

PRODUCT PROFILE



EXPLORING LEARY'S NEW ARRAY GLUING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

This year saw the launch of W. H. Leary's new Array™ integrated gluing and quality assurance system. It benefits from upgraded hardware and software along with some new sensor technology and promises many new features and system enhancements — all designed to deliver greater benefits to folding carton manufacturers. In this product review, Gary Roberts, W. H. Leary's UK Business Development Manager, delves a little deeper into the new features offered with the Leary Array™ system and brings us up to speed on Leary's new line of Quality Assurance sensors.

Innovative evolution

The Array™ is as innovative as it is evolutionary. This integrated gluing and quality assurance system makes use of

powerful technology to deliver a simple, reliable and secure gluing and QA solution.

Even before W. H. Leary's acquisition of Pafra 10 years ago, Leary had been for many years providing its customers with glue detection and barcode scanning systems. The acquisition quickly led to the development of the first fully integrated gluing and quality assurance system. Integrating gluing and QA functions into one controller proved popular with users, simplifying setup and reducing make ready times.

Today, the Array™ system represents the company's fifth and latest generation of integrated system. Its development has drawn from the company's vast experience and has, from the start, focused on

exploiting new technologies to deliver real-world advantages to its customers.

Monet™ User Interface

The Array™ has a new touch screen interface with high-res colour display



The new Leary Array control panel with Monet software.

providing an excellent means of conveying variable data to users. The real challenge however, when designing a user interface, is not selecting the right hardware, it's in designing the user interface software. It must be simple to use and convey all necessary information to the user quickly. User inputs should be so intuitive that operating the system quickly becomes very natural.

Meeting this challenge is not easy when you consider what a gluing and QA system is actually doing from moment to moment. It requires many hundreds, if not thousands, of separate bits of information to function correctly. Think about any user friendly software you use; its genius is in its ability to wrap up all of the complex data and calculations and offer the user a simple button to achieve their goal.

And that's where this new user interface really excels. The software shields the user from all the complex underlying settings and data, and instead offers a pictorial, icon based simple interface. With a quick-jump menu bar the user can access any part of the system simply by touching on the appropriate icon. The software is highly intuitive, and setup wizards are employed to automatically setup new jobs, where users are asked to input just a few simple carton characteristics and then the system takes care of the rest — even setting the gluing application positions automatically!

How does this help in the real world? It keeps it simple, it cuts make ready time to a minimum, it reduces training and it makes operating the system widely accessible to all.

LearyNET Remote Assistance

One of the many new features included in the Array™ system is LearyNET. This new remote assistance feature enables technical support personnel, once invited, to securely access your Array™ system. Once connected, the support team can update software, help with job setup and diagnose problems. The remote assistance feature also provides an excellent platform for user

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Leary's new Quad multi-purpose inspection sensor.

training, as both the local touch screen display and the remotely logged in user both see exactly the same program running in real time. It's almost as good as having a Leary technician in your plant full time as there is no wait for them to arrive!

This remote connection can help to reduce your field service costs and drastically reduce down time due to technical issues; problems can be remotely diagnosed and corrected quickly and efficiently.

LearyVIEW Vision Systems

The Array™ system offers support for machine vision integration. The new LearyVIEW module has been designed to integrate seamlessly with the Array™. It will enable customers to inspect more product characteristics than ever before, including text, print and specific shapes like company logos. Text, for example, can be scanned for accuracy and legibility. This can be useful where the text is of great importance to a consumer's safety, such as text detail printed in allergy boxes on food packaging.

With the virtually unlimited applications of vision detection, the LearyVIEW system has been designed as a dynamic additional module, enabling solutions to be individually tailored to meet the needs of customers.

Sensor developments

At IPEX 2010 Leary exhibited their new ultra high-speed pharmacode scanning sensor. This sensor supports normal expanded pharmacode (1-2-3 code) running on the latest high speed machines, scanning at belt speeds in excess of 800 meters per minute.

Leary also unveiled the new QUAD™ glue detection sensor, utilising miniaturisation to shrink its proportions to less than 1/4 of its previous size while offering some advanced features to benefit users with special applications. The new QUAD™ sensor is the first of a new range of sensors that will offer improvements in both functionality and increased simplicity.

The Jet200 cold gluing valve has also been updated with new valve nozzle options and is now available with a 40mm long nozzle, ensuring users can position adhesive accurately with maximum flexibility. (www.whleary.co.uk)