



# GLASSINSIGHT

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## ask the expert...

### SWEEP-OUT ASSEMBLIES BOOST OPERATIONS IN HOT GLASS CONTAINER HANDLING



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Sweep-out assemblies are vital components used in the glass industry for the transfer of container glassware during manufacturing and processing. Here, Pyrotek's Glass Division Sales Engineer, Buddy Bell\* responds to questions commonly posed by customers and explains more about these components.

**Q: What are bottle sweep-outs and what do they do?**

A: Commonly referred to as pocket sweep-outs or sweep-out baskets, these key components form part of a mechanical device that cradles the glass container during processing. Attached to a cylinder, sweep-outs guide the containers 90 degrees from the dead plate on to the conveyor. The sweep-out is then retracted and returned to the original start point to begin this process again. Sweep-outs are custom-designed using various types of materials to provide the required strength, weight and thermal conductivity for the process application.

**Q: What designs of sweep-outs are offered by Pyrotek?**

A: Pyrotek manufactures a variety of standard sweep-out designs which can be adapted to virtually any container assembly. They range from single pocket up to quad pocket types with various finger sizes and spacings. Sweep-outs are built to container configuration and specific IS machine sections design: center, right hand and left hand.

Standard Pyrotek designs can be easily modified to meet exact customer specifications according to particular process requirements. The adjustable designs allow for both front / back and also left/right sweep-out finger spacing. These standard designs are maintained in stock and are ready for immediate delivery, with optional sweep-out mounting brackets and adaptors as required.

**Q: How do Pyrotek components facilitate necessary assembly change outs?**

A: Many of the standard sweep-outs are made to fit standard quick-change mounting brackets, which eliminate the need to reset the sweep-out calibration each time it is changed. Most Pyrotek sweep-outs allow interchangeability for either left or right-handed machines. The sweep-out and mounting bracket combination is designed for on-line

change-out during container processing while the machine is running, eliminating the need to shut a section down for repair.

**Q: What special types of assemblies are available?**

A: Many styles of vacuum / air-assist sweep-outs have also been engineered for particular customer applications, particularly for odd shape bottles, to hold the glassware tight in the pocket of the assembly. A range of specialized adjustable sweep-outs are available: centre devices for customers who want to use a single sweepout for various spacings; and sweep-outs constructed from premade, interchangeable components to facilitate changing assemblies for different process requirements.

**Q: What are the material options for sweep-outs supplied by Pyrotek?**

A: Sweep-outs are custom-designed by Pyrotek using various types of materials to deliver the required properties of strength, weight and thermal conductivity.

**Q: What advantages are offered by Pyrotek in this field?**

A: Pyrotek's key advantage in this crucial area of glass manufacturing technology is working in close collaboration with customers to design and manufacture sweep-outs to specific process

requirements. This process establishes the vital prerequisites for tailored design of these special components: accurate information and precise specifications and dimensions. Pyrotek's expertise in advanced materials and design technologies is backed by leading global manufacturing operations, highly successful installation references, broad-based process applications and first-rate customer support services.

For more information on sweep-outs, see the article on page 1 of this issue of Glass Insight

[www.pyrotek.info/sweepouts](http://www.pyrotek.info/sweepouts)

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