

Happy Holidays

from WITTMANN USA

Wittmann

An E-newsletter from WITTMANN USA

Sports Equipment Innovator Batting 1,000 with Robotic Assembly

When it comes to making athletic bats the smart way, DeMarini® has more than a little inside baseball knowledge.

Since 1989, the Portland, Ore.-based sports equipment innovator has been creating uniquely manufactured bats that help athletes hit the ball harder and farther in slow- and fast-pitch softball and baseball. And easy-to-program WITTMANN robots are big-league players on DeMarini's manufacturing team.

Using an all-star team of WITTMANN robots, DeMarini Automation Engineer Jimmy Eggiman has programmed a solution to ensure consistency and speed in bat production. This programming helps machine operators by making it easy to choose the correct program for specific operations.

"I learned how to program the robots on my own," Eggiman stresses. "I have a lot of freedom to create with WITTMANN; I've added a lot of subroutines – and WITTMANN's latest innovation, the QuickNew program, will make this an even easier process."

"While offline editors are excellent tools for letting production supervisors and operators program right at their desks," added Jason Long, WITTMANN's National Sales Manager, "our new R9 QuickNew robot



Automation Engineer, Jimmy Eggiman, and Western Region Sales Director, Edgar Sanchez, standing with a R9 Robot Controller

program takes ease of programming to a new level. This new functionality allows as much automation as users would like, and it is much easier to program. The number of robot brands that can do this is very limited."

Eggiman began his experience with WITTMANN equipment while working with CF Plastics. When CF was acquired by Wilson Sporting Goods Co. in 2019, his knowledge was vital to integrating WITTMANN technology into Wilson and its subsidiary brand DeMarini. Glen Mason, director of advanced manufacturing for Wilson, was an owner of CF.

"When we were looking at competitive automation technology, having a technical team on the West Coast was a huge advantage for us," says Mason, because being in the same time zone afforded fast shipping and easier travel for technicians. WITTMANN USA has a West Coast Technology Center in Placentia, Calif.

Eggiman notes that he and WITTMANN sales and service lead Edgar Sanchez have formed a close and productive relationship.

"Edgar is the man," Eggiman enthuses. "I can always rely on him as a sounding board for ideas on how to make our processes even more efficient."



KEENEY Improves Regrind Quality Using WITTMANN Granulators

With headquarters in Farmington, CT, Keeney Holdings LLC is a leading manufacturer and distributor of tubular drainage products.

Keeney was founded in 1923 and has been a part of the Oatey family companies since 2019. Oatey Co., based in Cleveland, Ohio, is a leader for the residential and commercial plumbing industries since 1916. They operate a comprehensive manufacturing and distribution network to supply thousands of products for professional builders, contractors, engineers, and do-it-yourself consumers around the world.

Keeney has facilities in four US states as well as Canada and China. At their plastic injection molding operation in Winchester, New Hampshire, USA, they run several WITTMANN EcoPower injection molding machines, sprue pickers, granulators, and temperature control units.

Using Regrind Inline

When Keeney looked to upgrade some older beside-the-press granulators, they contacted WITTMANN USA. With the increased use of regrind in their molding operations, they were concerned with the overall quality of regrind; they also wanted ease of maintenance. Materials used include PP, TPE, ABS and PVC

After an initial meeting, WITTMANN USA conducted multiple regrind quality tests in their Granulator Test Lab with Keeney's material across both conventional and screenless granulator technologies.

"We find that by conducting these tests, it gives our customers peace of mind," said Steve Musmann, Division Manager-Material Handling & Auxiliaries for WITTMANN USA. "When they can see real-world results before placing the order, they know the equipment they are purchasing is going to work well on their specific application."

For regrind quality tests, WITTMANN's quantitative approach is to perform a multi-stages sieve test. Regrind is passed through a series of sieves with progressively smaller hole sizes. Results are interpreted as follows:

- Particles that do not pass through the top and largest screen (typically > 8 mm) are considered "longs" and may present material handling problems because of their large size.
- Particles that are captured by the 6 mm and 3 mm sieves are considered good regrind.
- Particles that pass through the 3 mm sieve are considered fines.

After completing the regrind quality test, the percentage of material that is dust fines, and longs is calculated and compared with the good quality regrind.

"With the increased push towards recycling and sustainability in our industry, the question has always been and continues to be, can we



TEMPRO direct C250 primus and G-Max 23 Granulator, next to an EcoPower 240 Molding Machine.

use regrind to make good finished products?" said Denis Metral, WITTMANN's International Granulators Sales Manager. "The answer is usually 'yes', but it's important to prove-out the concept to our customers in advance."

