

FILAMATIC NEWS

NATIONAL INSTRUMENT COMPANY, INC. 4119 Fordleigh Road Baltimore, MD 21215 Tel. (410) 764-0900 Fax (410) 764-7719
Internet: <http://www.filamatic.com> E-mail: info@filamatic.com

New **FILAMATIC**[®] Vial Traying Systems provide solutions to the requirements found in pharmaceutical production environments involving product lyophilization. Servomotor operation optimizes the versatility and flexibility of these traying systems.



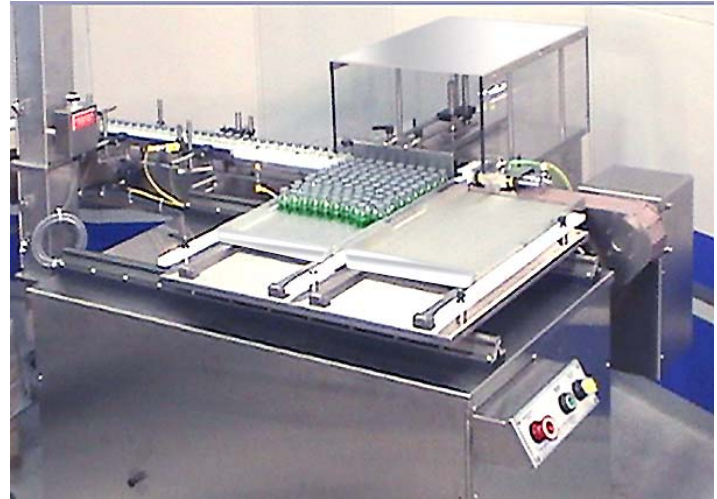
Baltimore, Maryland, May 2004 —

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

When pharmaceutical production involves product lyophilization, manufacturers are discovering NIC's combination of servomotor technology, carefully engineered sensor applications, and automated handling features serve up a traying system that is dependable, flexible, and highly efficient.

At the heart of each **FILAMATIC**[®] traying system is a microprocessor that controls a star-wheel infeed indexer with a star-wheel disc for each vial diameter. Vial tipping and spillage are eliminated thanks to a two-axis pusher bar mechanism with front and back container stabilizers. Two tray stations mounted on a reciprocating tray support deck make it easy to monitor and remove the vials during a production run. Multiple servomotors create a new level of precision motion control for the pusher bar mechanism and the tray support deck. When you combine this superior motion control technology with a tool-less changeover process, you can improve the efficiency and flexibility of your traying process significantly.

The star-wheel infeed indexer counts the vials as they enter the pusher bar mechanism. Once the correct number is present, the pusher bar gently transfers the vials from the conveyor onto the tray. Stabilizers positioned in front and behind the vials prevent tipping and spillage during the transfer. You can define the loading pattern of the vials on the tray to accommodate either a staggered (nested) or unstaggered (non-nested) loading application.

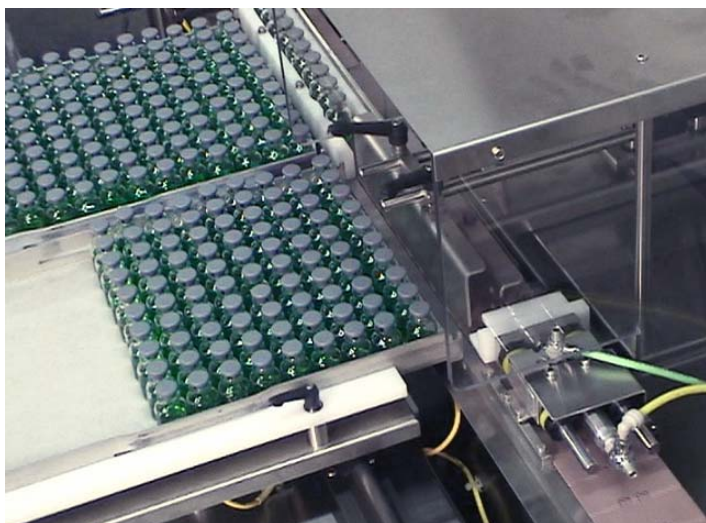


With our continuous tray-loading feature, once the support deck has indexed the full tray out of the loading station, an operator simply replaces it with an empty one to maintain uninterrupted production.

The control system is designed to be highly user-friendly. The operator interface provides access to every system function including a menu of pre-programmed operating parameters such as tray size and vials per row/column.

A "no vial/no tray" sensor located at the infeed of the traying system checks for presence of a continuous stream of incoming vials and, when the stream is interrupted, pauses the traying system until the vial flow is restored.

Another sensor located at the tray loading station checks for the presence of a tray before any vials are loaded. In addition, you can track the total production output at any time thanks to a vial counter included in the system.



Readily Available Parts

A complete inventory of replacement parts for **FILAMATIC**® vial traying systems is only a phone call away at our Baltimore, MD headquarters. In-stock parts ordered prior to 2:00 PM (Eastern time) can be shipped the same day.

Here are some additional features that add value to your operations:

Sanitary Stainless Steel Construction

FILAMATIC® vial traying systems are designed to be highly sanitary and suitable for all pharmaceutical installations. Stainless steel external construction extends the service life by reducing the potential for corrosion.

Simple Set-up and Operation

FILAMATIC® traying systems are simple to use. There are no mechanical adjustments, and you only need a single change part to set up or change over the system. When you change the vial diameter, for example, all you need to do is swap out the star-wheel and select the applicable parameter set from the pre-programmed menu. Or, you can use the operator interface to create a new set of parameters. The systems are engineered to fit into existing production lines easily. They come equipped with adjustable legs that will accommodate a conveyor height of 36"±1", operate on 208 volt, 60 hz., three-phase electrical service, and require 3-4 scfm of clean, dry compressed air at 80 PSI.

For over 50 years, National Instrument Company has been recognized as one of the world's premier manufacturers of integrated liquid filling, capping, and monobloc packaging systems for the pharmaceutical industry. Our vial-traying systems are simply one more way **FILAMATIC** technology adds dependability and value up and down the line.

Company contact:

Mary Burchard
Phone: 800-526-1301/410-764-0900 x 229
E-mail: info@filamatic.com,
Web: www.filamatic.com