

Hotmelt and coldglue competence of Robatech makes it possible:

Glueing calendars quickly and permanently

Durrer Spezialmaschinen AG of Küssnacht am Rigi / Switzerland are leading designers and manufacturers of special machines used to produce wall calendars. An adhesive applicator system of Robatech AG of Muri / Switzerland, integrated in the latest equipment of the Durrer company, ensures reliable glueing of the calendars.

Wall calendars, at first sight, appear to be ordinary, unsophisticated everyday products. However, high demands are imposed on these essential planning aids: The glueing of the calendar sheets must hold reliably for at least twelve months, and this at temperatures and with air humidities fluctuating over a wide range. The reason: Calendars are intended to be hung on the walls of all sorts of places, offices, production rooms, storage premises or break halls - in the latter case perhaps even in the immediate vicinity of a regularly steaming dishwasher.

This is why, when it came to the glueing technology to be integrated in their latest fully automatic processing line for making up wall calendars, Durrer Spezialmaschinen AG relied on the competence of Robatech AG. Mrs Bernadette Reichlin-Durrer, member of the Management of Durrer Spezialmaschinen AG, comments as follows: „It was clear to us right from the start that we would draw on the know-how of Robatech AG to implement this demanding calendar glueing operation on our new Blofix line. Our task was to make the Blofix fit for glueing calendar blocks onto cardboard backs with a high output. Moreover, this glued connection would have to stand up to the most varied temperature and ambient conditions.“

Fast and durable: Hotmelt and coldglue in combination

Robatech has integrated a hotmelt applicator in the new Blofix line which fulfils Durrer's expectations perfectly: The system works with hotmelt and coldglue at the same

time. The reason for this is explained by Richard Fischberger, Product Manager of Robatech: „Our system applies hotmelt and cold dispersion glue immediately next to each other. The hotmelt is applied in a hot state, as its name implies, and ensures that work progresses at short, efficient cycles. This means that the calendar blocks adhere to the cardboard right away without slipping. The dispersion glue applied in cold condition, on the other hand, takes some time before it develops its full adhesive force and guarantees a permanently safe connection between calendar blocks and cardboard backs. To renounce on the coldglue is impossible since it is responsible for the long-term durability of the products. The hotmelt alone would either start melting at very high ambient temperatures or become brittle at very low ones. Both melting or embrittling adhesive can cause the calendar to fall apart, especially when a sheet is torn off and additional mechanical strains act on the glued connection. Coldglue, on the other hand, holds safely and reliably also at extreme temperatures.“

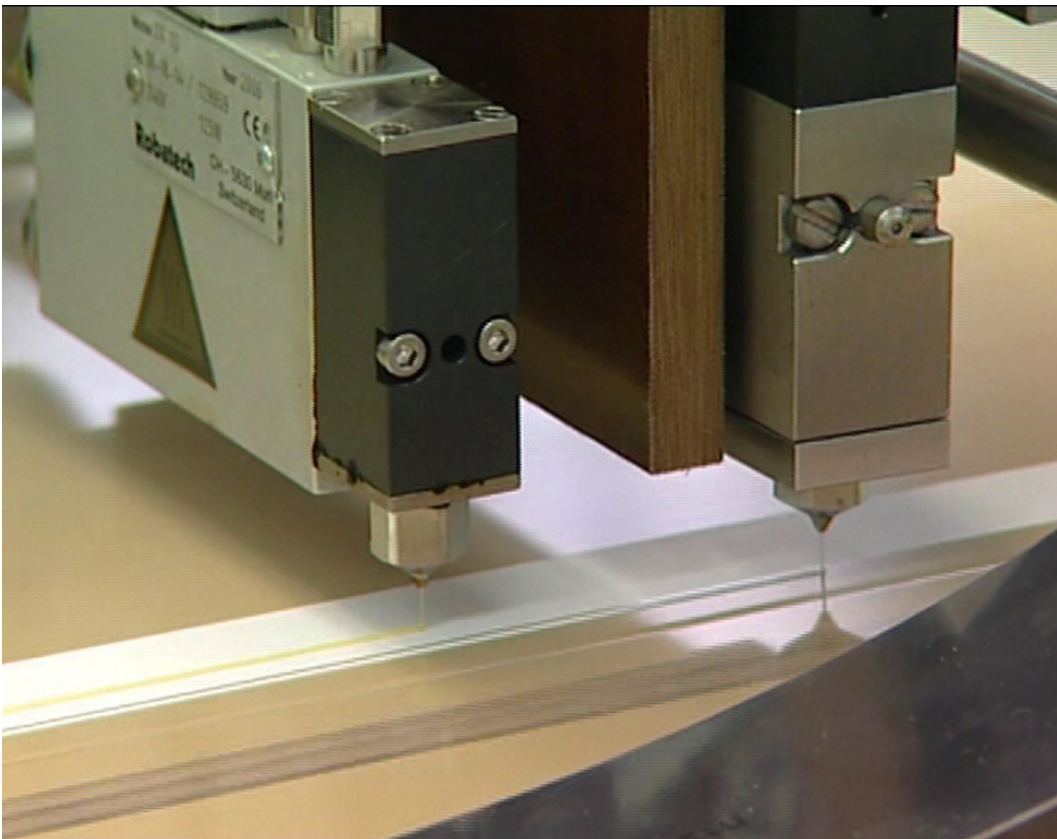
Application in step with the machine

A further prerequisite for neat and high-quality glueing is, next to the choice of the suitable adhesives, above all an accurate glue application. Offering a wide range of precisely working adhesive applicator heads for hotmelt and coldglue, Robatech AG is able to cope with specific requirements so that perfectly glued connections can be realized.

For a neat application of the glue it is essential, moreover, to glue in step with the machine. Here again it is important to select the suitable applicator heads. „The adhesive applicator system we developed for the new Blofix line of Durrer uses an ACX applicator head for the coldglue and an SX head for the hotmelt. Both applicator heads can be activated by the PLC control of the Blofix. This ensures that the adhesive is always applied exactly in step with the machine's working cycle“, says Richard Fischberger. For machines and systems without PLC or equipment working at speeds of up to 900 m/min Robatech offers also a wide spectrum of controls which enable a tailored application of hotmelt and coldglue.

In closing, Bernadette Reichlin-Durrer comments: „We felt competently looked after by Robatech right from the outset and the cooperation between us was just perfect. In the

intervening time it has also become clear that we have done very well in picking Robatech as our partner: The adhesive application has proved its worth in practice to our fullest satisfaction. The first Blofix we delivered in summer 2006 has already run for a full calendar season and produced top-quality, durable glued connections.“



Hot- and Coldglue in combination