As a benchmark, said Metral, good regrind quality should be:

- Similar in pellet size to the virgin material.
- Fewer fines that melt more uniformly, resulting in fewer rejected parts and reduced costs.
- Uniform and as free as possible from dust and fines, so that it flows more easily and mixes better with the virgin material and other additives in the molding machine.

Improved Performance

After seeing the WITTMANN trials, Keeney purchased 7 new WITTMANN G-Max 23 granulators, bringing their total number of WITTMANN granulators to 15. They now are up and running alongside

their molding machines, which include three WITTMANN EcoPower machines, in their Winchester plant.

"We are very happy with the new WITTMANN granulators," said Steve Duval, Operations Manager at Keeney. "Not only do they perform well by helping us process better regrind, they also help us keep the facility clean and neat."

Benefits of using beside-the-press granulators for inline recycling of sprues include:

- No labor is necessary for handling scrap.
- No moisture in regrind compared to central grinding.
- Internal reground materials are free of contaminants and cross-contamination with other materials.
- Keep the material "in the loop" rather than sending it to a landfill.
- Closed-loop recycling of sprues gives a second life cycle to internal production waste as a valuable secondary resource.
- Start-up waste and imperfect products can be reground, and are no longer thrown away.



G-Max 23 Granulator

Close Collaboration to Customize Equipment

Advanced Plastics Machinery Incorporated (APM), the New England Representative of WITTMANN USA, has helped Keeney by engineering and producing customized upper feed chutes for the WITTMANN granulators.

"The sprues and runners on Keeney's products are often quite large, and sometimes do not have a consistent drop out of the molding machine," said Bruce Beckmann of APM. "

"The customized upper feed chutes we designed provide a much larger landing area to the runners, so that they funnel into the granulator without difficulties and directly down into the cutting chamber." Beckmann also noted that this chute fits to each granulator and protects the loading area as a safety guard.

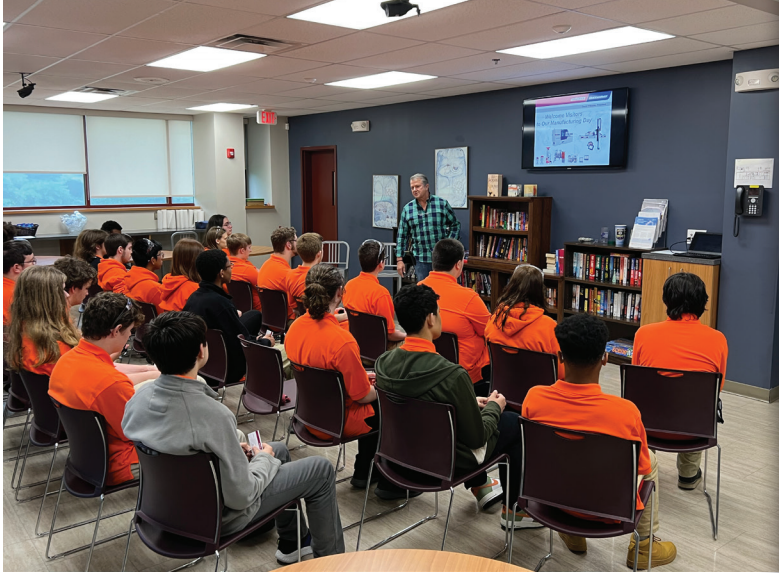
The Keeney Manufacturing Company's GoGreen Initiative

By implementing responsible cost saving practices including the conservation of energy, recycling material, and reducing its use of virgin pellets, Keeney strives to continually reduce any negative impact on the environment. These practices lead to less waste and scrap, and also have the benefit of reducing the company's costs of production.

Keeney also strives to produce "Green" products that conserve natural resources and reduce packaging, allowing its customers to do their part in reducing their carbon footprint.

"Our new WITTMANN granulators have contributed nicely to our GoGreen Initiative," said Steve Duval, Operations Manager at Keeney. "They help us achieve our overall goals of recycling and reusing what previously would have been waste or scrap materials."

