

MacDonald's Sizer Magnet Upgrade Options

TASC Systems has introduced a new upgrade option for the owners of MacDonald sizers.

A new solenoid unit is now available that operators can use to replace the MacDonald magnet based drop system. Solenoids have proven themselves to be a far more reliable method of triggering the cups, particularly as the age of the sizer becomes greater. Magnets work in the opposite way to conventional solenoid operated sizer drops. Instead of the outlet operating to allow fruit to drop, the outlet needs to operate to stop the fruit from dropping. Therefore if one piece of fruit needs to get to the far end of the sizer (e.g. drop 10), nine other drops prior to it need to be working correctly first.

While replacing the magnets with solenoids is not a new idea, the new solenoid unit now available offers packhouses more options when considering an upgrade. In the past a solenoid upgrade of a sizer has involved completely stripping out all the magnets and then mounting new pressings containing the solenoid units along the whole length of the sizer. Due to the costs involved, packhouses often staggered an upgrade by doing the computer the first year, followed by the magnets one or two years later.

The new solenoid units help a packhouse achieve better results faster as they are designed to simply replace the plastic moulded cup track that exists at each magnet station, even down to using the same mounting holes. This makes replacing the magnets a simple task that can now be accomplished by the operators themselves, without requiring a dedicated engineer.

A new parameter within the TASC Sizer Control Computer increases the options further by allowing each drop on the sizer to be setup as either magnet or solenoid based. This allows operators the flexibility to change individual drops to solenoids as their budgets allow.



The new solenoid gate installed on a 6 Lane MacDonalds sizer in the USA.

For example, an operator could change the reject drop over first so that he can make sure good fruit is not being lost and then as time and budget allow start changing over his busiest drops to solenoids. The drops can be changed in any order or the system could even be used to add a drop in amongst existing magnet-based drops. Another advantage of the new solenoid units is that as they have been designed to work along side magnets, they work without requiring the removal of the large washers mounted on the cups, unlike previous upgrade systems.

If you are interested in having an easier to operate and maintain sizer with much improved performance and reliability, please contact

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