

Monthly Messenger

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Creating an Expert (Packaging) Blend

At St. Louis-based Chauvin Coffee, a quality cup of joe starts with slow-roasted beans—that were packaged fast.

In addition to hand-packed specialty coffee blends and supplies for independent coffee shops throughout the Midwest, the family-owned company also has a thriving business co-packing coffee for larger, private-label brands. To meet increasing demand for smaller 1- and 3.5-ounce fractional pillow packs, Chauvin Coffee needed to add a faster and more accurate packaging line.

Like their father, grandfather and great-grandfather before them, brothers Dave and Mike Charleville take pride in offering only the finest beans from around the world. They wanted equipment that met those same standards, so they approached Matrix Packaging Machinery. They were looking for what Mike calls “the Lamborghini” of packaging machines: “A lot of machines are overly built, overly complicated and overly engineered, and the Matrix is the exact opposite of that...simplicity, the robustness of the machine, lack of maintenance.”

Matrix, in turn, partnered with Spee-Dee to engineer a packaging line that brings Chauvin Coffee faster speeds and greater accuracy. A Matrix Morpheus continuous-motion bagger provides faster speed with a high-speed jaw system and minimum dwell time. Spee-Dee’s RevolutionPlus auger filler, specifically engineered for coffee and other dry powders, provides precise, repeatable filling cycles.

And like a Lamborghini, the new packaging line doesn’t just look good—it performs. Both the Morpheus and RevolutionPlus use extremely accurate and reliable servo motors, which was a big plus for Chauvin. “It can do millions and millions and millions of cycles with zero maintenance effectively,” says Dave. “We really don’t enjoy fixing things in the middle of a production day.”

The combination of the Spee-Dee auger filler and the Matrix Morpheus continuous-motion bagger fills and packs up to 160 bags/minute, more than twice Chauvin’s previous line speed of 65 bags/minute. As speeds increase, accuracy can decrease, but that’s not the case with Spee-Dee. Chauvin’s RevolutionPlus filler includes an off-line check weighing system to weigh bags to ensure the fill is accurate.

“I would have been truly impressed at 120 a minute,” says Mike, Chauvin’s roastmaster. “But when I found out that we can, if we really wanted to, turn it up to 160, is absolutely astounding.” Mike also appreciates that both the Matrix bagger and Spee-Dee filler are American made, with a support staff and parts just a phone call—not an ocean—away: “As far as performance goes and simplicity, those two words don’t normally belong in the same sentence together. Well, they pulled it off.”

MORE VERSATILITY, EASIER INTEGRATION AND MINIMAL LEAD TIME

RevolutionPlus Auger Filler

The Revolution auger filler is Spee-Dee’s most cost-effective auger filler. The efficient design and reliable performance makes it a great value for dry-product filling applications. But for manufacturers that need more versatility, there is the RevolutionPlus.



The RevolutionPlus takes the same precise servo motor auger control and powerful direct drive and adds higher-end Allen Bradley components—like the PLC and a Flex VFD module—that allow for easier integration with common automation systems.

The RevolutionPlus is available with an optional offline check/weigh scale, and an Allen Bradley Stratix Ethernet Switch, which allows scale and other filler data to be collected by the automation system network.

Since the RevolutionPlus is based on our standard Revolution model, we’re able to make delivery in just six weeks. It’s all part of our commitment to providing best-quality products with minimal lead time and superior customer service.