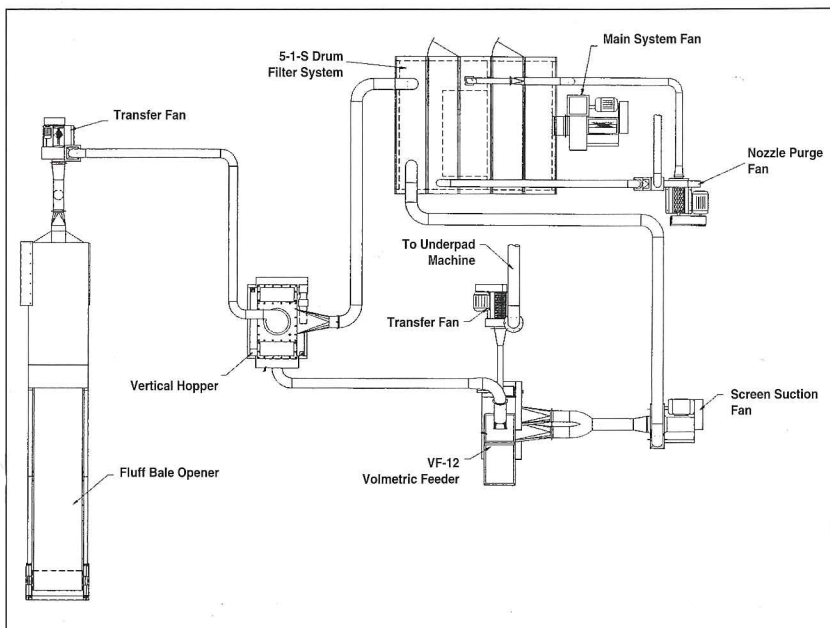


Newsletter

SUMMER 1992

Fluff—The Reclaim Question

by Steve Smith and Sue Gilman



Bale Opening System

Reclaiming fluff is an increasingly important topic among soft disposable producers. The two primary issues that influence reclaiming reject product are dollar savings and the environment. In the last year in the United States, environmental protection legislation was introduced in nearly every state. Some states have proposed banning disposable diapers altogether. Others are introducing legislation to impose excise taxes on sales of disposable diapers. Some communities are attempting to effect the disposable diaper issue through legislating use of disposable diapers in child care centers. Many states are establishing solid waste reduction goals and rates. In both Europe and the United States,

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Idea 92

Noise Control

by Dave Colburn and Sue Gilman


Industrial noise can be a major problem, even a hazard, in the manufacturing plant. Higher power levels, faster speeds, and more complex labor-saving machinery all contribute to an increasing noise problem. Excess noise can damage health, impair hearing, and impede communication in the work place. OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, has strict limitations on noise levels in work areas.

Noise is transmitted via sound waves through the space that separates the source of the sound from the receiver. Altering the path of this

transmission to reduce the amount of acoustic energy that will reach a receiver is an effective approach to industrial noise control. In an effort to address this problem Osprey has designed a new Sound Enclosure. This enclosure is particularly effective for reducing the sound of hammermills and forming sections.

The Osprey Sound Enclosure is constructed of 4-inch thick modular, insulated panels. The exterior wall of the enclosure is constructed of galvanized steel, which provides a barrier to the sound transmission. It is embossed and painted with high-quality oven-

baked enamel. The inside skin of the enclosure is perforated galvanized sheet. Both skins are pressure laminated to the insulated core.

Osprey custom builds the enclosures to accommodate ducting and access needs. The Sound Enclosure can be equipped with flexible connections on the ductwork, acoustical air inlets, and pulp roll sound-dampening devices. The Sound Enclosure is trimmed in floor base channel and is available with doors and windows with safety glass. The exterior wall is available in a variety of colors. 

Final Filter

by Natalie Trawick and Sue Gilman

"OSPREY REPRESENTATIVE AGENTS"

