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## **Interlinked process consisting of standard tampon printing machine, laser system and robot feeding**

### **TAMPOPRINT AG**

The trend towards individualisation of various products is continuously going on. This requires a high flexibility for the design of investment goods. TAMPOPRINT AG responds with an up-to-date combined machine concept. A so-called interlinked process of individual automations which will be demonstrated with the help of a 6-axes robot. The trays which were filled in advance with screwdrivers will be placed into the loading position. If necessary, the trays can be placed side by side and also one above the other, depending on the respective workpiece form and size. By the nowadays usual change of grippers on the robot arms, the variety of the product range can be economically by-passed to some extent. The designs of the three individual automations stand for a very high flexibility, cost-effectiveness and a high degree of process reliability. The ALFALAS® laser used in our example is virtually predestinated to permanently apply variable markings on the respective workpieces (here: screwdrivers). Especially the product liability, proved by keeping track of products, is an aspect that makes always more extensive working processes necessary. It is not possible to do without laser marking regarding company logos, serial numbers, 2D codes – just to mention a few. This helps to stop counterfeiting and piracy to some degree. In our automation example which we will present at the LASYS 2008 in Stuttgart an ALFALAS® “SK 32” (UV laser) will be used which is ideally suited for the marking of the red plastic grips of the screwdrivers. The quality of the colour change in the plastics marking - requested over and over again – has been excelled in a virtually unprecedented way by using the “SK 32” laser.

As a second step the tampon printing machine „Hybrid 90-2“ will be used. A 2-colour tampon printing machine unit - consisting of flexible tampon printing as well as the production of the printing form with the integrated laser unit - allows the quick resetting of motifs or printing parts. The printing form or cliché production by means of laser engraving takes place within seconds onto the integrated cliché band with a length of 25 mtr. With a motif diameter of approx. 85 mm there will be approx. 215 motifs without having to change the cliché as previously necessary. The “hermetic” ink/doctoring unit can be swivelled outwards for the ink change. For a hand-work place all necessary units are integrated: the touch-screen user interface is ergonomically positioned at eye level and can be central operated. The integration of the „Hybrid 90-2“ into a fully automated system or an assembly line is possible at any time (PLC, 37-poles Sub-D-interface). The errors produced by operators can be completely excluded due to the cross linking of the two machine types ALFALAS® laser system and tampon printing machine via a control system. At the same time the necessary operating data will/can be recorded in writing. This process chain expertise consisting of special machine construction, laser marking and tampon printing, integrated in the here presented automated system, offers unequalled opportunities. See for yourself: LASYS 2008, Stuttgart 4 - 6 March 2008 in hall 4, stand A52.

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