

WORK STATION CRANES IN ACTION: PALLETIZING

GORBEL HELPS DISTRIBUTION CENTER IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY

Industry	Regional Distribution Center
Application	Palletizing retail products
Solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gorbel Freestanding side by side crane with lift tube system
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased productivity with lift assist system• Freestanding system with few columns does not interfere with fork truck traffic

Application

This customer was a manufacturer who received a multi-year contract from a large national retailer to supply retail products for regional distribution centers. The manufacturer was required to build individual pallet orders on a per-store basis for thousands of locations. This required the company to dedicate an in-house order picking "store" to palletize the requests of individual retail locations. The company wanted a lift assist system that would allow 2 workers per shift to build 20 pallets (240 cases) per worker hour in a work cell measuring 100' x 40'.

Challenges

This application posed several challenges for this customer.

- There was a high potential for Muscular Skeletal Disorders and fatigue due to the repeated bending and twisting involved in loading the cases onto the pallets.
- The cases were large and ranged in size from 50 up to 200 lbs, so the lifting system would need to be flexible enough to handle this range.

This manufacturer was able to implement a free-standing lift assist system while still maintaining a clear path for fork truck traffic. The result? Workers in this 100' x 40' area are able to build 20 pallets (240 cases) per worker hour.

- The building was not designed to handle any load on its ceiling joists, so a ceiling mounted system wouldn't work. However, the palletizing was done in an area with considerable lift truck traffic, so a freestanding system could not take up huge amounts of floor space.

Gorbel's Solution

The customer installed a Gorbel freestanding side by side crane with two lift tube systems with custom case feet and extended control handles.

This Gorbel freestanding crane was an ideal solution because it supports 2 separate 100' x 18.6', 250 lb capacity bridge crane systems, yet it shares a common floor mounted support frame with no center columns. With fewer columns, there is less interference with fork truck traffic.

