

Make smaller batches of cans cost-effectively

Designed for canmakers who need to cost-effectively produce smaller batches of a wider variety of three-piece tinplate cans, the VLM model range of machines has been launched by Klinghammer.

The VLM – meaning Vertical-Linear-Modular – range of equipment has been developed in close cooperation with a canmaker in the Pacific region and with a German university which provided expertise in direct linear drives for maximum speed and innovative control system architecture.

The machines include dedicated modules for each canmaking operation such as expanding, flanging, seaming, ear welding, bailing. More than 12 operations are available, some with alternative techniques. Each module has its own transport and control systems.

This is said to provide flexibility for the arrangement of production lines by using Klinghammer's 'plug-and-play' feature for both the mechanical and the control components. The VLM lines can be extended or reconfigured at a later date, if necessary, by adding or removing or re-arranging modules.

The transport of the can bodies in an upright position by linear-motor-driven grippers enables high speeds without damage.

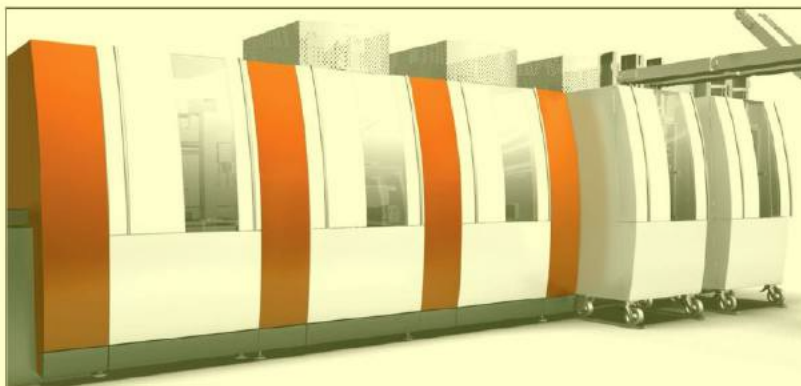
Initially the machines are available for making cans in four diameters (75, 140, 230 and 350mm) and in heights up to 330mm. Versions for making rectangular cans are being developed.

Easy accessibility, quick clamping systems, change parts rather than adjustment and special handling aids, along with controls systems providing product parameters all assist in achieving the shortest changeover times.

More information from Klinghammer Can Technology GmbH, Am Hafen 2, 38112 Braunschweig, Germany. Tel: 49 531 30006-0. Email: info@klinghammer.com. Website: www.klinghammer.com

A motorised body flexer and double repair coating

Two recent improvements made to the three-piece can welding lines manufactured by Soudronic, the leader in the sector, have improved production efficiency and safety, and the range of external weld repair coating options.



At the infed of the welder, a flexer wedge conditions the tinplate blanks to facilitate their formation into a cylinder, or rounding.

The position of the flexer wedge is now motorised and therefore reproducible in the same way as Soudronic's adaptive rounding system, which improves the line efficiency.

All three-piece cans must have the side weld protected by a repair coating to prevent corrosion. But some markets have been asking for a thicker external lacquer coating, which Soudronic says is not possible with conventional application processes.

To meet this need, it has developed a Double OSS (outside spraying system) using non-contact application technology and two in-series systems. With low pressure and precision application, the centre of the seam is given a second coating.

More information from Soudronic AG, Industriestrasse 35, 8962 Bergdietikon, Switzerland. Tel: 41 44 743 6666. Website: www.soudronic.com

Metal deco inks with food contact compliance

A range of printing inks that are US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and EU EFSA compliant for food contact are detailed in the latest brochure from the No-Tox Products Division of Colorcon Inc.

The Pennsylvania-based firm says its expertise is based on half a century of manufacturing printing inks for the food, pharmaceutical and medical device industries.

Its speciality No-Tox inks are used in a variety of direct and indirect food contact metal packaging applications. These include printing on the inside of drinks bottle crowns, the lids of food cans,

confectionary containers and other metal decorating applications.


Printing inks from Colorcon are manufactured exclusively from FDA and EU compliant components in a current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) facility as specified in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR 21, Part 117).



Since all of its inks and coatings are based on compliant raw materials, Colorcon provides its customers with a safe line of regulatory compliant inks and backs this with a written guarantee of food contact compliance. Colorcon's inks also meet CONEG heavy metal restrictions.

The International Metal Decorators Association recently accepted Colorcon No-Tox Products into its membership.

More information from Colorcon No-Tox, 171 New Britain Boulevard, Chalfont, Pennsylvania 18914-1833, USA. Tel: 1 267 695 7707.

Website: www.colorcon.com/notox 

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To ensure the best coverage of new products and services for the worldwide canmaking industry send details, with print ready images where appropriate, to Mónica Higuera: monicah@sayers-publishing.com Durand House, Manor Royal, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 9PY, UK. Tel: 44 1293 435100.