



# GLASSINSIGHT

Improving Performance In Production

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## STAINLESS STEEL STACKER BAR INSERTS INNOVATIVE SOLUTION FOR CUSTOMER

Container glass manufacturers can experience a myriad of problems with their stacker bar assemblies. A poorly designed stacker bar assembly can cause significant production loss, bar damage and bar warping, resulting in poor container alignment in the Lehr. The incorrect selection of contact material can cause glass contamination, stress concentration, deformation, cracking, checking of the hot glass, or rapid wear, necessitating frequent insert change.

One of Pyrotek's valued customers experienced such a problem with their stacker bar assembly. This customer, located in the USA, is a leading container glass producer manufacturing primarily beer bottles. Their facility runs six IS machine lines from two furnaces.

Nearly a year ago, the customer contacted Pyrotek for help with wire checking they were experiencing on one of their lines running larger beer bottles. They had worked for over a week trying to solve the problem, and had identified the problem as their current carbon inserts.

Pyrotek Sales Engineer, Buddy Bell, visited with the customer and recommended using stainless steel tape for the larger bottles, used successfully in other similar operations. The customer researched this option, but thought it would be too time consuming to apply the stainless steel tape to the bar and requested a simpler solution.

After some consideration, a solution was proposed to the customer: a specially designed insert with stainless steel rope welded to it, able to fit into Pyrotek's quick-change holder design. This new design is essentially a hybrid, capitalizing on Pyrotek's existing successful quick change pocket design, while incorporating the material benefits of stainless steel, normally only mounted on fixed welded pocket designs.

Although there was a lack of performance data for the new design, the customer was anxious to trial the new design. Pyrotek supplied eight sample inserts for trial as a hopeful solution.

It worked beautifully. Not only was the checking problem eliminated, but the amount of heating required previously on the cross conveyor was reduced markedly, resulting in further savings. A large order was placed soon after. The customer was very happy with the product and stated they would fully recommend them to other container glass plants.

### COST SAVINGS

Full process parameters and metrics were charted to assess cost savings delivered to the customer by comparing the performance of existing parts to the new Pyrotek parts on trial.

The unverified annual savings realised were estimated at over USD\$20,000. These savings were achieved through a variety of factors: solving the wire checking problem; reducing cross conveyor heating; enabling more packable bottles; eliminating the down time previously experienced searching for a solution; standardization of inventory; quick turnaround capabilities; flexibility of use; and ongoing product refinements.

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Pyrotek Stainless Steel Stacker Bar Inserts