

Warner Electric

Boston Gear

TB Wood's

Formsprag Clutch

Wichita Clutch

Marland Clutch

Industrial Clutch

Bauer Gear Motor

Nuttall Gear

Warner Linear

Delroyd Worm Gear

Stieber Clutch

Ameridrives Couplings

Inertia Dynamics

Matrix International

Huco Dynatork

Bibby Turboflex

Twiflex Limited

Kilian Manufacturing

Lamiflex Couplings

Ameridrives Power
Transmission

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Getting A Handle On Gripping



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An Altra Industrial Motion Company

Hands Off: Cappers Close The Deal

by Elisabeth Eitel
Editor, Motion System Design



Bottle capping is one application for which fingered grippers are inappropriate, so most all capping machines today use custom-made chuck grippers.

Chucks are metal pieces that feature a cap-shaped hole or tap. On their inside surface, pins provide temporary holding as caps are screwed into place. If a chuck does not properly grip its caps, problems arise: Dropped and cocked caps, tamper band rollover and broken tamper bands... these problems lead to leakage, low line efficiency, and high scrap rates. However, the biggest challenge in capping is properly applying caps to bottler-specified torque levels. With PET material costs on the rise, many manufacturers are switching to lower-profile caps. While greener, these caps are more susceptible to damage, so require headsets and chucks with higher precision — so the caps fit more exactly into the tap.

“The grip on our caps is controlled by positioning several pins in the chuck to hold the cap,” says Angela Leng of Warner Electric of Altra Industrial Motion, Braintree, Mass. Warner chucks were recently installed for a PTOC low-profile cap conversion done by a major bottler. “We have replaced many mechanical jaw assemblies (which wear quickly) with fixed-jaw assemblies; mechanical customers that can switch dramatically reduce chuck maintenance,” concludes Leng.



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