

PLASTICS PRODUCT REVIEW

Note from PPR- This report is designed to be concise and to the point. It does not contain data you can find elsewhere. This report is the only spot where you can find this information. Everything we state in this report is backed up by data and hours of testing. We believe in quality reports with hard hitting facts as opposed to piles of information with little meaning. The testing conducted for this report took thirty-six hours to complete. You have made a wise choice, which will make your purchasing decisions easier.

Material Loading Systems

This article will cover the advantages and disadvantages of machine mounted material loaders. Not all loaders are the same. Loaders vary in price, throughput, decibel levels, and ease of use. Our report breaks down each of these issues.

This report will cover the advantages and disadvantages of each loading system based on the test results. At the completion of the main body of the report we will present our recommendations. The separate How and What We Test section describes exactly what variables are evaluated. This section also goes on to describe how and why variables are examined. The data itself is presented in a chart format at the conclusion of the report.

Test Results



Companies with this emblem next to their name have earned the Plastics Product Review Seal of Approval based on their upper echelon test results.

Conair

Conair's loader has some ease of use advantages, but suffered slightly in the throughput portion of the test. Conair's loader is the smallest in diameter of any loader, hence, it takes up less space on the molding machine. On the other hand, it is also the lightest loader tested, and could be subject to damage easier than the more heavily constructed units of other competitors. This loader offers as standard several control features and a pressure gauge. The loader also performed quite quietly for those concerned about plant ambiance. Overall, Conair's loader earned a composite score of 4.00 (1 being the best, 6 the worst).

Motan

Motan's loader did not fare well in our test. The loader is solidly constructed, but in our testing its throughput was low while decibel levels were high. This is coupled with a relatively high price. Perhaps durability is the wild card here, but in our test the Motan loader scored a composite rating of 5.33.

Nucon



This loader is big and built like a tank. Nucon's loader would survive a car crash without a seat belt. Unfortunately, this also means its heavy and bulky, so it depends on what you prefer. On the positive side, this bulk comes with a high throughput. Disadvantages include a high decibel level and the highest price tag out of the loaders we tested. Its a question of what you want, this is a quality loader, but you have to pay for it. Overall, the Nucon loader exhibited a composite rating of 2.66.

Pneu-Con

This loader features average performance at a below average price. For those looking for a simple, basic loader without a lot of features and average performance, this is your choice. Pneu-Con's loader has a composite score of 4.00.

Telar



This loader combined the lowest decibel level with high throughputs to form a nice package. Additionally it is competitively priced and has a low profile. Overall, this loader takes the Best Buy in this category. Its composite score is 1.67.

TNT



This relatively new upstart company offers one of the best loader values on the market. This hybrid loader is compact and light, yet solidly constructed. Its almost as if the Nucon and Conair loaders meshed into one to form TNT's construction. This loader had the second highest throughput and the lowest decibel level at a reasonable price. The composite score of this loader is 2.66.

Conclusions

The Telar loader has the best composite score because of its low decibel levels and high throughputs. This coupled with its low price earns it a Best Buy. We also suggest looking into the Nucon and TNT loaders depending on the application.

How and What We Test

What We Test

Decibel Level- Loaders can get quite loud. For those who want a quiet facility this is an important consideration.

Throughput- Throughput is both a measure of how much material can be conveyed in an hour, and how long the conveyor needs to be "on" to do its job (its power).

How We Test

Decibel Level- The output of noise is measured with a calibrated, certified decibel meter.

Throughput- The loading system is set up on the stand with a large container below it. Material is then run through the loader for a set amount of time. The material is then weighed and the amount of time is figured into an equation giving the weight in lb./hr.

<i>Loading Systems</i>						
	Conair	Motan	Nucon	Pneu-Con	Telar	TNT
<i>Decibel Level (dB)</i>	76 (2)	85 (5)	88 (6)	84 (4)	75 (1)	76 (2)
<i>Rated Throughput*</i>	500	200	500	700	1000	650
<i>Actual Throughput*</i>	960 (5)	900 (6)	1260 (1)	1040 (4)	1195 (2)	1170 (3)
(Virgin Material)						
<i>Actual Throughput*</i>	720 (5)	720 (5)	1080 (1)	870 (4)	992 (2)	990 (3)
(Regrind Material)						
<i>Cost</i>	\$1,226	\$1,280	\$1,318	\$779	\$1,145	\$995
*lbs per hour						
<i>Composite Average Ranking</i>	4.00 (4)	5.33 (6)	2.66 (2)	4.00 (4)	1.67 (1)	2.66 (2)

Explanation of Loader Chart and Data

The numbers in parenthesis represent each product's ranking in that category in comparison to the other machines. A product ranked (2) in a six product test was the second best out of the six in that category. The "Composite Average Ranking" is the average of the rankings in each category. A product with a "Composite Average Ranking" of 3.25 averaged a little worse than third best as a whole.

Decibel Level- The loader is measured for sound while it is loading material. The lower the decibel level the better.

Rated Throughput- This is the value listed in the company's literature as the throughput in pounds per hour.

Actual Throughput- These are the values we obtained in our testing. The Virgin Material throughput is taken from a resin taken directly from the gaylord. The Regrind Material throughput is taken from a material that has been granulated.

Cost- The list price of the loaders at the time of the testing.

Directory

Bry-Air Systems
Phone: 740-965-2974
Website: www.bry-air.thomasregister.com

Pneu-Con Pneumatic Conveying Inc.
Phone: 909-923-4481
Website: www.pneu-con.com

Conair
Phone: 800-654-6661
Website: www.conairnet.com

Telar Corp
Phone: 440-331-6115
Website: www.telar.com

Motan Inc.
Phone: 616-685-1050
Website: www.plasticsnet.com/motan

TNT Distributing
Phone: 828-396-8166
Website: www.northernsupply.com

Nucon Systems Inc.
Phone: 888-466-8266
Website: www.nuconsystems.com