



Stone & Wood select Linx coders for new brewery

A fast-growing Australian craft brewer has installed a Linx 5900 continuous ink jet printer and a Linx TJ725 coder in its second brewery

Established in 2008, Stone & Wood Brewing Company was the first craft brewer in NSW's iconic Byron Bay. Its beers are now available across Australia, in both retail outlets and on tap. The company has been so successful, it is establishing a second brewery at Murwillumbah, just north-west in the North Rivers.

Background

When looking for brewing and ancillary equipment to set up both the original and new operations, it had to match the craft brewer's philosophy of "not complicated". Stone & Wood has a commitment to hands-on brewing, believing in minimal to no automation in the brew-house. But it's a different matter for the supplementary-activity equipment, including coding and labelling. Here they additionally looked for automation and reliability, on top of "not complicated".

Business needs

Stone & Wood wanted bottle-coding and carton-coding equipment that allowed quick changeovers, as well as being robust and reliable to optimise uptime. The coding solutions also had to complement the product's professional image so clarity of code was equally important.

Stone & Wood wanted to maintain the craft brewer's philosophy of 'not too complicated'

Business Process needs

The bottle coding equipment needed to code directly onto two different glass bottles — green and amber - with alphanumeric coding.

Because Stone & Wood doesn't pasteurise its beer, it prints date codes before filling, so the coding ink needs to dry quickly. In the new brewery, high labelling and coding speeds are a must: the new line runs at 12,000 bottles an hour.

In the new brewery, the company also wanted to automate carton coding, which it had previously done by hand.

Solution

Stone & Wood researched the best equipment to suit their process and philosophy.

Stone & Wood select Linx coders for new brewery



Linx 5900

Key Facts

Country

Australia

Industry

Craft Brewing

Product printed on

Glass bottles & cardboard cartons

Line speed

12,000 bottles/hour

Printers purchased

Linx 5900 CIJ printer, Linx TJ725 thermal inkjet coder

Ink used

Linx Black wet process ink 1056 (Linx 5900)

Key Product Benefits

Linx 5900

- 3-line coding, USB message sharing and store up to 1,000 messages as standard
- Upgrade as your requirements change
- Predictable service intervals of up to 6,000 hours.

Linx TJ725

- Simple and easy to use with Simply Smart Technology®
- First print as good as your last with the Linx Active Cartridge Care System®
- No service cost and mess with TIJ printer cartridges.

In the new brewery, they have installed a Linx 5900 CIJ printer from Linx distributor Matthews Australasia Pty Ltd, to code onto the bottles. Stone & Wood uses Linx Black wet process ink 1056 to code onto both the green and amber glass bottles. This fast-drying ink can print through a thin layer of moisture on the beer bottles if it needs to, and is highly water resistant once dry.

They have also installed a Linx TJ725 thermal inkjet coder, again from Matthews, to code cartons in the new brewery, removing the previous manual process.

Outcome

The coding equipment has proven highly reliable, giving Stone & Wood maximum uptime. The strong colour of the Linx Black wet process ink 1056 means that Stone & Wood can use the one ink to code different colours of glass with the right amount of contrast, saving on holding inventory and changing ink colours mid production run.

Stone & Wood finds the equipment easy to maintain, and also has it regularly serviced. Because the machinery is straightforward and easy to use, staff are not side-tracked with downtime issues and can spend time on their allotted tasks.

Linx 5900

The Linx 5900 has been designed to provide maximum flexibility and consistently reliable coding, and offers the lowest maintenance costs for this type of printer along with extended service intervals of up to 6,000 hours. Recognising that many companies' coding needs can change as their businesses continue to grow, a variety of additional enhancements are available that can be incorporated at any time, avoiding the need to purchase a whole new printer and making the initial investment future-proof.

Linx TJ725

The Linx TJ725 offers a high resolution, digital solution for coding onto outer cases, boxes, shelf ready trays and packaging.

Supplied in just a few pieces out of the box, the Linx TJ725 is simple to fit without needing a service engineer or specialist installation tools. No training is needed and you can be up and running within minutes.

Linx's innovative Active Cartridge Care® system saves money and cuts waste by slowing the nozzle drying process, making first prints more reliable every time.



Linx TJ725

www.linxglobal.com



THINKING ALONG YOUR LINES

For more information, contact Linx Printing Technologies Ltd, Burrel Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 3LA, UK. Telephone +44 (0)1480 302100 Fax +44 (0)1480 302116 email sales@linx.co.uk www.linxglobal.com

Linx, Simply Smart Technology and Linx Active Cartridge Care System are registered trademarks of Linx Printing Technologies Ltd. © Linx Printing Technologies Ltd 2014.