

CASE STUDY

ALUMINUM COATING OPERATION IS FIRST TO PRAISE ITW ELECTRIC RECIPROCATOR

Sometimes first is not the most desirable position – especially when it’s to test out a new product. But for EPCO Finishing, the recognized leader in aluminum extrusion coating, being first was the best decision when it came to testing ITW Ransburg’s Electric Reciprocator. Not only was the system faster and more responsive than other reciprocators, but it is completely changing the way aluminum extrusions are coated.



When EPCO Plant Manager Gerry Emery heard about ITW Ransburg’s newest electric reciprocator, he agreed to replace one of his 40-year-old hydraulic systems to see how it performed. “We studied a lot of systems before agreeing to participate in ITW Ransburg’s program,” explains Emery. EPCO wanted an easier-to-control system of coating extrusions without having to use a hydraulic system with the seal replacement and other maintenance issues associated with it.

EPCO set aside five days for installation of the electric reciprocator and controls. Instead, the complete installation took less than two days to complete. “Everything went very smoothly,” Emery says. “We were ready to go in two days. After three weeks of using the new system, we were ready to replace our second hydraulic reciprocator.”



The new system is highly automated, with the profile coater reading bar codes from extruded parts and programming the operation down the line. Paint flow rates, reciprocator stroke lengths and disk turbine speeds can be changed almost immediately. Automatic solvent flushes and color load changeovers typically can take as little as one minute to complete. “All we have to do is leave a one-minute gap in the line to accommodate the color changeover,” Emery says.

The system also allows for collection of a great deal of information from the line. All the information about every painted part can be collected, analyzed and catalogued. This information can be used when bidding new jobs, developing emission reports and for employee training.

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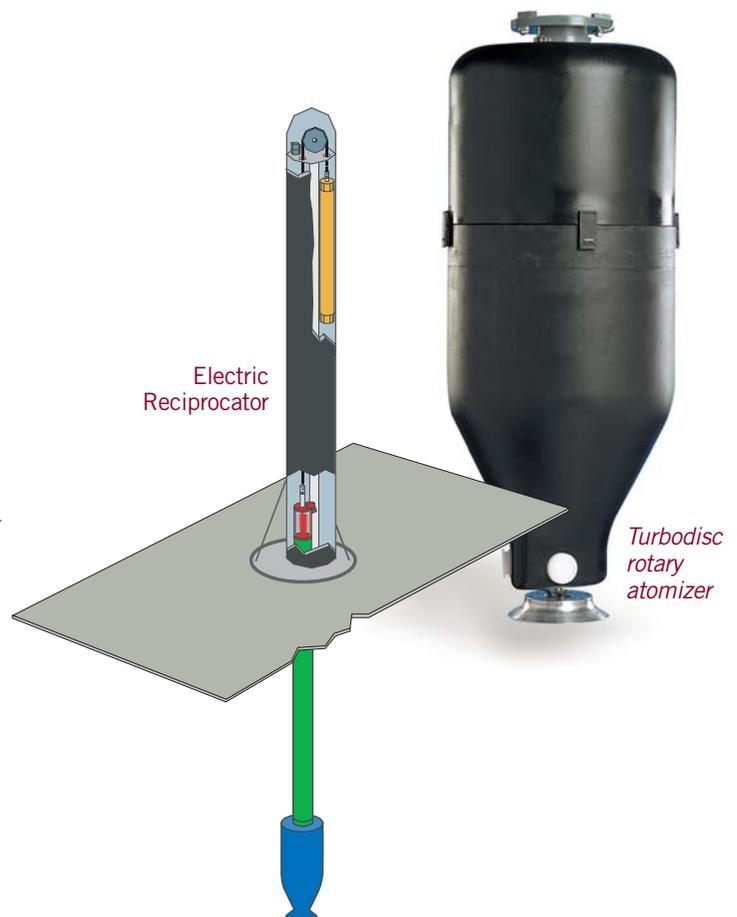
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“The electric reciprocator will really improve our efficiency,” says Emery. “We have complete consistency from part to part, which helps us in managing our paint inventory. It’s going to save us a great deal – especially down the road.”

EPCO Finishing, based in Youngstown, Ohio, is the coating operation of aluminum extruder Aerolite. Established in 1953, Aerolite is a full service custom extruder and fabricator of residential windows and other consumer products, as well as automotive extrusions. The company also offers a full range of design and engineering services.

The Ransburg Electric Reciprocator is a particularly effective alternative to hydraulic reciprocators for applications demanding critical regulation in blended pattern applications. It operates at a machine speed of 60 inches per second, and can be configured to deliver stroke lengths from five feet to 32 feet in one foot increments. In addition to easy installation and smooth operation, the Electric Reciprocator greatly reduces operational and maintenance costs.

The Electric Reciprocator coupled with the Ransburg Turbodisc rotary atomizer make an unbeatable pair for any aluminum extrusion application.



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