



...the Workhorse of Industry

Smart Automation

July, 2010

Industry Thoughts: Building automation from a Strong Foundation

Automated assembly lines are the epitome of system design – often containing many sub-systems and parts working in perfect harmony to create a product. As many know, the challenge is getting everything to “work in perfect harmony”.

Unfortunately, many multi-million dollar automated assembly lines have been scrapped and jobs lost due to frustrations of not getting expected outputs or benefits. Successful automation projects are the result of good system design – often built around solid concepts and acknowledging the importance of using reliable sub-systems.

The foundation of successful automation is assuring that component parts are consistently delivered, on-time, and in the correct orientation. If parts jam or slow, the entire line often stops – costing money and nerves.

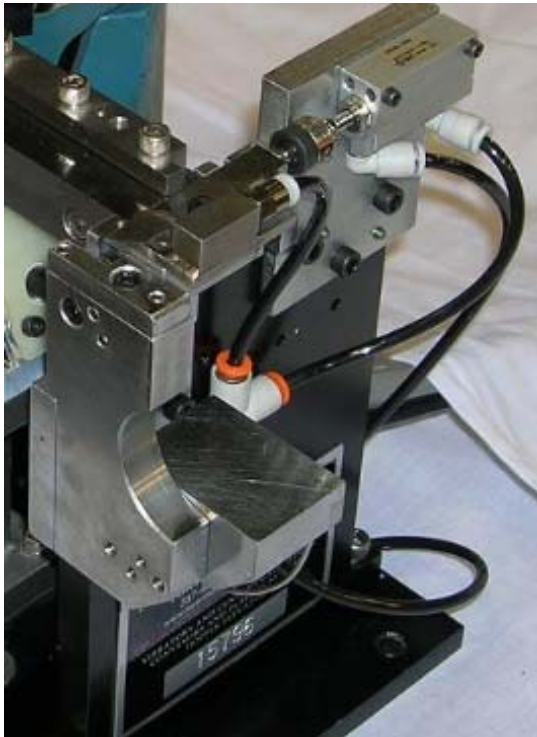
Fortville Feeders has earned the reputation of delivering the most reliable part feeding systems in the industry – with the clear objective of 100% performance. When developing your next automation project, we would encourage you to build from a reliable foundation and use Fortville ... that's smart automation.

Each monthly update will include our reflections on the industry.



Product Highlight:

Reworked part feeding system for small parts



- 6" feeder bowl with linear track and escapement mechanism – redesigned and reworked.
- Fed part is a 0.020" dia. Pin with a head dia. of 0.035" and a length of 0.200" – very small

- Feed Rate = 6 PPM
- Replaced drive unit, modified in-line track, created a new escape and blow mechanism

Company News: Fortville - Expertise Feeding a Broad Range of Parts

July's project of the month clearly highlights two of Fortville's strengths:

- Market leading expertise in vibratory feeding systems ...and ...
- Strong ability to feed a broad range of parts – including the very small

After months of frustration, the customer of July's highlighted project approached Fortville for help. Unfortunately, a major competitor to Fortville had built the original system and after multiple attempts had given up – leaving the customer without a solution and rendering the entire system useless. Leveraging its' expertise – *and magnifying glasses*, Fortville re-designed and re-built the drive system, refined and tuned the track, and developed and built a new escapement mechanism. Given the extraordinary small size of the part and its associated features, innovative designs and high precision tolerances and craftsmanship were required.

The customer was very pleased with the resulting system performance – and impressed with Fortville's ability and commitment to deliver where others had failed.

Fortville looks forward to reworking or building your part feeding challenge. Our objective is to exceed our customers' expectations – from large parts to very small.

Please contact us at ffi@fortvillefeeders.com to learn more.



Products and Services:

Products

Part Feeder Systems:



- **Vibratory Bowls:**
 - 6" to 70" in dia.
 - Feed rates to 600 ppm
- **Centrifugal Bowls**

Fortville is the recognized industry leader in large, high-speed vibratory feeder bowls. Challenge us with your part.

- System design and development
- System build and validation
- System remanufacture and rework
- On-site service and support
- Service part sales

Services

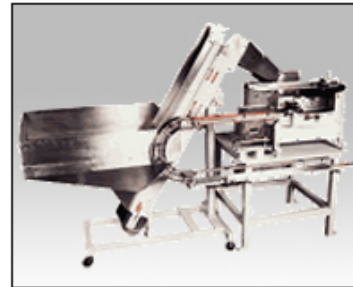
Material Handling Systems:



- **Track Feeding Systems:**
 - 6" to as long as required
 - In-line Vibratory Tracks
 - In-line Air Tracks
 - Conveyor Belt Tracks
 - Gravity Tracks



- **Automation Mechanisms:**
 - Isolation Escapements
 - Shuttle mechanisms
 - Sensor integration:
 - Vision and weight



- **Storage/ Transport Systems:**
 - Elevators and Gondolas
 - Bulk Storage Hoppers
 - Sound Enclosures

See: www.fortvillefeeders.com

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