

W&H Systems' Rapidpac[™] automated pick/pack system provides a highly efficient and cost effective alternative to any traditional, manual picking and packing operation. Rapidpac brings the work to the operators, eliminating costly personnel travel time and combines the picking and packing operations. In short, Rapidpac minimizes product handling resulting in improved productivity and reduced costs. It also substantially m inimizes floor space utilization since a majority of the system is overhead.

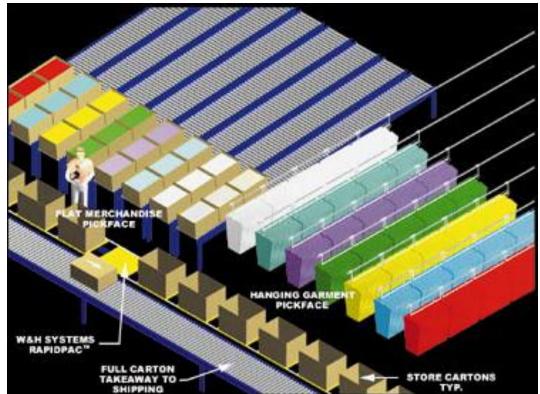
RAPIDPAC OPERATION

In general, Rapidpac is a system that brings all the components necessary for picking and packing to an operator.

In typical picking and packing, a picker travels throughout a facility picking merchandise from various locations. The time required for traveling from pint to point is generally the largest labor component in any distribution centers and therefore the most costly. Rapidpac eliminates this situation.

Although each system is custom designed for your specific needs, there are three basic components provided by Rapidpac:

- 1. A supply of items to be picked,
- 2. Cartons to be packed from this supply and
- 3. A means to transport filled cartons to shipping



First, a supply of product to be picked is transported by conveyor, to an area near a picker/packer. This is often provided as pre-ticketed merchandise in plastic totes or as garments on hangers and is accumulated in an area convenient to the operator.

The second, and most productive, feature of Rapidpac is the transport of cartons to be packed to the operator. The cartons arrive at the pick area on mechanized trays. Each tray contains one carton, typically destined for one store. Normally a small "train" of trays, representing several stores, is transported to the area at a given time. The picker removes merchandise from the totes and places the correct quantity in the appropriate carton. The quantity is determined from either standard, traditional pick sheets or by an optional paperless picking system.

Once fully packed, the operator prepares to move the carton to Rapidpacs final component, a take-away conveyor. In many installations, the operator first applies a bar-coded label, indicating the store location, to the carton. The carton is then pushed from the tray on which I arrived to a conveyor positioned behind the trays. This conveyor transports the filled cartons to the shipping area or other sorting operation.



RAPIDPAC[™] FEATURES AND BENEFITS

Combination of picking and packing operations

By providing a fixed workstation and bringing necessary material to the worker, Rapidpac can combine these two critical functions. The system provides a means to supply material to and remove it from, an operator station.

Flexible design supports many situations

A Rapidpac system can be designed to support from 12 to 1,000 or more stores, providing the most cost effective solution to your needs. This flexibility also allows Rapidpac to be easily integrated into your existing distribution systems.

Proven Design

Since 1983, the basic design has proven to be both durable and reliable. The systems' simple mechanical design, as well as its refined and powerful controls system, has been instrumental in providing distribution center managers with efficient operations.



Interface with Other Automated Systems

Rapidpac can be used as a stand-alone unit or in conjunction with some of today's other highly automated systems. A common interface is with a paperless picking system to further improve your facility's' productivity. Rapidpac will dramatically improve the productivity and competitiveness of your existing or planned distribution center.

BENEFITS

Improved Productivity – By bringing the work to the workers, costly travel time is eliminated and productivity is substantially improved. Most Rapidpac installations with experience overall facility improvements of 30%; some have improved by greater than 50%

Reduced Costs – This productivity improvement also results in lower operating costs, particularly in labor costs. Typical reductions in cost per unit are in the 20% to 30% range. One distribution center reported a reduction in unit handling costs from 14 cents to 5 cents per unit.

Optimized Space Utilization – By substituting wide pick aisles with conveyors and overhead equipment, Rapidpac requires much less floor space than a traditional operation. The result is lower facility operating expenses and, in the case of a new facility, minimized real estate and construction costs.

Simplified Manpower Supervision and Scheduling – Supervision is improved by eliminating the need for employees to travel across wide areas. Supervisors only need to visit operators at the fixed Rapidpac workstations to monitor productivity.

