

Composite Lift Gate

for Stolle Beer-Beverage and Food EOE Conversion Systems

Stolle Sidney is pleased to announce they have developed a new composite lift gate for its easy-open end conversion systems as an alternative to the current steel lift gate. The reduced mass composite lift gate reduces vacuum box vibration which extends the life of all the components in the vacuum box assembly, including the actuators, actuator springs, spring sleeves and actuating bar retainers. It has also proven to extend transfer belt life.

The lift gate is a large, currently steel, plate in the vacuum box assembly of the lower lane die. It lifts the transfer belt(s) and ends off the lower tooling as the die opens to allow the transfer of ends to the next station. On the down stroke, it is pushed down by pins on the upper die shoe until the ends contact the lower tooling. The formation work is done by the tooling and the lift gate is returned to its original state by spring force from the underside.

The composite lift gate is made of a proprietary material that has a 65% weight reduction compared to its steel counterpart. With the lift gate moving up and down every stroke of the press (up to 750 strokes/minute), the steel's heavy mass induces a high vibration on the vacuum box assembly that attributes to broken bolts and damage to various parts in the lane die assembly. The lighter weight lift gate reduces the assembly vibration levels which extends component life. The result is lower system downtime and more predictable maintenance cycles. As an added benefit, Stolle technicians noted an improvement in (or elimination of) rivet metal exposure and turned ends during testing.

With the composite lift gate being trialed on a customer's full open end conversion system, the customer noted: "We have now produced with the composite edition for a year (24 hours, 7 days a week), and I have to say it is a success. No broken bolts, actuating bars, springs, or actuating bar retainers. The wear life of all of these components is much improved. I can recommend the change, and will in the future order the composite version."

The composite lift gate is now available for all Stolle beer-beverage and food easy-open end conversion systems.

For more information about the new composite lift gate for Stolle easy end conversion systems, please contact Stolle Sidney: Greg Williams at +937-497-5441 or greg.williams@stollemachinery.com, or Jason Davidson at +937-497-5432 or jason.davidson@stollemachinery.com.



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Stolle EOE Conversion Systems

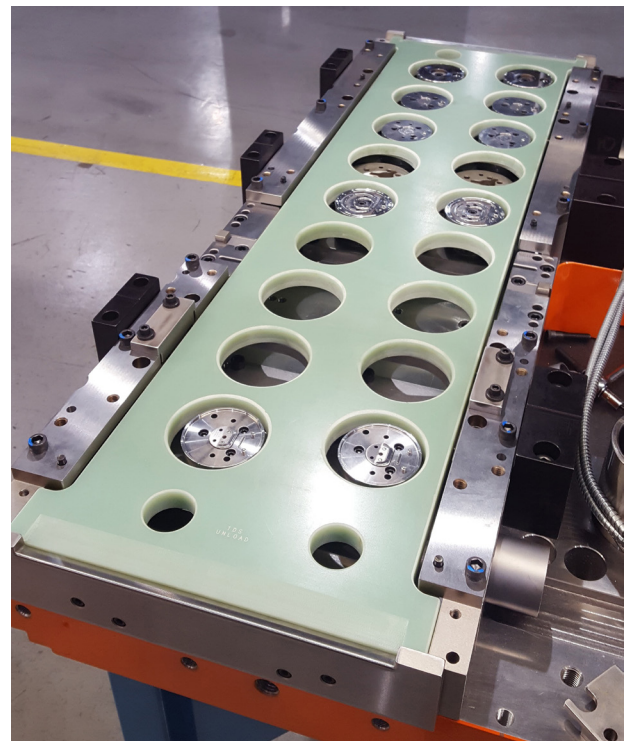
Technical Update 1710-1 Rev. 1



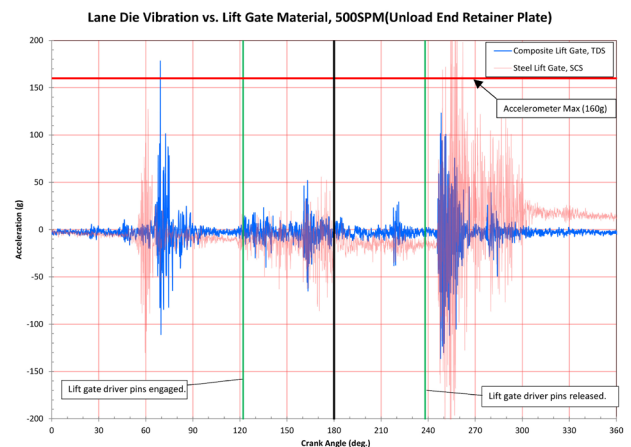
Tetrad



Mega 4



New composite lift gate on a Mega 4 lower lane die



Graph showing vibration testing results on composite lift gate

A constant flow of innovations, technology, and new ideas to benefit customers