

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- Focus on Ladder-Track™ Belt and Flex-Turn® Conveyors
- Commitment to Sustainability ● The Coronavirus Year
- Keep Your Production Lines Running

PRODUCT FOCUS:

Ladder-Track™ Conveyor Belt



Earlier this year Wire Belt expanded manufacturing capabilities of Ladder belt and have added to its list of available specifications. At the same time we rebranded it, and it is now known within the Wire Belt range of metal conveyor belt products as Ladder-Track™. Let us look at what Ladder-Track™ belting is.

Q&A What is Ladder-Track™?

Ladder-Track™, commonly known in the industry as Ladder Belt, is a positively driven conveyor belt made up of a series of connected rods. It has a simple and light weight construction making it a cost-effective solution for a number of applications.

What benefits can this belt offer?

Ladder-Track™ is constructed using high-tensile rods to resist permanent distortion and is positively driven to ensure there are no issues with tracking. Due to its open structure Ladder-Track™ also facilitates easy cleaning to ensure hygiene standards. The flat uniform carry surface also ensures gentle product handling.

The belt is easy to assemble and disassemble with its belt maintenance tool making it easy to repair, remove or install.

Where is Ladder-Track™ commonly used?

Ladder-Track™ is commonly seen in bakeries and egg sorting, although it can also be used in frying and cooking applications where required. It is possible for Ladder-Track™ to be fitted with U-bar filler rods which allows for a range of textures on some products.

How is Ladder-Track™ supported / driven?

Ladder-Track™ is positively driven using sprockets and additional blank rollers for support on wider belts. Sprockets should be placed on the drive shaft and idle infeed shaft, with all other idle shafts in the circuit fitted with blank rollers for belt support only.

Ladder-Track™ can be supported in a few different ways but is commonly supported using round bar and half round clip on Ultra-High-Molecular-Weight Polyethylene close to either edge of the belt.

Additional supports should be added towards the centre of the conveyor when fitting wider belts.

What materials is Ladder-Track™ available in?

Ladder-Track™ is available in 304 Stainless Steel and mid-tensile Carbon Steel as standard.



LADDER-TRACK™ BELT MAINTENANCE TOOL

The Ladder-Track™ belt maintenance tool makes for easy removal, repair, or installation of Ladder-Track™ Conveyor belts.

To order, call **+44 (0) 1795 421771** or email sales@wirebelt.co.uk and quote part number **017012**.



TECH TIP

HIGH TENSION

Excessive tension within the belt circuit should be avoided to maintain optimum running conditions. The following are known causes of high tension in Ladder Belt applications:

- Belt damage preventing full articulation or side-flex
- Insufficient wear strip placement
- Seized or restricted bearing movement
- Excessive friction between belt and wear strip
- Excessive product loading



Our Commitment to Sustainable Energy

Since Wire Belt's first PVcell installation in 2011 and expansion in 2014, we have seen great benefits, not only by cutting costs and reducing our reliance on electricity suppliers but improving our environment, business and cut our carbon footprint.

When the sun is shining, 795 solar panels on the roof of our manufacturing

headquarters produce 200 kWp of electricity that is either used in real-time by our facility, or fed back to the grid where it benefits our community (and earns us a credit).

Over the last year, the system has generated around 80% of our electricity requirements, which is roughly 160,000

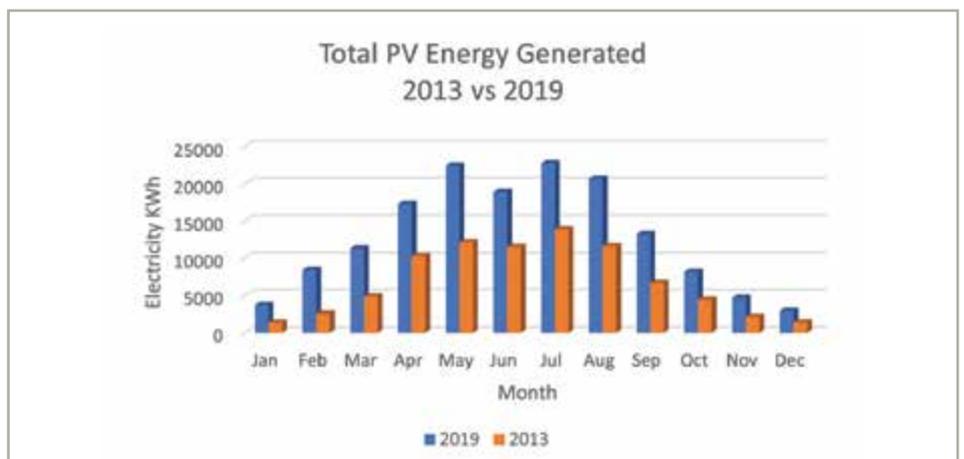
kilowatt-hours (kWhs) of electricity, offsetting the equivalent of driving almost 36 times around the UK and 56 times around Britain in an average passenger vehicle, which equates to 280,000 miles.

