

Multi-Level Conveyance Solves Linen Supplier's Challenge

Vogue Services

Vogue Services is family owned since 1946. The company provides uniforms, linens, hospitality items, healthcare items, mats, janitorial products and first aid supplies to Northern Nevada, Southern Idaho and Central California. Vogue Services works with mining companies, restaurants, hotels, healthcare facilities and other fine businesses to provide quality textiles, supplies and services to their customers.

Vogues Services is a one-stop shop with very friendly sales staff, providing value while maintaining relationships with integrity and responsiveness.

Vogue produces approximately 40,000 lbs. of textiles daily.

Note

SPACE CONCERNS WERE A PARTICULAR CHALLENGE FOR THE VOGUE SERVICES FACILITY.

"We saw the wrapper at a partner's facility and immediately put it on our wish list."

Marquitta Samper, Vogue Services

Typical Challenges

Vogue Services bundles cover a large size range, so the facility needed a versatile bundling solution as well. Wrapped bundles range in size from 8 inches wide to 27 inches long and up to 15 inches high.

The labor-intensive process of hand wrapping bundles contributed to the requirement of four people to manage the ironers, folders, hand wrapping stations and transportation of bundles to the linen room. This system produced approximately 7-8 bundles of clean wrapped linen per minute.

Vogues' Chief Engineer and their Production Manager visited another commercial laundry plant ([Model Linen – see additional case studies](#)) and saw the Felins TP-300 automatic wrapping system in action. They immediately put it on their 'wish list' knowing that they would soon need that type of system due to growth.

Because of their experience and years in the business, the operations staff at Vogue knew they would find nothing better to improve their bundling process.

Note

FELINS WAS ABLE TO DESIGN A MULTI-LEVEL CONVEYING SYSTEM TO ACCOMMODATE THE FOOTPRINT OF THE VOGUE SERVICES FACILITY.

Custom Conveying Design Fit Right In

Vogue needed to speed up their process but wanted to make sure the quality of their bundles and cleanliness of the the end product stayed at their high standards. In addition to better work-flow and efficiency of the proposed system, Vogue would only have to touch a bundle once before it was on it's way to their customer.

A particular challenge at Vogue was space considerations and making sure operators had enough room to move freely through the work areas. This challenge proved to be fun for the Felins' engineering staff as they measured, drafted, and solved the problem. The end result was a customized intersecting conveyor with a carousel system and multi-level inclines accomodating workers and the variable sized bundles off the ironers, dry fold and hand fold stations. An elevated conveyor was designed to transport bundles through a wall (an opening was cut) from the production room to the linen room where they are staged for delivery.

The Felins solution consists of the unique conveyor and multi-level transportation system with a TP-300 automatic wrapper and shrink tunnel that adapts to the variable sized bundles Vogue Services produces on the fly. It came with

the standard Felins traffic control system with sequential shutdown logic and pause features to automatically manage bundle flow before and after the wrapping equipment.

The system -

- Accepts unwrapped bundles off the ironers and folders
- Manages the bundles to avoid collisions as they are conveyed to the wrapping equipment
- Tightly wraps and seals the bundles that range in size from 10"x10"x14" to 27"x15"x7" and in between.
- Transports bundles via an inclined conveyor through a wall and into another room where they are staged for delivery to the customer.

Vogue Services is extremely pleased with the system and continued service and support from Felins. It has been a trusted component of the linen process at Vogue for over 4 years. Sergio Cortez, Maintenance Engineer, at Vogue, worked closely with Felins' engineers to learn the system well. He now flawlessly maintains the system in great working order.

According to the Marquitta Samper, Controller at Vogue Services, "everything is quality" including the wrapper and shrink system itself, to the traffic control system and conveyors and the consumable shrink film.



Inclined conveyor off shrink tunnel

The company admits it shopped around for consumable materials and tried other shrink films. "The quality just isn't there," Marquitta, admitted, "the other films didn't work well and the bundles popped." They came back to Felins for shrink film because they can trust the quality of the film and the reliability of the equipment when the proper film is used.. 'Besides, everyone there is great," Marquitta added, "Joe McKillip (sales) and Holly Stendler (Account Manager) and all the engineers are great. We love working with Felins."

Products and Services Provided by Felins

- Wrapping System with operator panel, standard traffic control system
- Elevated conveyors
- Carousel system
- Installation, start-up and training
- Ongoing maintenance help and consumable material inventory control

The Right Solution

The fact that Felins could design, assemble, manufacture and install the multi-level laundry wrapping system to fit into Vogue's footprint was a huge help to Vogue's business. "We now have a better work environment and process," said Marquitta Samper, "we liked it at our partner's facility and knew we had to have it. We are very happy with the results."

About Felins, Inc

We supply specialty and custom engineered bundling solutions, serving virtually every industry. Our solutions of sustainable packaging alternatives reduce labor, packaging mass and maximize total savings. While some companies try to "think out of the box", at Felins, we often "get rid of the box" entirely.

For more information, contact Felins at 800.843.5667 or visit www.felins.com.