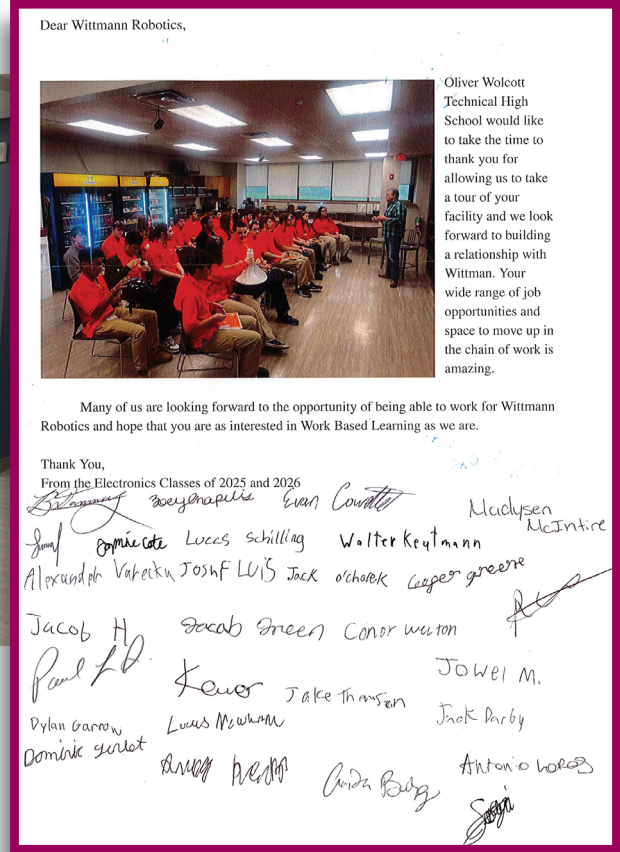
WITTMANN USA Welcomes Oliver Wolcott Technical School for Manufacturing Day 2023



Top: President, David Preusse, welcomes students and gives introduction to the WITTMANN Group and the plastics industry.

Right: Thank you letter from students at Oliver Wolcott Technical School

Lower right: Applications Engineer, Paige O'Meara, gives intro to Material Handling & Auxiliaries and regrind



WITTMANN USA welcomed students and faculty from Oliver Wolcott Technical School in Torrington, CT on Manufacturing Day, October 6th, to learn more about how our products are used in the plastics industry.

WITTMANN USA President, David Preusse, welcomed the group and provided them with an introduction to the WITTMANN Group, and an overview of the plastics industry. He discussed the many manufacturing job opportunities available at Wittmann and other companies, and explained what they would be seeing during their plant tour.

The students were then provided with demonstrations of WITTMANN's technology in all departments, including robots and automation, injection molding machinery, and material handling & auxiliary equipment.

"This was a really great group of students," said David Preusse. "They asked good questions and we enjoyed talking with them about the job opportunities here at WITTMANN, and in manufacturing in general. We hope to be working more closely with them going forward on an internship/work-based learning program."



Featured Product

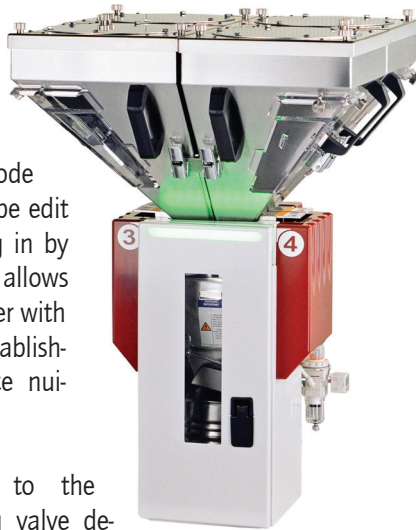
Updates to WITTMANN Blenders and Dryers Improve Maintenance, Performance

WITTMANN has recently introduced numerous improvements to its G Series Blenders and Aton Dryers. These provide users with several benefits, notably easier maintenance, and increased material throughput.

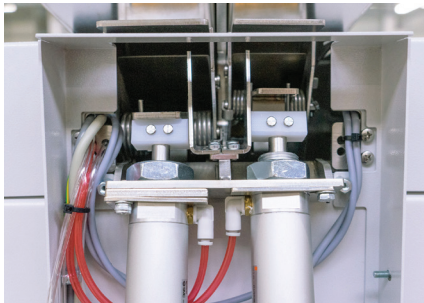
Blender Updates

The G Series Blenders now feature a simplified user interface for ease of operation. The new Blender Basic Mode has a reduced number of recipe edit fields and allows users to log in by default. The interface also allows faster calibration of the blender with just two clicks, and easier establishment of tolerances to reduce nuisance alarms.

