



February 2005 Newsletter

Skin Packaging – There are still opportunities.

How many times have we heard “Skin Packaging, that’s dead isn’t it”? It is only so if we stop looking for new applications.

The primary benefits of skin packaging lie in its flexibility as a packaging resource. It can effectively restrain on a board anything from a 1/32” drill bit to a one horsepower electric motor and everything in between. Skin packages can have high graphics needed for retail carded packaging. It can also be as simple a use as restraining an item on an unprinted corrugated board for safe transportation.

The emerging market for skin packaging is in the area of shipping containment, also called industrial packaging. Skin packaging can be used to confine a product tightly on a corrugated pad. The corrugated pad can be unprinted kraft, white or high graphics depending on the board purchased. The film is typically polyethylene where speed of production and clarity are not an issue. Ionomer resin films such as Surlyn should be used where additional film strength or high clarity is needed. With some creative thinking complete shipping systems such as a “U” fold skin packaged insert placed into an individual or master carton can lower transit damage and reduce customer shipping costs.

The second market is for user friendly automated machines to replace aging semi-automatic and full inline systems for retail carded packaging. In many cases customers are using systems that were designed in the 1960’s to attempt to meet today’s demanding production schedules. It is now time to replace those machines with newer, user friendly systems that allow for faster changeover, shorter runs and greater flexibility.

Starview’s ASP and ASP/IR Series machines offer in-feed and out-feed automation.



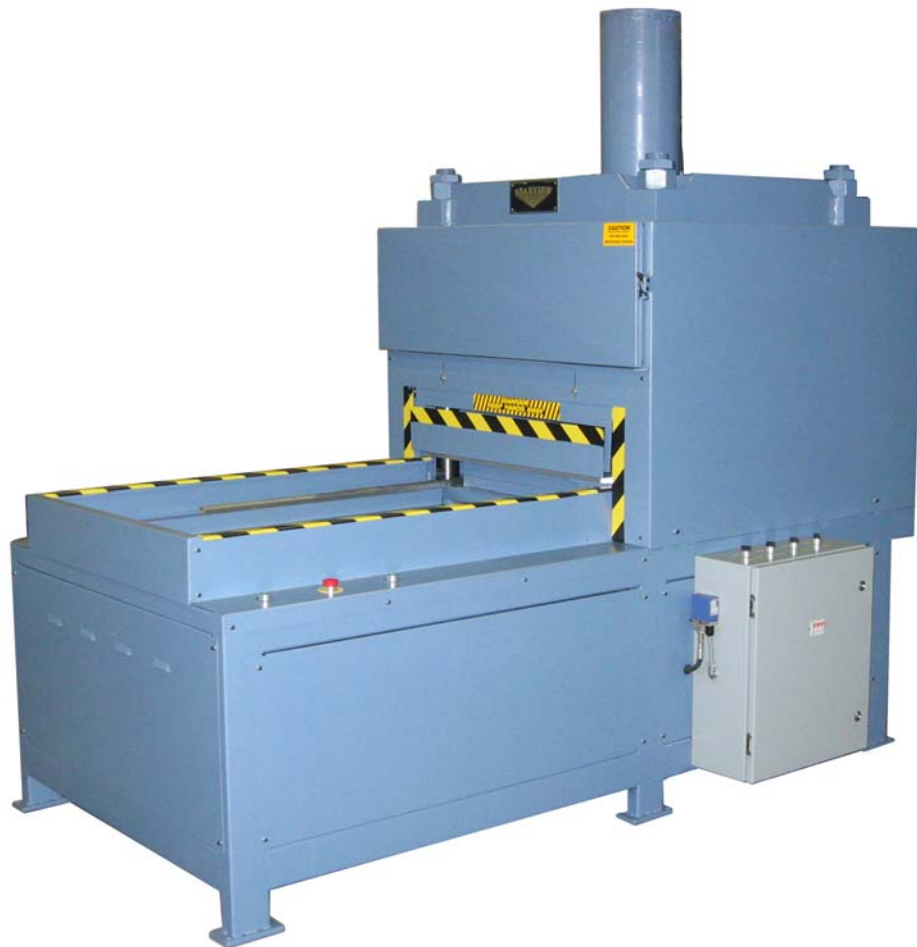
ASP/IR with Automated In-feed

Starview's ASP and ASP/IR series are easy to operate self-contained semi-automatic skin packaging systems. The automatic card in-feed with template loader is standard. The template loader improves the accuracy and increases the speed of placing the products on the master skin card. When used in conjunction with the automatic out-feed it is possible for a single operator to load products on cards and be able to operate an off-line die cutter while the master card is being skin packaged automatically.

The ASP should be specified when the films are relatively thin or the number of cycles is low. The ASP/IR with its constant heat moveable heater oven reduces cycle times and is advantageous when film thickness reach 10 mil or heavier.

All of Starview's Skin Packaging Machines use full touch screens and incorporate the latest in PLC technology. The machines are ruggedly constructed of heavy-wall welded steel tubing.

Steel Rule Die Cutting-Hydraulic Press improves the process.



HP Series Hydraulic Press

After the master card is skin packaged there is always some question as to how to get to the final package, especially if it is a retail carded package design. It is necessary to trim the packages out of the master sheet using a steel rule die. If the products are light and production is low to medium range, one of Starview's **RP Roller Die Cutters** may be used. If the parts are heavy or increased production is needed our HP Series Hydraulic presses are ready to do the job.

These machines feature a high speed shuttle table with replaceable striker plate. The steel rule die is mounted facing down on the upper hydraulic platen. The hydraulic cylinder stroke is adjustable using a proximity switch eliminating the need for bolsters and build-ups when changing die heights. Trimmed parts and the scrap web remain on the shuttle table and can be pushed quickly to the rear of the machine so that the shuttle table can be reloaded.

Let Starview assist you with your client's skin packaging applications. Contact one of our sales staff for additional details on any of our skin packaging or die cutting machines.

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