

NEWS RELEASE

Lafayette Steel Sales Installs Automatic Coil Packaging System

Indianapolis, IN – Lafayette Steel Sales, a prime coil ferrous and non-ferrous and sheet distributor and processor has installed a new Braner/Loopco Automatic Slit Coil Packaging System in its Indianapolis, IN coil processing facility. The new Coil Packaging System efficiently handles and packages carbon steel and aluminum slit coils generated from Lafayette's Braner/Loopco Turret Head™ Slitting Line. Slit coils range in size to 10,000# x 72" OD in slit widths from 1" through 24" wide.

A Coil Car unloads finished slit coils from the Slitting Line and transfers the slit coil group to a 4-Arm Turnstile at the entry end of the Packaging System. The Car is equipped with adjustable narrow coil support stanchions that stabilize and secure the slit coil group during the coil transfer. A hand-held "wireless" Coil Car control provides excellent operator control mobility and allows the Car to be operated from a safe distance.



Slit coils generated from the 72" Braner/Loopco Slitting Line will be packaged on Lafayette's Automatic Slit Coil Packaging Line.

"Operatorless" Programmable Slit Coil Downender: The 4-Arm Turnstile positions the slit coil group at the unloading station where a Slit Coil Downender removes individual slit coils one at a time from the Turnstile arm and deposits each coil onto a powered roller conveyor. The Downender is controlled by a programmable controller into which the width of each slit coil at the Turnstile unloading station is entered via operator console keypad. After all coil widths are entered, the Downender:

- Raises up and travel to the coils on the Turnstile arm
- Extends the arbor to match the width of the coil being removed



Programmable Slit Coil Downender automatically travels to the 4-Arm, "picks" individual slit coils off the 4-Arm, and downends the coils for strapping & stacking

- Lifts the coil off the Turnstile arm
- Transports the coil to the conveyor
- Tips the coil 90-degrees to horizontal and discharges the coil onto power conveyor
- Begins the next cycle

The coil downending cycle is full automatic and operatorless after the coil widths are entered into the programmable controller keypad.

Automatic Coil Staging Conveyor: Slit coils discharged from the Downender are conveyed to a Strapping Machine via Power Roller Conveyor. The Conveyor is designed to stage several 72" OD coils between the Downender and the Strapping Machine and is comprised of separately driven conveyor sections with each section independently controlled. Coil advancing to the Strapping Machine is full automatic.



Staging Conveyor automatically advances coils to the Strapping Machine



Narrow coil being strapped while wide coils await advancing into the Strapper

Semi-Automatic Slit Coil Strapping Machine: The Strapping Machine receives coils from the Staging Conveyor. The Strapper applies multiple radial straps onto the coil in a quick and efficient "semi-automatic" manner. Coils from the Staging Conveyor are transported into and centered on the Strapping Machine via power conveyor rolls. Three (3) powered conical rolls lift the coil from the conveyor rolls and rotate the coil in a horizontal plane for radial strap positioning. Joystick operator controls allow coil positioning to be accomplished quickly and efficiently. A Signode strapping head mounted in a parallelogram balance frame above the coil applies 3/4" steel strapping. Strapping head

up-down-in-out handles mounted on the balance frame position the strapping head on the coil. A "strap feed" control mounted in the up-down handle feeds the strap through the coil ID and under the coil. The free end of the strap is manually guided into a chute in the Signode head, and the "cycle" pushbutton mounted in the in-out handle initiates the strap tension and seal cycle securing the strap on the coil. Three (3) radial straps are normally applied to a coil in about 30-40-seconds.



Strapping Machine manipulates the coil and applies radial straps in a semi-automatic manner

Double-End Automatic "Turret" Coil Stacker: Radially strapped coils are sent from the Strapping Machine to an Automatic "Turret" Coil Stacker where coils are automatically stacked onto a pallet positioned on a Coil Sorting Turntable. Coils conveyed into the Turret Stacker are automatically positioned on the Stacker centering table. The coil is gripped from the ID and OD and transported to the Turntable stacking station where the coil is deposited onto an awaiting pallet or coil package and released. The Lafayette Steel Coil Stacker is a "Turret" design with two (2) independent ID-OD stacking heads mounted on a 180-degree rotating base. The benefit of the Double-End "Turret" Stacker is coil handling speed. One stacking head grabs a coil from the centering table while the opposite stacking head simultaneously stacks a coil on the Turntable. As soon as a coil is stacked, the



Turret Stacker carries a "batch" of coils to the Turntable while the opposite empty head travels back to retrieve a coil from the centering table. Double stacking heads with "multi-grab" programming makes the Turret Stacker extremely efficient.

Turret Stacker rotates 180-degrees moving the next coil to the Turntable while the empty stacking head moves to grab the next coil. Simultaneous grabbing and stacking sequence and elimination of "empty" Stacker return travel makes the Turret Stacker nearly twice as productive as a single head reciprocating "wagon" type Coil Stacker. A "multi-grab" program allows the Turret Stacker to accumulate several coils before transporting them to the Turntable. The multi-grab program makes the Turret Stacker even more productive.

Coil Sorting Turntable: The Turntable rotates CW & CCW to sort coils into customer packages. Turntable stations are color coded to make coil package sorting quick and easy. Pressing a color coded pushbutton commands the corresponding color Turntable segment to travel the "shortest way" to the stacking station. A hydraulic pushoff discharges finished coil packages from the Turntable.



Turret Stacker stacking a wide slit coil onto a pallet located on the Turntable

Rotary Pallet Banding Station: Finished coil packages are pushed off the Turntable onto a Pallet Banding Station where the coils are strapped to the pallet. The Pallet Banding Station rotates to make banding faster and easier. After the package is banded, the Table rotates to align with additional Runout Conveyor onto which the package is discharged.



Rotary Pallet Bander speeds strapping coils to the pallet.

Exceptional productivity, outstanding support, and bullet-proof reliability made Lafayette Steel Sales' selection of a Braner/Loopco Automatic Slit Coil Packaging System "no-brainer".



Braner USA, Inc., 9301 W. Bernice St., Schiller Park, IL 60176
Phone (847) 671-6210 Fax: (847) 671-0537
www.braner.com



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Member Steel Service Center Institute

Lafayette Steel Sales
2407 North Ninth Street, Lafayette, IN 47903
Phone 765-423-5371 Fax: 765-742-2743