



Technologies

COMBINED INNOPACK KISTERS WSPP A MACHINE

## The all-rounder

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Whether wrap-around packs, trays, pads, paper or film, imagination knows no bounds when packaging beverage cans on the new packer from KHS. There's hardly a more flexible or more efficient way to cater for growing market and customer requirements.

CAN

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### PHOTOGRAPHY / ILLUSTRATION

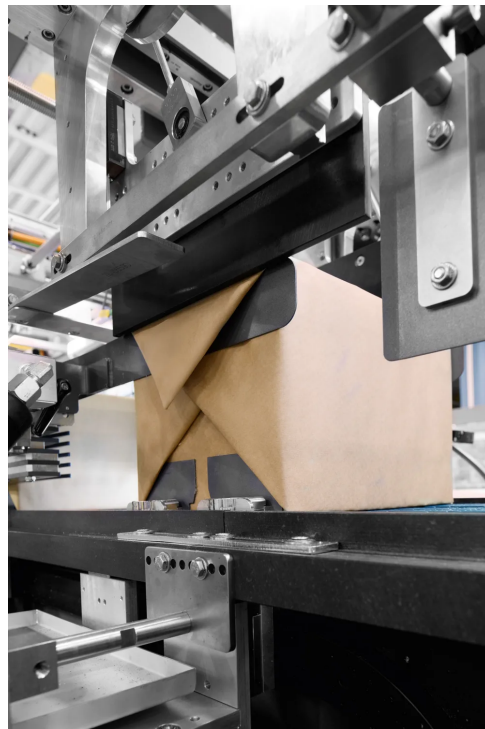
Frank Reinhold

### COVER PHOTO

As well as processing the more common packs such as wrap-around packs, trays, pads and film, the combined Innopack Kisters WSP A machine can also wrap cans in paper.

For the first time at the beginning of 2020 KHS presented a machine that wraps beverage cans in paper. The initial tentative steps in this direction were taken 20 years ago. Those working on the new version thought that this form of secondary packaging was so retro that it could perhaps become a trend. Their assumption was correct! “Paper as a packaging material is still a novelty on the beverage market,” states Ernst van Wickeren, packaging product manager for KHS in Kleve. “However, this alternative is already definitively meeting with great interest from beverage canners. Many of our customers who sell organic beverages, for instance, also want to convey the notion of ecology through the packaging – and in doing so are meeting a rapidly growing consumer demand.”

Interestingly enough, many of the potential users of the new pack are not intending on making a full switch. Most of them see the paper wrapping as additional new option with which to package their diverse range of products. “Right from the start we had lots of requests for machines that can process both paper and film,” van Wickeren explains. “These were often from fillers who market premium products alongside less expensive beverage varieties. The high-quality products were to be wrapped in paper while the packs in the lower price segment were to be held together with shrink film.”



↑  
A new module installed after the unwinding and cutting unit accurately folds and glues the paper in the packaging process.



↑  
Endless packaging: the end of one and beginning of the next paper roll are joined by embossing.

## Extensive options

The logical conclusion was that KHS very quickly further developed an existing machine so as to give the beverage industry full flexibility in secondary packaging. By adding a new function, a packer was produced whose options are as extensive as its name is long: the Innopack Kisters Wrap-aroundShrinkPaperPacker Advanced – or WSPP A for short.

With its combination of process modules the machine can process three different types of secondary packaging:

- **The wrap-around carton**, where the pack is enclosed in cardboard
- **The Tray** with or without a paper or shrink film wrapping, and
- **The cardboard pad** wrapped in paper or shrink film.

The machine packages cylindrical containers – especially beverage cans – whose compact shape and even surface make them suitable for wrapping in paper.

## Modular design

This variety is facilitated by the modular design of all Innopack Kisters packaging machines. This also enables an existing Innopack Kisters Wrap-aroundShrinkPacker (WSP) or Innopack Kisters Wrap-aroundPaperPacker (WPP) to be retrofitted as a WSPP A, for example – with full flexibility, tailored to suit the respective requirements of the customer or market.

On the technical front, the new paper wrapping function needed adjustments to be made to the former film wrapping module in particular and a new module for paper folding and gluing to be devised. The unwinding and cutting unit previously used for the shrink film was thus given a connecting unit for paper and film. This section of the machine is also where hot melt is applied from below and the paper is pulled taut. These functions are deactivated when shrink film is processed.

## AT A GLANCE

### → **INNOPACK KISTERS WSPP A**

#### → **Containers**

- Cylindrical (beverage cans)
- 53 to 68 millimeters in diameter
- 115 to 190 millimeters in height

#### → **Capacity**

- 100 cycles per minute maximum
- Up to 90,000 cans per hour

#### → **Pack size**

- 12 to 24 containers

#### → **Material costs\*\***

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| • Film (printed)                                  | €0.05 per pack |
| • Tray  | €0.09 per pack |
| • Paper (100 g/m <sup>2</sup> , five-color print) | €0.09 per pack |
| • Pad   | €0.05 per pack |
| • Wrap-around carton                              | €0.22 per pack |

\*\* Average values for 6 x 4 packs.

In the new folding module folding tools tightly fold and wrap the paper around the sides of the packs with absolute precision. The separate KHS InnoHotMelt (IHM) applicator with its needle valves ensures flawless glue application. An optional automatic glue pellet feed system is also available for uninterrupted production. In the setting unit of this module the glued side flaps are pressed onto the pack and fixed by foam-coated application belts.

The shrink tunnel can be individually configured and scores on low energy consumption. A gas heating system can be used here as a further option that reduces energy costs by up to 50% and cuts CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by up to 60%. If paper is used in place of film, the machine conveys the finished packs through the tunnel that has been switched off. If paper wrapping is to replace film packaging entirely, the shrink tunnel can be completely removed, then making the machine no longer in its dimensions than a previous packer design.



Ernst van Wickeren  
Packaging product manager, KHS

»Packing beverage cans in paper may be a new idea but it's meeting with plenty of interest from beverage producers.«

Are you interested in our diverse range of packaging systems for beverage cans? Then simply visit us at [khs.com](https://khs.com)!

**[KHS.COM](https://khs.com)**

## **Simple and energy efficient**

Looking at the annual electricity savings shows just how energy efficient paper packs are compared to film packs. With a shrink tunnel consumption of up to 72 kWh in two-shift operation on

300 days of the year, a maximum of €30,000\* can be saved per annum.

\* Based on an electricity rate of 8.9 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Retrofitting an Innopack Kisters WSP is not difficult; all that needs to be done is to replace the existing wrapping module with the further developed wrapping module with its new functions and to install the paper folding and gluing module. “Once the modules are installed, besides the standard format changeovers no other conversions are needed when switching from paper to film,” van Wickeren emphasizes. “All that has to be changed is the packaging material and the hot melt applicators need to be activated in good time so that they’re ready for use when production starts.” Of course, he sums up, the new packer is just as line-compatible as all other related Innopack Kisters packaging machines – in other words, a real all-rounder.

## Any further questions?

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