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Automated manufacture of cave cut step index

Manufacturing a cave cut index has, up until now, involved intensive manual work. Durrer has now automated this process with its two new machines, REBIB and KLEBIB, thereby improving the product quality and efficiency of the manufacturing process.

The cave cut, also often colloquially referred to as bible cut, is a form of thumb cut. Its compact cut shape offers much greater protection to the index area of products. This cut is, therefore, ideal for dictionaries, encyclopaedias, medical reference books and Bibles which have a long service life and whose indexes are subjected to frequent use. Cave cut indexes are usually combined with glued, lettered tabs (semi-circular stickers). One limitation of the cave cut is the thickness of the book, i.e. books must be of a minimum thickness due to the cut shape.

Intensive manual work
Manufacturing cave cut indexes and affixing the stickers has, up to now, involved intensive manual work and has been commensurately time-consuming. Normally four to five people are required to find the position, cut the index and affix the tabs. The entire manufacturing process, therefore, is heavily dependent on the skill of the staff.

Increased quality and efficiency thanks to automation
Durrer is making consistent advancements in the field of index cutting. The solution, comprising two separate machines, replaces the conventional, manual production process. The new REBIB and KLEBIB machines enable the three work steps "finding", "cutting" and "sticking" to be performed by one worker. The semi-automatic REBIB machine was developed to cut the cave cut index, whereas the KLEBIB affixes the preprinted tabs into the index hollows.

The advantages of the present solution are obvious: precise mounting in the REBIB machine ensures a high degree of repeat accuracy when cutting. This considerably increases the accuracy of the cut indexes, because exact cut-in depths and the precision positioning of the indexes to the millimetre are crucial to the shape of the cut. Once the accuracy of the cut has been achieved in this way, the printed labels can be affixed automatically using the KLEBIB machine. The resulting quality does not depend on the skill of the operating staff.

As with all Durrer machines, development focussed on a high degree of flexibility, short changeover times and safety. The automatic cutting process is user programmable. The machine processes virtually all paper qualities up to a maximum book thickness of 80 mm.

Global interest
The REBIB prototype was exhibited at DRUPA 2008 and attracted immense interest from all over the world. Since then, Durrer has gradually progressed and can now demonstrate the machines at its workshops in Küssnacht am Rigi/Switzerland. Durrer will present the REBIB-KLEBIB concept as a whole for the first time at IPEX 2010 in Birmingham. For more details please visit the company's website at www.durrer.com.

Company profile
Durrer was founded 60 years ago and has established itself as the world's leading provider of semi and fully automatic machines for step index processing. The most famous machines include the fully automatic REGA 4 and REGA 5 machines as well as the semi-automatic REMAT. Besides step index processing, Durrer has added other machines for the paper processing industry to its product range, including machines for wall calendar processing (MONA and BLOFIX), planner inserts (ESA) and complex processing lines for plastic comb binding (PLABI).

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