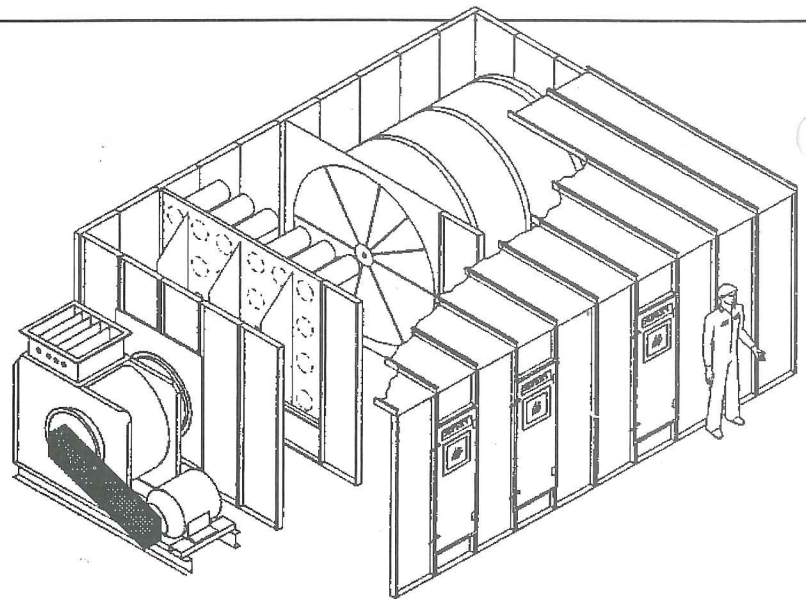
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The Osprey Final Filter allows manufacturers more versatility with their exhaust air. Designed to work in conjunction with the Osprey Drum Filter System, the Final Filter can remove as much as 99.9 percent of particulate matter down to one micron from the airstream. This high level of purity enables manufacturers to exhaust clean air either back into the plant or into the outside atmosphere while the collected particulate is recycled back into the process or sent to a waste container. Because the Final Filter removes the finest particulate from the airstream, manufacturers are able to reduce their outside emissions to well below required standards.



In cases where the air is exhausted back into the plant, considerable energy savings can be realized. The exhaust air from the Final Filter is not only cleaner than most office environments, but is also warm enough to generate considerable

savings in heat recovery. The Final Filter can be installed with a simple modification of an existing Osprey Drum Filter System. Maintenance of the Final Filter is quick and simple. 🌐

Fluff continued from page 1

"green" advertising and labeling laws are being restricted. Europe is proposing a Europe-wide environmental labeling system, and in the U.S., the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) are working on guidelines for environmental advertising claims. No one in the soft disposable industry goes unaffected by these issues.

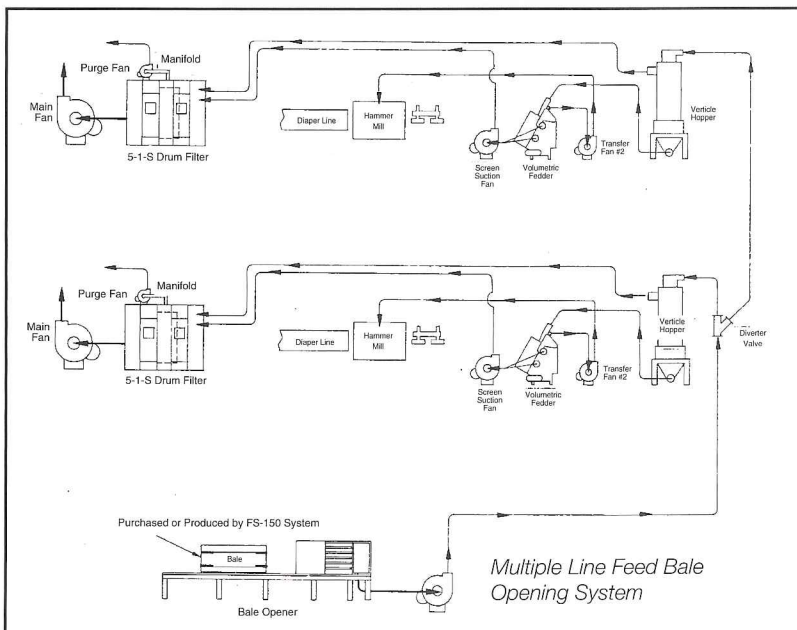
Then there is money. Landfilling reject products has increasingly become a lose/lose practice. It can be expensive to have the rejects removed, it is throwing away capital which has been invested in raw material and converting energy, and it is increasingly unworkable due to solid waste disposal problems all over the planet. With the slowly increasing price in

This practice is not without its pitfalls, however, such as controlling product quality and company image. More and more producers are choosing to make use of reclaim fluff.

There is a good supply of baled reclaim fluff available in the United States which sells for about 1/2 the price of virgin pulp. Some producers are buying bales of reclaim fluff and combining it with virgin pulp utilizing Osprey-engineered opening and metering equipment. Many producers are reclaiming reject items as part of the production process and reintroducing the fiber into their products.

virgin pulp, the cost issue becomes more and more relevant to producers. In the last 8-12 months, prices for virgin pulp have risen from around \$590/metric ton to the most recent reported price of \$680/metric ton. The price is expected to go as high as \$1000/metric ton by 1994. So, what options do producers have? In certain parts of the world, rejects are sold on a secondary market.

Here is a hypothetical but realistic outline of the dollars saved by using a percentage of reclaim fluff. One diaper machine produces 90,000 units per shift and operates three shifts per day. In five days at a 5 percent reject rate, the producer accumulated 67,500 reject diapers. A 48-week year yields 3,240,000 reject



Osprey Personnel

Osprey has added **Morris Metcalf** to its Engineering Sales staff. Mo has an extensive background in the plastics industry where he has designed pelletizers and granulators, edge trim, tab and tail systems, and film edge trim reclaim systems. Mo is originally from Bay City, MI, and most recently from Hillsboro, TX. He is married and has two children. Mo worked with Conair for 16 years and will specialize in Trim Handling Systems for Osprey.

