

Spreader Feeder

SkyFeed

CHICAGO®



SKYFEED by Chicago

A unique and compact design combining engineering excellence and the forces of nature to create a spreader feeder that optimizes operator potential for greater productivity of a wide range of linen—including flat and fitted sheets, duvet covers and table linen. SKYFEED utilizes an integral rail system to store and optimally position linen to eliminate processing interruptions for maximum throughput and outstanding hand fed linen quality.

Up to 1,000 pieces per hour! As precise as a Swiss watch, the unique design characteristics of SKYFEED eliminate production interruptions and utilize enhanced ergonomic engineering techniques to maximize throughput and provide top linen quality—all in a system provided by Chicago and supported by our unsurpassed network of local distributors and factory service.

SKYFEED Features

TRANSFER

Less linen touching the floor. With direct cart loading, linen will travel directly up the rail from the cart and will stage in the buffer area such that all but the largest linen will never come in contact with the floor, thus keeping it clean and sanitary. Ideal for many applications, especially healthcare.

Programmable loading stations. Depending on the size or type of linen, SKYFEED can be programmed with “Lift Assist”. When the first corner is loaded, that clamp will advance up the rail and begin to lift linen out of the cart, assisting the operator in finding the second corner and speeding up the loading process. For smaller pieces, SKYFEED can be programmed to position both clamps at the bottom “home” position to be loaded prior to these clamps traveling up the rail. Program selection is flexible to best accommodate the linen, operator and laundry environment.

Newton was right! Gravity does the work for you. Potential energy is stored in linen clamps by raising loaded clamps above the machine spread height to be staged for processing. When released, linen travels via gravity to be properly positioned for spreading. This clever method reduces mechanical components—simplicity improves reliability.

INLET

Three loading stations. Each station advances linen to a sturdy and compact self-supported space-saving rail system, creating a linen buffer that can store up to 20 large linen pieces in preparation for spreading. This buffer eliminates interruptions (such as cart changes) in work flow that would otherwise interrupt the flow of pieces being processed. The buffer results in a direct increase in production as SKYFEED continues to feed the system rather than waiting for linen to be loaded from a clean rail or while operators change carts.

Ergonomics at its best. Linen loading clamps are positioned at an easily accessible 46” height for operator comfort. At this height, loaded carts or a linen supply conveyor can be positioned directly under the load stations. Pre-picked or loose linen would then not require removal from the cart prior to loading. This convenience further eliminates operator physical stress, resulting in greater productivity—especially on difficult to handle items such as heavy king sheets and duvet covers.



SPREAD

No extra transfer from loading to spreading clamps. SKYFEED utilizes the same loading clamps throughout the entire spreading process. As loaded clamps travel up and into the machine, spring-loaded grippers secure these load clamps and together they become the spreading mechanism. This combination means no extra linen transfer from one set of clamps to another that could result in a dropped piece or a poor corner grab. After linen is released, the grippers disengage the load clamps, which are then displaced by the next set of clamps and returned back to operator loading stations.

Programmable linen shakeout. The spreading mechanism can briefly shake out the piece as it is treated by the spreading belts to further ensure a fully open piece. The result is fewer pieces with flipped trailing edges entering the ironer and a greater number of high quality finished pieces.

Backlight linen inspection. As linen pieces are spread, they are brightly lit from behind for operator inspection. SKYFEED can be programmed so that, by pressing a button, the operator can either pause the machine to manually remove the piece or automatically reject the piece at a folder equipped with stain/tear reject.

VACUUM ASSIST LAYDOWN

Leading edge pivoting vacuum box. The upper section of the fed item is momentarily secured in place to prevent slippage, while compressed air lays down the leading edge. This is then held firmly by a powerful vacuum on the pivoting vacuum box. The box pivots in a rotating motion and lays the leading edge of the item onto the perforated advance conveyor ribbons. This unique pivoting motion allows the vacuum box to complete its motion at the optimum position as close as possible to the surface of the ribbons for a straight and accurate leading edge and holds the piece in place as it advances to the exit conveyor. Each ribbon is individually tensioned for true tracking and synchronized ribbon speed. This advanced design eliminates costly linear cylinders and vacuum hoses that become worn and require additional maintenance.

