

PRESS RELEASE

New development

A multitude of packaging options: KHS presents flexible packer for cans

- Innopack Kisters Wrap-aroundShrinkPaperPacker Advanced meets practically every customer demand
- Wrap-around cartons, trays, pads, paper or film possible
- Existing Innopack Kisters machines in the Advanced series retrofittable thanks to modular design

Dortmund, February 25, 2021 – Whether wrap-around packs, trays, pads, paper or film, imagination knows no bounds when packaging beverage cans on the new Innopack Kisters Wrap-aroundShrinkPaperPacker Advanced or WSPP A from KHS. With its great flexibility the new packer satisfies practically every secondary packaging requirement of both customers and the market in general. Moreover, existing Innopack Kisters machines in the Advanced series can be upgraded to a WSPP A.

For the first time at the beginning of 2020 KHS presented a machine that wraps beverage cans in paper. The first tentative steps in this direction were taken 20 years ago. Those working on the new version thought that this form of secondary packaging was so retro that it could perhaps become a trend. Their assumption was correct! “Paper as a packaging material is still a novelty on the beverage market,” states Ernst van Wickeren, packaging product manager for KHS. “However, this alternative is already definitely meeting with great interest from beverage canners. Many of our customers who sell organic beverages, for instance, also want to convey the notion of

ecology through the packaging – and in doing so are satisfying a rapidly growing consumer demand.”

Interestingly enough, many of the potential users of the new pack are not intending on making a full switch. Most of them see the paper wrapping as an additional new option with which to package their diverse range of products. “Right from the start we had lots of requests for machines that can process both paper and film,” van Wickeren explains. “These were often from fillers who market premium products alongside less expensive beverage varieties. The high-quality products are to be wrapped in paper while the packs in the lower price segment are to be held together with shrink film.”

New KHS packer provides practically limitless packaging options

The logical conclusion was that KHS very quickly further developed an existing machine so as to give the beverage industry full flexibility in secondary packaging. By adding a new function, a packer has been produced whose options are as extensive as its name is long: the Innopack Kisters Wrap-aroundShrinkPaperPacker Advanced – or WSPP A for short. With its combination of process modules the line-compatible machine can process three different types of secondary packaging:

1. Wrap-around cartons, where the pack is enclosed in cardboard
2. Trays with or without a paper or shrink film wrapping
3. Cardboard pads wrapped in paper or shrink film.

The machine packages cylindrical containers – especially beverage cans – whose compact shape and even surface make them suitable for wrapping in paper.

Simple retrofits thanks to modular design

This variety is facilitated by the modular design of all Innopack Kisters Advanced packaging machines This also enables an existing Innopack

Kisters Wrap-aroundShrinkPacker (WSP) or Innopack Kisters Wrap-aroundPaperPacker (WPP) to be retrofitted as a WSPP A, for example – with full flexibility, tailored to suit the respective requirements of the customer or market.

On the technical front, the new paper wrapping function needed adjustments to be made to the former film wrapping module in particular and a new module for paper folding and gluing to be devised. The unwinding and cutting unit previously used for the shrink film was thus given a connecting unit for paper and film. This section of the machine is also where hot melt is applied from below and the paper is pulled taut. These functions are deactivated when shrink film is processed.

Caters for all requirements

In the new folding module folding tools tightly fold and erect the paper around the sides of the packs with absolute precision. The separate KHS InnoHotMelt applicator with its needle valves ensures flawless glue application. An optional automatic glue pellet feed system is also available for uninterrupted production. In the setting unit of this module the glued side flaps are pressed onto the pack and fixed by foam-coated application belts.

The shrink tunnel can be individually configured and scores on low energy consumption. A gas heating system can be used here as a further option that reduces energy costs by up to 50% and cuts CO₂ emissions by up to 60%. If paper is used in place of film, the machine conveys the finished packs through the shrink tunnel that has been switched off. If paper wrapping is to replace film packaging entirely, the shrink tunnel can be completely removed, then making the machine no longer in its dimensions than a previous packer design.

Simple and energy efficient

Looking at the annual electricity savings shows just how energy efficient paper packs are compared to film packs. With a shrink tunnel consumption of up to 72 kWh in two-shift operation on 300 days of the year, a maximum of €30,000¹ can be saved per annum. Retrofitting an Innopack Kisters WSP is not difficult; all that needs to be done is to replace the existing wrapping module with the further developed wrapping module with its new functions and to install the paper folding and gluing module. “Once the modules are installed, besides the standard format changeovers no other conversions are needed when switching from paper to film,” van Wickeren emphasizes. “All that has to be changed is the packaging material and the hot melt applicators need to be activated in good time so that they’re ready for use when production starts.”

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Pictures and captions

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¹ Based on an electricity tariff of 8.9 cents per kilowatt hour.

Picture captions

Innopack Kisters WSPP A

As well as processing the more usual packs such as wrap-around packs, trays, pads and film, the combined Innopack Kisters WSPP A machine can also wrap cans in paper.

Innopack Kisters

Endless packaging: the end of one and beginning of the next paper roll are joined by an embossed stamp.

Folding module

A new module installed after the unwinding and cutting unit accurately folds and glues the paper in the packaging process.

Ernst van Wickeren

“Packing beverage cans in paper may be a new idea but it’s meeting with plenty of interest from beverage producers,” says Ernst van Wickeren, packaging product manager for KHS.

At a glance

The key parameters of the new Innopack Kisters WSPP A.

About the KHS Group

The KHS Group is one of the leading manufacturers of filling and packaging systems for the beverage and liquid food industries. Besides the parent company the KHS Group also includes KHS Corpoplast GmbH and numerous subsidiaries outside Germany, located in Ahmedabad (India), Waukesha (USA), Zinacantepec (Mexico), São Paulo (Brazil) and Suzhou (China).

KHS manufactures modern filling and packaging systems for the high-capacity range at its headquarters in Dortmund, Germany, and at its factories in Bad Kreuznach, Kleve, Worms and Hamburg, where the group's PET expertise is pooled. The KHS Group is a wholly owned subsidiary of the SDAX-listed Salzgitter AG corporation. In 2019 the KHS Group and its 5,149 employees achieved a turnover of around €1.260 billion.

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