Our facilities in the US and Germany are also solar powered, reducing our footprint internationally.

In October 2020, the first installation successfully paid for itself as predicted.

Other sustainable practices we have achieved to meet our objective of becoming energy neutral are as follows;

- Installed a new variable speed energy efficient air compressor.
- Installed solar flex shading to windows facing the sun to reduce the temperature in the summer months and reduce our reliance on air-conditioning.
- LED energy efficient lighting.
- Installed air source heat pumps, to both heat and cool portions of the building.



PRODUCT FOCUS:

Flex-Turn® Conveyor



A Flex-Turn® Conveyor is a turn conveyor available in angles from 45° to 180°

Q&A What is a Flex-Turn® Conveyor?

A Flex-Turn® Conveyor is a turn conveyor available in angles from 45° to 180° allowing for changes in product line direction and maximising available production floor space.

What Flex-Turn® Conveyors sizes are available?

Wire Belt's Flex-Turn® Conveyor range is available with three different inside radii, with 13 total belt widths encompassing both left hand and right-hand directions.

The three inside radii available are 406mm (16"), 812mm (32") and 800mm (31.5") which are available in belt widths ranging from 254mm (10") up to 1270mm (50").

Wire Belt is able to offer its Flex-Turn® Conveyor range in angles from 45° to 180° to meet all production line requirements.

Why do you offer three different models and what are the differences?

To ensure that Wire Belt's Flex-Turn® Conveyor range can be used with a wide range of products, and applications, there are three different models available 600, 700 and 800 series: Models 616/716/816 and 632/732/832 have inside radii of 406mm (16") and 812mm (32") respectively and have larger pitch ranges on the belt to facilitate carrying larger products.

Models 680/780/880 have an inside radius of 800mm (31.5"), having a smaller pitch range to facilitate carrying more delicate

products. The different inside radii also allow for a number of different problem-solving measures when trying to navigate existing machinery.

Each of the above models are available with three different conveyor tops: an open conveyor top with polyethylene support rails, a solid polyethylene top and a solid stainless steel top.

What are the advantages/benefits of using Flex-Turn® Conveyors?

Wire Belt's Flex-Turn® Conveyors utilise a conical Flex-Turn® belt to maintain product spacing and positioning through movement. This allows for automated systems further in the line to continue to operate without user input.

The compact design of the Flex-Turn® can eliminate problems facing a manufacturer in their sequential processing operations, the conveyor is designed to assist manufacturers in turning their production line 45, 90 or 180 degrees to save footprint space in their plant, thus saving the cost of increasing production area.

The design of the Enhanced Hygienic range, with its wash through construction, self-draining surfaces and open leg frame, makes the cleaning process simpler and quicker, reducing running costs and downtime, improving efficiency and thus increasing profitability.

Each of the conveyor top options mentioned previously have their own advantages for different applications. The open conveyor top

allows for easy removal of debris (dry or wet) by dropping away from the conveyed product while being transported and facilitates washing and draining of product whilst on the move. The solid polyethylene and stainless steel top supports allow for conveying smaller products at risk of falling through the belt and becoming entangled with the strands of the belt. The stainless steel option is particularly suited in meat processing situations.

Where are Flex-Turn® Conveyors used?

Wire Belt's Flex-Turn® Conveyors are used in production lines where a change in direction is necessary to continue the process of manufacturing. This may be in areas where a production line is modular and different machinery is required for different products, or where space is a premium and a production line continues in a different direction or even in the opposite direction.

Due to the design features of the Enhanced Hygienic range Flex-Turn® conveyors have been used in environments where hygiene is of the utmost importance, such as food production, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and electronics. The Flex-Turn® conveyor has been used in applications that involve freezing, cooking, breasting, baking, sterilising and many more.

