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# **Converting Shrink Sleeve Labels**

Slitting, Seaming and Inspection

#### **The Shrink Process**





#### **Converting** Process













## **Slitting** Methods











Shear



Crush/Score



Razor-In-Air



Images Courtesy of Tidland/Maxcess Intl.

#### Slitting Methods | Shear

Shear is the recommended method for slitting shrink film.





PVC Shrink Film Shear Slit @ 50x



PVC Shrink Film Razor Slit @ 50x

## SlittingMethods | Shear

The concept of Shear Slitting uses two circular blades to cut a moving web at the point where the two blades contact each other.







#### **Seaming Step**

• Objective



- In order to
  - Maximize throughput (a function of speed and up-time on equipment)
  - Minimize waste (a function of 'ingredients', equipment and the training, knowledge and experience of people)



Seaming Step | Terminology



10 - 12 May •

LABELEXPO SOUTHEAST ASIA 2018

Bangkok

## Seamer Concepts | Nip Rolls





#### Chemical Reaction Areas- Required for Solvent Weld





### Seamer Concepts | Solvent Control

Refer to **page 57** of Label Academy book, *Shrink Sleeve Technology* 







Gravity Fed

Pressure System

Servo Pump

#### Seamer Concepts | Solvent Delivery

Key elements in the seaming process.



Solvent Wheel



Top Wick





Refer to page 57

of Label Academy book, Shrink Sleeve Technology

Bottom Wick

Needle







#### Seamer Concepts | Rewind Oscillation

Refer to **page 59** of Label Academy book, *Shrink Sleeve Technology* 







#### **Finishing Step**

Do I need to inspect after seaming?

- Past/Current Paradigm: Yes
  - Check Seam
  - Check Layflat
  - Repair Splices
  - Change Core Size
  - Check Print
- Present/Future: Debate
  - Non-stop, or partially non-stop, seaming capabilities open the door to eliminate the finishing step



#### Implementing Tamper evident, Security, and Brand protection features





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# How do we get the converted sleeves on the containers?

Sleeve Application Systems



#### Application Systems | Carousel/Rotary





#### Application Systems | Direct Apply





## Application Systems | Vertical/Mandrel









# How do we shrink the sleeves?

Heat Tunnels

Three ways that heat transfers; convection, radiation and conduction 10 - 12 May LABELEXPO Hot air re-circulating tunnels (Convection) SOUTHEAST ASIA 2018 **→**' Infra-red radiant heat tunnels (Radiation) \$ \$ Steam tunnels (Conduction) SHRINK TUNNEL

### Shrink Tunnels | Hot Air

#### Convection: Hot air re-circulating tunnels

Advantages	Disadvantages
Good temperature control	High ambient heat
Heat zones possible	High velocity air
Directable heat	Heat shadows possible





#### Shrink Tunnels | Radiant

#### Radiant: Infra-red heat tunnels

Advantages	Disadvantages
Good temperature control	High ambient temperature, particularly in the upper part of the tunnel
Heat zones possible	Difficult to direct heat
Good heat transfer properties – excellent for pre-heating	Heat resistant conveyors required





#### Shrink Tunnels | Steam

#### Conduction: Steam tunnels

Advantages	Disadvantages
Excellent heat transfer properties	Extraction required
Uniform shrinking onto contoured containers	Steam required!
Product subjected to lower temperatures	







#### There is no one-size-fits-all solution





# Ensuring the Best Results

Real world examples of quality considerations, faults and troubleshooting



# Container Selection and Shape

## Container Shape...




### Container Shape...





### Container Shape...





Container Shape...





#### Container Material...





**Container** Material / Handling...







## The Importance of Film Selection

### Film Material...





#### Film Material...







## The Importance of Graphics

### Pre-press...





### Pre-press...





### Pre-press...











### The Importance of Ink Selection

















### Issues of Ink/Printing...







# Slitting and Seaming

### Slitting...































## Sleeve Application and Shrinking



















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#### For Discussion...






For Discussion...





## For Discussion...