Performance improvements to the blenders include new dosing valve designs for maintenance-free operation, and new slide gate valves for higher throughputs. Improved static protection is achieved because of enhanced braided grounding straps, as well as stainless steel hopper lids and grates in the hoppers.



G14 Blender



G Series blender dosing valve

Dryer Improvements

Several improvements have been made to the WITTMANN Aton basic & plus dryers, to improve performance and reduce maintenance.

The refillable desiccant wheel and drive system, which is the highlight feature of the Aton series, has received the most notable design improvements. The new chain tensioner system is providing a smoother, more consistent operation while reducing maintenance times and requirements.

“We are always working to make our products as user-friendly as possible, and these new improvements to our blenders and dryers do just that,” said John Depasquale, Product Manager, Material Handling & Auxiliaries.



Drymax plus



WITTMANN USA Training

Check out our website for our training schedule and details, including **R9 Training Classes!**

 Check out our Training/Tutorial Videos on our YouTube Page

WITTMANN BATTENFELD Inc. Personnel News

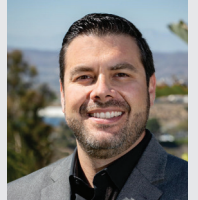
Jeremy Beecher, Safety Manager

Jeremy comes to our USA Headquarters in Torrington, CT as Safety Manager. He brings over 11 years of Facilities Maintenance experience working up to Facilities Manager, and has extensive knowledge and experience in electrical, plumbing, HVAC and carpentry. Jeremy also spent 10 years in Fire service, reaching the rank of Lieutenant.



Garrett Martinez, West Coast Sales Engineer Material Handling & Auxiliaries

Garrett recently joined our West Coast team in Placentia, CA as Sales Engineer for the Material Handling & Auxiliaries Division. He comes to WITTMANN with 9 years of experience in outside sales, systems management & development in the real estate industry and 12 years' experience in customer service management & inside sales.



Ian Moffitt, Technical Sales Engineer Material Handling & Auxiliaries

Ian has joined our Southeast Territory as Technical Sales Engineer for the Material Handling & Auxiliaries division. He comes to WITTMANN USA with 2 years of experience in plastics/machine shop, and is an Eagle Scout. Ian is currently enrolled at Spartanburg Methodist College to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.



Raymond Marquis, Inside Technical Sales Engineer Injection Molding Machines

Raymond joins our USA Headquarters in Torrington, CT as Inside Technical Sales Engineer for the Injection Molding Machines division. He comes to WITTMANN with an A.S. in Automotive Technology, a B.B.A in Supervisory Management, and is currently pursuing his degree in Mechanical Engineering. Raymond brings to WITTMANN 5 years as an Automotive Technician, and 7 years in injection molding. Hobbies includes homebrewing, BBQ/Smoking, and automotive project cars.



Scott Drake, Midwest Sales Manager IMM, Robots & Automation

Scott has joined our Midwest Sales Team in IL as Midwest Sales Manager for the Injection Molding Machine and Robots & Automation divisions. He comes to WITTMANN with 20 years of experience in the plastics industry, primarily with injection molding machines. He enjoys mountain biking and photography for hobbies.



Connect With Us on Social Media!

Make sure to connect with WITTMANN USA on our social media channels! Here is some of our recent activity:



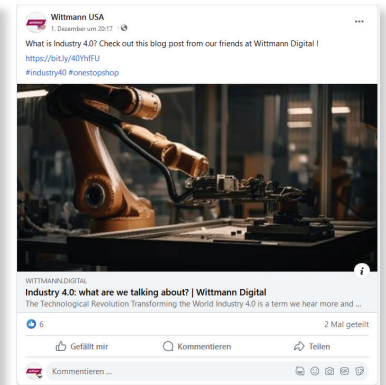
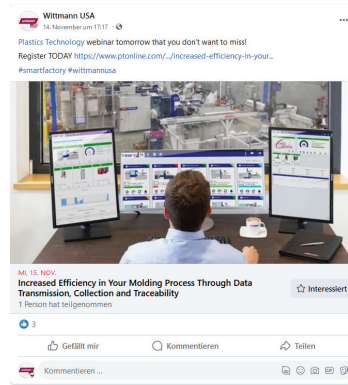
February 6 - 8, 2024
Booth 4120

Upcoming Events



May 6 - 10
Orlando, Florida
Booth W3043

Registration is on Us!
Claim your FREE Pass here:
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