Products conveyed on the Flex-Turn® Conveyor include pizza's, biscuits, chicken pieces, petfood, ice cream, seafood, diagnostic components and sterilised medical equipment.



TENSIONING TECHNIQUES

Flat-Flex® and Flex Turn® Belts are low-tension belts and control of belt length is vital to maintain correct tension.

Tech Tip: Never over-tension your belt. Too much tension will inevitably cause premature belt failure.

Use only the lowest tension needed to engage the drive sprockets properly.

All conveyor circuits should have provision for adjusting belt tension and to facilitate installation of the belt. If excess belt length accumulates loosely on the return path the belt may slip or jump off the drive sprockets.

Take-up of slack can be done in several ways: The simplest method is to allow the belt to sag on the return side of the belt circuit (called a catenary). The weight of the belt itself keeps the needed tension on the drive shaft. This is the preferred approach for tensioning Flat-Flex®.

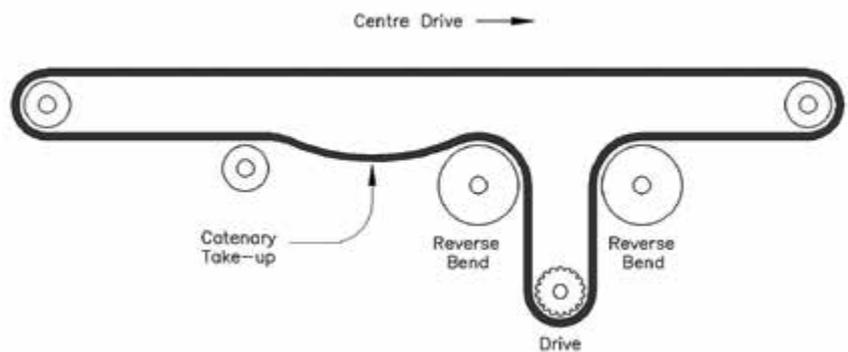
Tech Tip: Rule of thumb: catenary sag should be 50-100mm for 900mm between support rolls.

For the applications where catenary is not practical, we recommend 'gravity' take up. This is the case especially if the belt will be subjected to considerable variations in temperature. (Temperature affects belt length – if a belt goes through an oven or fryer, its length is extended).

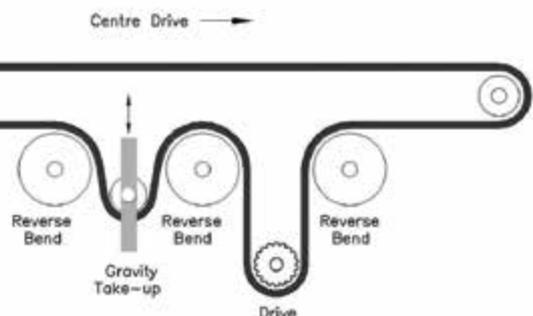
Manual or 'screw' take ups provide easy tensioning adjustment for short conveyors. For long conveyors, with appropriate drive arrangements, 'spring', 'hydraulic' or 'pneumatic' type tension adjustment are sometimes used.

For more information call +44 (0) 1795 421771 or email sales@wirebelt.co.uk

Catenary Take-up



Gravity Take-up



The Coronavirus Year

2020 is a year that will be long remembered in years to come, the year that the Wire Belt family globally, has had to adapt to Coronavirus - and it appears that we are in for the long haul into 2021 and possibly beyond.

With your help and support we have been able to keep our customers production lines running, there have been many challenges to deliver our belts and conveyors to our customers with logistics being a major factor.

Several customers and distributors have taken advantage of our various stock holding options or have arranged for larger than normal consignments. This has not only assured stock availability but also aided in keeping their costs under control.

The way in which we undertake our business, approach the market, and support our customers has changed. Restrictions

on travel, limited production site access and curtailment of physical exhibitions is leading to a whole new era of virtual communications.

Prospecting for new customers due to these changes and other obstacles presents us with an opportunity to look at new and innovative ways to gain interest and win new business for our portfolio of belts and conveyors.

Wire Belt is determined to evolve and adapt to the challenges that Coronavirus has presented, but paramount to any of this is the wellbeing of the Wire Belt family, its customers, and its suppliers, and to ensure that you and your family keep safe during these uncertain times.

