

Easy-to-use Linx 8900 is ideal for coding onto premium beer cans

OVERVIEW

A Linx 8900 continuous inkjet (CIJ) printer is being used for coding onto beer cans at a successful craft brewery. The brewery has praised the machine’s ease of use, compatibility with high-speed canning lines and reliable operation in a damp environment.

The company upgraded to the Linx 8900 small character continuous inkjet system after undergoing a dramatic expansion that saw its daily production batches increase from 6 barrels to 85 barrels, the equivalent of 656 barrels of beer per week, leading to much higher speeds on its canning line.

Linx 8900 is able to handle the line’s current maximum speed of 200 cans per minute as well as higher speeds should throughput have to increase further as product demand continues to grow.

Equally important, the printer can also cope with the line’s variable speed, ensuring code quality and clarity remains consistent even as the line speeds fluctuate.

Another benefit of the Linx 8900 is its IP55 rating. This ensures the printer can perform reliably during the filling operation, which takes place in temperatures of between 30°F and 32°F, which leads to condensation



Project Overview

Industry:	Beverage
Problem:	Increase efficiency while not losing accuracy
Technology solution:	LINX 8900 continuous inkjet printer
Results:	Apply coding to 200 cans per minute as well as adjust for higher speeds when needed for growth

forming on the cans. The IP55 rating also allows the machine to remain in place during washdown of the line after every shift.

The Linx 8900 is printing a single line code, using Linx black fast-drying 1240 ink, onto the bottom rim of the can, ensuring accurate placement and excellent legibility in this small area.

The ~¼-in high code comprises best before date and batch code for traceability purposes.

“The Linx 8900 has provided the ideal solution to help us cope with growing demand for our cans of beer,” comments the brewery’s Assistant Head Brewer and Production Manager.

“It can easily keep up with our canning line speed and I really like the IP55 rating, which is an important benefit as we wash the line down after every shift. Equally important, the touchscreen interface is simply laid out and allows us to change over codes very quickly after each run.”

The Linx 8900 features a high-resolution touchscreen for simple and error-free operation. In addition, Linx’s proven autoflush system thoroughly cleans the printhead every time the printer is shut down, ensuring a fast, reliable start-up the next time it is required. This is a significant benefit for the brewery where the canning line is not in operation every day.

Other ease-of-use features of the Linx 8900 include the pioneering Self-Service Wizard, which guides operators through the process for an engineer-free service module change that minimizes downtime.



The Linx 8900 provides an ideal solution to help the brewery keep up and cope with the growing demand.



View a short video clip to see how using the Linx 8900 inkjet printer can apply batch codes to beer cans on high speed canning lines by clicking here.

“The Linx 8900 keeps up with the line and meets all our needs.”
- Assistant Head Brewer and Production Manager