

# CASE STUDY

## Precision Parts Manufacturer Switches from Kraft Paper Bags to Autobag® Bags-on-a-Roll for Productivity Gains.

Preci-Manufacturing, Inc. of Winooski, Vermont, manufactures precision mechanical components for the aerospace, defence, injection moulding, optoelectronics and medical instrumentation markets. The company specialises in rotating components made from high-temperature metal alloys, such as Inconel® and Waspaloy®.

### Previous Packaging Method

When products are packaged it is usually one item per bag. Since much of the company's work is for the US Military, components used to be packaged in waterproof, greaseproof Kraft paper bags. This was a very labour-intensive packaging process that required opening the bag by hand, inserting the product, closing and sealing the bag, and affixing a printed label on the outside. When Automated Packaging Systems introduced MLT1 and MLT2, new plastic bag materials that meet Mil Spec DTL-117H, it opened the door for a new type of bag packaging that yields tremendous improvements in productivity.

### New Packaging Method

Lloyd Grunvald, vice-president of manufacturing at Preci-Manufacturing, had seen the Autobag® bagging systems at trade shows and was interested in that kind of speed and efficiency for his operation, but the US Military required the special Kraft paper for its packaging. As soon as he learned that Automated Packaging Systems' new plastic bag-on-a-roll material met the necessary Mil Spec requirements for waterproof, greaseproof bags, he knew he could reduce costs and improve productivity with an automated solution.

Preci-Manufacturing selected an Autobag® AB 180™ high-speed, automated bag packaging system with integrated PI 412c thermal transfer imprinter. They now package their components in plastic polybags and use the inline printer to print Part Number, Quantity, Date, NSN, Barcode and more directly onto the bag, thus eliminating the need for separate labels. Standard components are packaged with standard Autobag materials and military components are packaged with Autobag MLT materials. The MLT bags are made of co-extruded films that are extremely strong, with excellent barrier properties and a sealant layer that improves seal strength and makes the bag waterproof and greaseproof. MLT films meet military specifications and are available as clear or opaque in 4-mm thickness.

### Company Name

Preci-Manufacturing, Inc - Manufactures precision mechanical components for the aerospace, defense, injection molding, opto-electronics and medical instrumentation markets.

### Products Being Packaged

Rotating components made from high temperature metal alloys

### Equipment Used

Autobag® AB 180™ high-speed, automated bag packaging system with integrated PI 412c thermal transfer imprinter

### Custom Integration

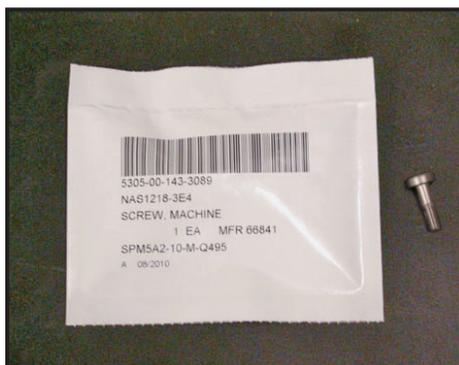
Autobag® AB 180™ did not require custom integration for this application.

### Materials Used

Autobag MLT co-extruded bags

### Return on Investment

'A 20,000 piece job would take us two weeks to package before, and now we can have that done in two days.'



The Autobag AB 180 bagger is used as a semi-automatic system with one operator hand loading the product into a pre-opened bag that is automatically positioned for easy insertion and then automatically sealed and dropped into a bin for distribution. The bags are printed in-line with the proper barcode and product information, eliminating the need for a separate label. The Autobag AB 180 is capable of packaging up to 80 bags per minute and changeovers between jobs take less than two minutes.

## Success Story

Lloyd Grunvald says, 'We would need three to four additional people if we didn't have the Autobag bagger. A 20,000-piece job would take us two weeks to package before, and now we can have that done in two days.'

Preci-Manufacturing typically has one full-time person operating the Autobag system to keep up with demand. Most products are packaged in 3 x 3.5 inch or 4 x 6 inch bags. All bag packaging criteria, including printing specs, are stored in the system memory and called up by Part Number using the operator-friendly AutoTouch™ control screen.

## The Benefits

Automated Packaging Systems was able to deliver a bag packaging solution with:

- Increased Productivity
- Reduced Costs
- Fast Changeover Between Runs
- Ease of Use

Preci-Manufacturing primarily serves Fortune 500 companies and can have more than 400 jobs in house at any one time. The company was founded in 1952 and continues to manufacture all of its quality products in the US. Learn more at [www.preci.com](http://www.preci.com)

Automated Packaging Systems has been designing and manufacturing original Autobag®, AirPouch® and SidePouch® systems and products for over 50 years. With more than 30,000 packaging systems in operation and a worldwide service organisation, Automated Packaging Systems has the experience and support to deliver the ultimate in customer satisfaction. Automated Packaging Systems offers a complete line of baggers, void-fill and protective packaging systems, thermal transfer imprinters, counters, scales, and specialty packaging materials. Complete information is available at the company's website. Learn more at [www.autobag.co.uk](http://www.autobag.co.uk)

Inconel® is a registered trademark of Special Metals Corporation.  
Waspaloy® is a registered trademark of United Technologies Corp.

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