Ross Higgs
Sales & Marketing Manager



Wire Belt and Brexit

The United Kingdom (UK) has left the European Union (EU), and the transition to enable the UK and EU to negotiate new trade tariffs, will begin at midnight on the 31st December 2020. New rules take effect from 1st January 2021.

Wire Belt are following very closely

what these new rules may be and how they will affect our customers. However, things are changing continuously, and we know that there will be many changes over the coming months.

The Wire Belt Group is prepared and well placed to ensure that your orders are manufactured and despatched on time.

Keeping Your Production Lines Running

If you would like to take advantage of our stock holding options or would like to arrange a larger consignment than normal to ease the pressure and maintain production, call our Customer Service Team and they will be available to help you.

Wire Belt offers two solutions to solve your stocking requirements.

Consignment Stock

The pressure for efficient and cost-effective

handling of essential spares for your equipment has resulted in consignment stock becoming the standard approach adopted by many major processors and their suppliers. Consignment stock is ideal for large volume users, it anticipates the need for spares and Wire Belt makes these spares available on site for immediate use.

Benefits

- Release cash previously committed to stock
- No 'Out of Stock' downtime

- Reduce stock holding cost
- Eliminates express freight charges
- Peace of mind

Hold Awaiting Release

The objective of the hold awaiting release system is to ensure that you should have your key metal conveyor belts available for immediate despatch from Wire Belt. The system is both simple to operate and has flexibility to fit with customers purchasing routines.

The 'Hold Awaiting Release' system works well for all belts, especially those special belts where manufacture takes two or more weeks.

Benefits

- Peace of mind key belts are ready for despatch same day
- Stockholding cost minimised
- Any out of stock or downtime limited to transit
- Specialist belts always available - no waiting 2 weeks or more.

To find out more about either of these services contact our Customer Service Team **+44 (0) 1795 421771** or email sales@wirebelt.co.uk



Wire Belt Marketing in a Post COVID-19 World

2020 the year that we had to adopt a new normal. What was normal anyway? It was inevitable that the development of online technology would have taken us to a virtual world, but did anyone expect it to come this quickly?

If your business is like ours, digital sales tools are already available but like most maintaining contact with existing customers, building new relationships, and negotiating with suppliers was done 'Face-to-Face' with the help of those digital resources.

'We are now living a 'New Era' of virtual communications, with traditional face to face meetings almost a thing of the past, businesses are embracing a future within a 'Virtual World.'

Wire Belt have been focussing on developing its sales tools, with information available in digital formats such as instructional videos, product brochures, troubleshooting and installation guides. On our website, you will not only find this information but also several updates, features, and benefits to help our customers navigate and find the product or service that they need.

We are also now looking at the future of exhibitions, will we ever see the traditional stand build, endless packing cases, and promotional gifts? Already we have seen two of our usual exhibitions offer virtual exhibition space, ProPak Asia and Pack Expo. Both have produced virtual online space to showcase products and offer online chat or video calls. We are making the most of this service, watch out for links to our future digital showrooms on LinkedIn, Twitter, or on our website.

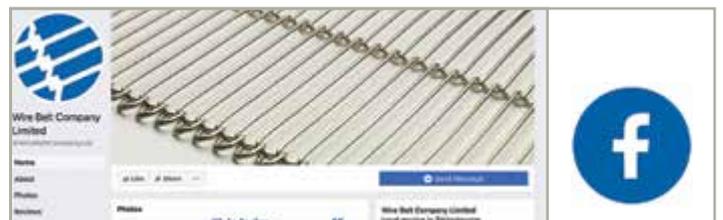
Restrictions on travel across the world make this a useful tool for companies to show their offering and for businesses looking for new suppliers and innovative solutions to

their manufacturing processes. Virtual online exhibition space looks to be the direction many exhibitions will take. This has also presented us with the opportunity to look at other new and innovative ways to gain interest and win new business.

We will keep our customers up to date with all new developments through our social media channels and on our website. If you would like any information on any of our products call +44 (0) 1795 421771 or email sales@wirebelt.co.uk



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www.wirebelt.co.uk



DECEMBER 2020

Promoting Within

Promoting from within our company gives a great feeling of pride, Wire Belt are pleased to appoint Gabe Boxall to the position of Senior Technical Sales Engineer. His plans are to ensure we deliver the very best technical support and advice to our customers.

We wish Gabe every success in his new role! If you need any advice or support for any of our products give our technical sales team a call +44 (0) 1795 421771, or email sales@wirebelt.co.uk.



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