



Keeping the presses running

ActivRAC™ mobilized storage system puts flexo plates close to the action – giving Proteus Packaging another edge in a fiercely competitive industry

CHALLENGES:

A pre-requisite for success in paperboard package manufacturing is stellar work. The other is attractive pricing for the finished product, which puts a premium on efficiency – especially since the competition is heavy and fierce. That’s why Proteus Packaging puts every square inch of space to best possible use at its new 246,000-square-foot headquarters and manufacturing facility in Franklin, Wis.

In the facility planning stage, it was absolutely critical for flexographic plates to be located at the point of use. That meant an existing mezzanine wasn’t workable. Operators would’ve had to walk up and down steps to gain access, slowing things down. And storing the plates farther away from the presses wasn’t an option. Not willing to compromise on efficiency goals, planners set out to locate the plates in a room adjacent to the presses. Yet the 900-square-foot room had only half of the space needed to store the plates if they used static racking. That drove the need to make the tiny storage space work to the company’s advantage.



Proteus Packaging uses an ActivRAC mobilized storage system to overcome limited space and put flexographic plates at the point of use.

SOLUTION:

Proteus Packaging turned to Tim Weidenfeller of Storage Systems Midwest, Waukesha, Wis. The team there delivered the solution in the form of an ActivRAC™ mobilized storage system. Manufactured by Spacesaver Industrial, each customized ActivRAC system is built with mobilized carriages that move side-to-side on a rail system. The industrial-grade carriages, which ride on wheels mated to rails, can be configured with existing or new pallet racking, shelving and cabinets. Users decide how many carriages to open at a time to eliminate unnecessary aisle space – and as much as double the amount of storage space in the same footprint.



Shown are the surface-mounted rails used on Proteus Packaging's ActivRAC system.

The mechanically operated system at Proteus Packaging features five carriages matched to surface-mounted rails. Only one, three-foot aisle opens at a time to provide full access to needed materials. Remaining aisles stay closed. The ActivRAC system built for the package manufacturer is also 20 feet long and opens with minimal effort, thanks to an ergonomically designed handle and a mechanical-assist drive unit on each carriage.

To further address Proteus Packaging's needs, the entire unit is designed around custom-designed boxes that contain tubular printing plates. The boxes, which are categorized by customer job, are all the same dimension for highly efficient cube utilization. The boxes sit on wire decks on pallet racking, which together form the system's three levels of storage. The mobile racks' width allows boxes to be stored back to back for full access on both sides of each rack. When a job calls for a plate change, press operators simply walk a few yards to access the system. A roll ladder is used to store plates on the top shelf of the 10-foot-high unit. Ink is housed in a stationary racking system located directly across from the ActivRAC system inside the room.

“With the ActivRAC system, it only takes a couple of minutes to access plates. By not having to travel farther for those materials during plate change-outs, we avoid nearly a half-hour of press downtime per day. Given that we only make money when the presses are running, putting storage to work is something that matters to us.”

Tim Wayman, Executive Vice President/COO
Proteus Packaging



Boxes of flexo plates are located just outside the storage room, boosting the efficiency of plate change-outs.

RESULTS:

Proteus Packaging uses the ActivRAC system to put its incredibly limited, yet mission-critical, flexo plate storage space to work. Toward that end, the system positions the plates close to the presses – exactly where they're needed. Operators easily and quickly open aisles to gain 100 percent access to plates at all times, speeding the process of plate change-outs. Today it only takes a few minutes to find plates as originally planned, which translates into more press uptime. There's also no worry about having enough space in the small room for years to come because the concept of mobilized storage has it covered. For Proteus Packaging, strategic storage means achieving peak efficiency at all times. It's how progressive companies win in the packaging manufacturing game.

To learn more about the ActivRAC Mobilized Storage System and how a Spacesaver Industrial Storage Specialist can help you overcome your storage challenges, please visit www.spacesaverindustrial.com or call 1-866-767-1888.



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