Steve Southern has returned to Osprey. Before relocating to Greensboro, NC, in 1987, Steve spent five years with Osprey working in parts, purchasing, sales, production, and design. With many years in the man-

ufacturing environment, Osprey is fortunate to have him back. Steve is married and the father of two. He will have the title of Osprey Production Supervisor.

Bill McGee, who recently had his 12th anniversary with Osprey, has joined John Linehan in the Osprey Parts Department. In Bill's many years with Osprey he has donned a variety of caps, from truck driving to purchasing to accounting. Bill is a volunteer fireman in his community, is involved in advanced Emergency Medical Technician training, and is married with two children.

The Osprey Engineering Department has a new engineer and two new draftsmen. **Forrest Williams** joined Osprey several

months ago, and in the last few weeks, **Michael Sutton** has also become part of the Osprey drafting team. Both Forrest and Michael are native Atlantans (a rare breed).

Troy Kenyon is the most recent Osprey engineer. Originally from Pittsburgh, Troy was educated at Tulane University in New Orleans and was an engineer with a galvanizing company in Pittsburgh before making the journey to Atlanta to work with Osprey.

Barry Shaw recently joined Osprey as an Assembly Technician and Machinist. Barry and his wife and two daughters came to Atlanta from Huntsville, AL, where Barry had been working as a quality control inspector and a CNC machinist in the space/defense industry. 🌐

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diapers. If the pad weight of the reject diaper is 40 grams, the result is 129,600 kilograms of fluff. If you reclaim 85 percent of the 129,600 kilograms, you have 110,160 kilograms or 110.16 metric tons of fluff per year. At \$680/metric ton, the producer has saved \$74,908.90 in fiber that would have gone to a landfill or to a secondary market. When you also consider the cost of removing rejects, these numbers begin to look very appealing.

The Osprey Bale Opening System opens fluff bales, conveys the fluff to a vertical reserve, and accurately meters the fluff back to the forming area. The Bale Opener receives a signal from level sensors on the dedicated vertical reserves located near the production line. This signal engages the drive belt which moves the fluff bales into the opening rolls of the Bale Opener. The prefiberized material drops into an airstream and is transported to the separator section

located above the vertical reserve. On demand from a dedicated Volumetric Feeder, the vertical reserve will deposit reclaim fluff into the inlet of the Volumetric Feeder for final metering back to the process where it is blended with virgin material. It helps to have the Volumetric Feeder and vertical reserves close to the production line. The Bale Opener can be remote. This system can serve multiple production lines and is extremely versatile and flexible for the utilization of reclaim fluff.

Manufacturers already utilizing online Fluff Separation Systems may choose to segregate the system into two phases: Separation and Metering. This arrangement facilitates metering reclaim fluff, in the percentages required, to as many lines as possible while performing the separation process totally independent of the metering process, which allows greater flexibility and better utilization of energy. 🌐

On the Drawing Board

by Marty Price, Product Development

New compact **high velocity filter**; targeted air volumes up to 12,000 CFM per module; filtration of 99 percent down to 1 micron; size criteria to be less than 1/2 of a conventional Drum Filter and Final Filter assembly; due 1993-94.

Off-Line Nozzle

Purge Collector for handling particularly fine, "mean" particulate; would serve the same purpose as conventional cyclones, bag houses, cartridge filters, etc.; ideal way to dispose of stripings from a Drum Filter in one compact unit. 🌐

The Conair Group

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The Conair Group, with manufacturing facilities in six locations, is the world leader in auxiliary equipment for the plastics industry. Major products manufactured are silos, material handling and loading systems, blenders, dryers, granulators and size reduction systems, pelletizing systems, heat transfer systems, and robotics. Because of Conair's increased emphasis on "one-source" responsibility, Osprey has become a major supplier offering many products and systems not manufactured by Conair, but considered crucial to the operation of Conair Systems. This partnership has been enhanced by expansion of the Osprey Product Development Center. Conair has supplied granulators to the facility, and several large orders have resulted from the successful test of the system witnessed by Conair personnel and their customers. Major Osprey equipment supplied as part of a Conair System has included rotary drum filters, blowers and cyclones, special scrap storage bins for low bulk density materials, edge trim

pickup and conveying systems, scrap refeed hoppers as well as engineering services for a complete extrusion plant involving pellet and scrap conveying, storage, and feeding. Rotary drum filters, modified for the plastic process, were also supplied as an important part of the system.

As a qualified OEM, Osprey is in a position to offer Conair products in systems engineered and supplied by Osprey. This is particularly important to those Osprey customers who are not "traditional" plastics processors, such as fiber and nonwoven processors. Again, the one-

source concept comes into play. So the partnership can work both ways - Conair systems enhanced by Osprey products and Osprey systems enhanced by Conair products. 

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