



## Panther Industries Case Labeling Study—Unique License Plate Barcode

A customer came to Panther Industries with the need to apply a unique carton identifier on each and every box that was formed from their box erecting machine. Panther had experience in this area with their Panther 2000 Print and Apply system, and could provide the necessary solution.

Previously, if a customer wanted a unique label printed for every carton, the system would be comprised of several components, including but not limited to, a print-n-apply system, a PC, and a network throughout the plant. To start the process, an operator would perform a one-time download of the label format to the printer via a local PC. The printer would then retain the information, sent by the PC, and provide a unique identification for the carton each time a label was printed.



Panther 2000 with Integrated Scanner

Several problems can arise with this method of applying a unique label to an individual carton. There's the need for a PC on the production floor that is susceptible to misuse and abuse. Also, there is a need to network the entire system in order to have the PC drive multiple units. This would add the expense of installing a network card on each Panther system. Additionally there is the need for internal plant infrastructure like network wiring, network switches, hubs, etc. Finally, if the PC was re-booted or there was a complete power outage, the barcode "start value" would have to be re-entered by the operator. This would allow the system to be susceptible to a possible operator error or the dreaded repeating of an order number.

A solution for this procedure would be to have the entire labeling system self-contained and not require a PC host to send label formats to the print and apply system. In order to simplify the system, Panther designed a solution where the operator could enter a starting value into the print and apply display and the system would take over from there.

The specific customer that Panther was working with at the time wanted a fairly simple format. There was some static alpha-numeric text and a barcode with the human readable value of that barcode printed as well (shown below):



(Subsequent installations of this system included a line number designator to ensure that each and every barcode was unique even after the box counter value "rolled over".)

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This solution approach provided:

- Increased reliability
- Localized control
- Simplicity
- Lower cost
- Less infrastructure requirements
- No PC
- No Ethernet Card in Print Engines
- No “forgetting” of start values

The system was installed on the carton erector discharge conveyor. The customer now has a very simple solution that provides highly scanable barcodes for use within their “pick to light” system. An additional benefit of this system is higher read-rates due to label placement. The Panther 2000 system provides higher repeatability than hand-applied labels. This solution provides for much higher efficiency and throughput of the entire order fulfillment process.



Figure 1: Cartons with sequential barcodes



Figure 2: Panther 2000 display for setting the start value and displaying the current value

## **Note on applications requiring multiple labels per case or pallet**

Often applications arise that require identical labels to be placed on opposing sides of cases or pallets. The Panther 2000 can be configured to host multiple systems and print identical labels at the same time. We offer a scanner option that verifies that the identical labels were applied to the case. Video footage is available upon request.

### ***For More Information Please Contact:***

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