical gear reducer with integral 2-ratio gearing and a 14” diameter main shaft drives the Recoiler.



Exit end view. “Wireless” control Exit Car unloads coils.

Productivity, Product Quality, & Reliability: Heavy mill-duty construction, *bullet-proof* reliability, experience from building more than 560-Slitting Lines, and superb technical support make Braner/Loopco Slitting Lines the “no-brainer” choice for coil processors that require high-tonnage productivity without daily parts replacement and down-time.



New Compact Hi-Pass Line Turret Head™ Slitter joins 72” x ½” and 84” x 5/8” Braner/Loopco Slitters at Maverick Tube.



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