



19.02.2018 / Randy Shannon

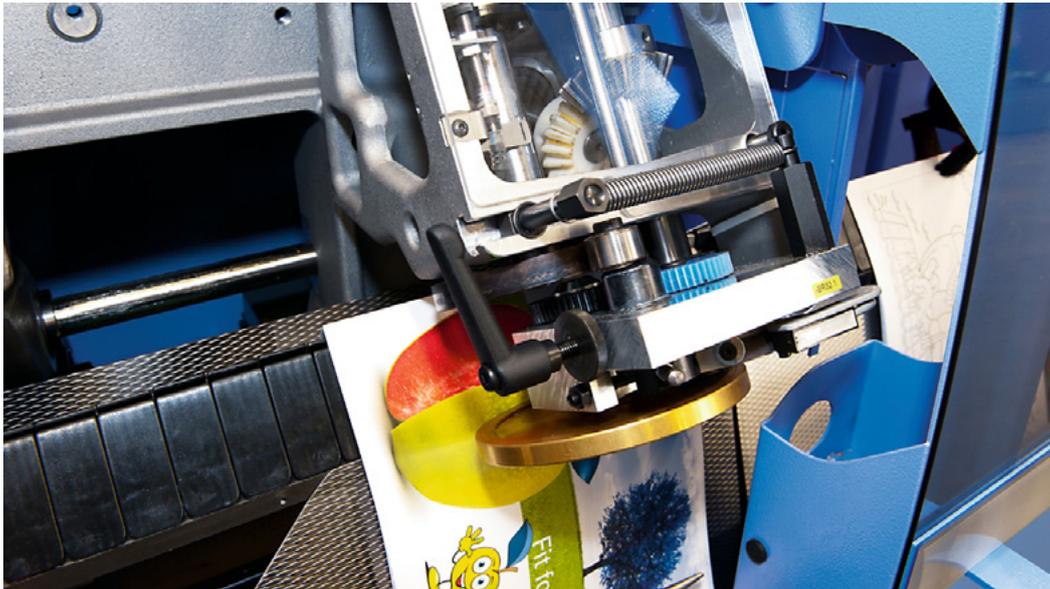
Quality saddle-stitched products ensure customer-saving results

When I was a young bindery manager, a customer service representative handed me a stack of books, all with signatures in the wrong order. Naturally, the rep was upset. The order was for an important customer – and the books had been delivered to their office.

I then surveyed the skids of work in my bindery, some in logs, some in piles, some identified only by a handwritten sheet of paper. What's more, all were being fed into pockets by temporary labor. This got me thinking about what criteria should be used to measure the quality of products coming off my saddle stitcher.

As a representative for Muller Martini for more than twenty years, today I speak with customers all the time about ways to measure the quality of a saddle stitched book, including:





Lateral thickness measurement on the gathering chain.

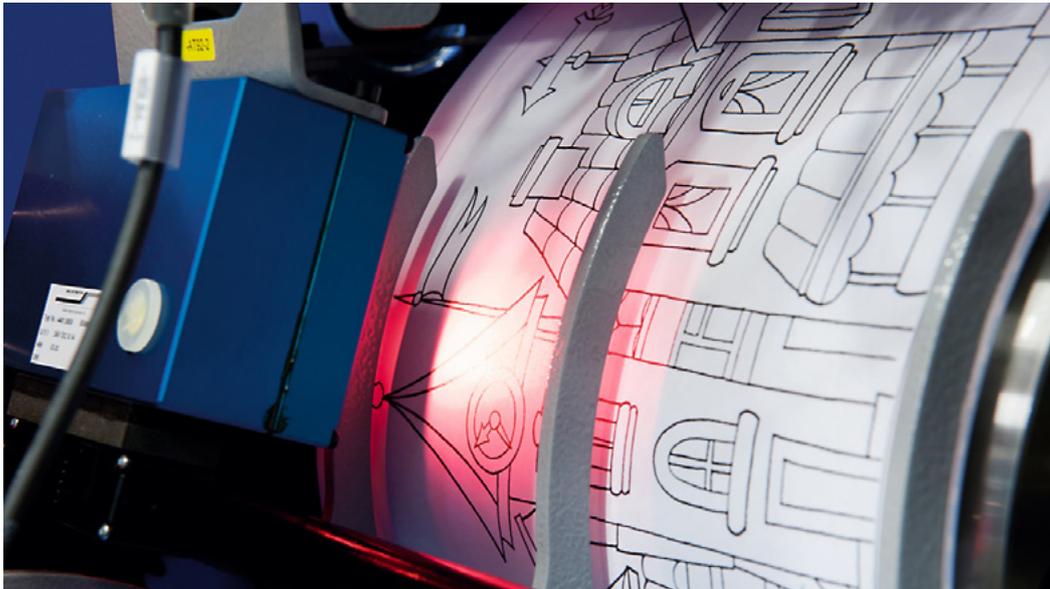
- ▶ **Book construction.** Are all the signatures in the right order and in the right orientation? Are they from the correct job?
- ▶ **Book alignment.** Did all the sheets register against the chain pin to ensure no images are trimmed and crossover images are in specification?
- ▶ **Stitch quality.** Are the correct number of stitches in every book, and is the wire thickness appropriate to the product requirements?
- ▶ **Format and trim quality.** Is every book cut to the correct size and the images properly centered on the finished book?

Back in the day you relied on a “helper” to check for these attributes. But today’s jobs are coming too quickly for even the most trained and dedicated employee to perform this function. What’s more, customers are no longer satisfied with 99.9% good books. They expect the entire job to be correct.

How can your bindery reliably manage these demanding expectations? Modern saddle stitching systems provide features that automatically examine every book for every attribute, and prevent bad books from getting to the stitcher, trimmer, and delivery. Quality control systems to reduce or eliminate customer claims include:

- ▶ **ASIR (Automated Signature Image Recognition).** This validates the correct job has been loaded and ensures that every signature is in the correct order and orientation.
- ▶ **Copy Control / Downstream Inhibit.** After a signature feeding fault, this feature prevents good work from being added to a miss-collated or incomplete book.
- ▶ **Oblique Sheet Monitor.** Prevents “hangers” and sheets not registered to the pins from reaching the stitcher and trimmer.
- ▶ **Ridge and Side Calipers.** These measure the book thickness to ensure the correct number of signatures has arrived at the stitcher.
- ▶ **Stitch Monitor and Smart Stitch Control.** Assures every book has the correct number of stitches and detects the proper shape of every individual stitch.





Asir 3 Barcode Recognition and Image Comparison

New saddle stitching machines perform these checks – on every single book. If I had had these systems as a young bindery manager, I would have slept a lot better at night.

Randy Shannon
Regional Sales Manager
Muller Martini USA