Unique vacuum method smooths trailing edge. Compressed air blasts through a venturi chamber create powerful suction to induce and treat linen's trailing edge. This method eliminates extra fans and motors, thus simplifying and streamlining SKYFEED's operation.

Three areas of spreading assist. Optimum preparation of the entire linen item is accomplished through spreading belts located in front of the trailing edge vacuum chamber as well as spreading brushes positioned both before and after the vacuum advance conveyor. This ensures that the entire body of the piece is fully treated for the best possible laydown as it travels through SKYFEED.

DISCHARGE

Stretching exit conveyors. The exit conveyor consists of dual "sandwich style" stretching conveyors. As the leading edge enters the stretching conveyors, the advance conveyor ribbons can pause momentarily—programmable as desired by linen type for optimum quality. Stretching conveyors treat the leading edge, ensuring superior quality. The piece then advances and is kept taut and straight as it travels between the conveyors. Trailing edge tension is also created by the conveyors as the linen enters the ironer for a wrinkle-free result. This is a standard feature on Chicago SKYFEED that is an expensive option from others.



Optional Features

FOURTH LOADING STATION

A fourth loading station is available to ensure additional productivity to meet the demands of the very highest speed ironing lines and for pieces that are more labor intensive to load such as overly bulky duvet covers that may arrive to the operators inside out or otherwise unprepared to be loaded without additional operator attention.

ROTATING SMOOTHING BRUSHES

For those customers looking for even more special treatment on fed items, SKYFEED can also be provided with rotating smoothing brushes at the end of the exit conveyor to further laterally spread linen prior to entering the ironer.

SMALL PIECE VACUUM BYPASS

For maximum flexibility, SKYFEED can be provided with small piece bypass capability with vacuum laydown. Pillow cases, napkins and any other linen items requiring hand feeding will bypass the auto feed stations and be treated by vacuum prior to delivery to the ironer for high quality finishing.

THICKNESS DETECTION

If a linen piece is knotted or contains a foreign item—such as a pillow case caught inside a duvet cover—SKYFEED will detect this linen item as “too thick” and will allow removal of the piece so that it does not result in a jam that can cause costly down time.

SINGLE-TWO LANE OPERATION

This feature enables automatically feeding in a choice of single or dual lanes as programmed. Perfect for two lane feeding of table linen and other linen items.

CHI TRAC READY

SKYFEED can be supplied ready to connect to any approved Production Management System to comprehensively track all critical data and metrics that laundry management requires.

Visit Chicago's website www.chidry.com for easy access to our latest floorplans, technical specifications, etc.

A Complete Range of Separating, Feeding, Ironing, Folding, and Sorting Options

Because Chicago specializes only in flatwork finishing equipment, it can offer the world's widest range of high production separating, feeding, ironing, folding and sorting equipment. Complete flatwork finishing systems range from automated multi-roll systems producing over 2000 pounds per hour, to compact ironers for small on-premise laundries.

Chicago's performance record is unmatched in thousands of installations in commercial, hospitality, health care, textile rental, and institutional laundries. An experienced Chicago professional will be pleased to make an objective equipment recommendation

based on your production, space, utility and budget requirements. All equipment is designed and built in Chicago for complete quality control and prompt service and parts availability, including overnight delivery if necessary.

Contact your local Chicago distributor or the factory sales assistance office for a no-obligation analysis of your needs. Visit our newly redesigned and now mobile friendly website www.chidry.com for easy access to current product brochures, detailed floor plans, and specifications, as well as videos of select Chicago products in action.



CHICAGO DRYER COMPANY
2200 North Pulaski Road
Chicago, Illinois 60639-3737 USA

Phone • 773.235.4430
Fax • 773.235.4439
Web • www.chidry.com
Email • chicago@chidry.com