

Maximum flexibility
Maximum productivity



TOOLING

FLEX RACK

Automated sword-setting

Fast and flexible set-up of non-stop swords used in straight blank pile delivery.

Modern converters require consistently fast and precise equipment to produce the complex packaging brands demand. They need to perform with the highest level of efficiency, but to do so, every step

of production must be optimized. This includes straight blank pile delivery; where processed blanks are stacked on pallets with the use of non-stop swords. Unfortunately for converters, setting non-stop swords is currently a difficult and time-consuming process. Every blanking tool has a different sword combination,

but conventional swords are still manually set, leading to extremely long calibration times and plenty of downtime. This reduces the amount and variety of blanking jobs converters can accept, hugely affecting productivity.

BOBST Flex Rack practically eliminates the manual calibration of non-stop swords, removing the need to individually move, position and lock each one. Easily and fully integrated with existing BOBST systems, it saves converters time when switching over dies, allowing them to accommodate tooling for new orders with the greatest speed and efficiency.



FLEX RACK

- > At a glance
- > Benefits and features
- > How Flex Rack works
- > Easy installation

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Compared to conventional systems, Flex Rack revolutionizes straight blank pile delivery, providing a huge range of benefits for converters.



Fundamentally efficient

Flex Rack non-stop swords are set by pushing them against blanking tools and locking them in place en masse, leading to setting times measured in minutes, not hours. This doesn't just save staff time to do other tasks, it lets converters accept more jobs and convert with more dies, improving overall productivity.



Exceptionally versatile

Convenient and versatile, Flex Rack ensures converters can effectively undertake every job. Even the smallest blanks are supported by Flex Rack as both 10mm and 15mm diameter swords can be used, and since the system incorporates many swords – either 42, 60 or 66 – even the most complex blanking forms can be accommodated. The system can be used when producing food-grade packaging too, as each sword is formed from stainless steel.



Straightforward installation

Flex Rack can be incorporated extremely quickly and can replace conventional loose-sword systems in as little as one working day. Afterwards, users can enjoy fast, simple positioning and locking thanks to Flex Rack's vastly decreased set-up times, ensuring the efficiency of operations.

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The Flex Rack universal non-stop rack can be set up in three ways, allowing converters to carry out a wide range of blanking operations and ensuring that businesses can adapt to many different types of orders.



Universal

All Flex Rack non-stop swords are pushed against the lower blanking tool, with the restricted, non-active swords being locked into the rear locking bar.

Adapted

Operators use pre-decided sword setting information provided by die-makers to immediately recognize active and non-active non-stop swords, allowing Flex Rack to be set up even faster than usual.

Complete activation

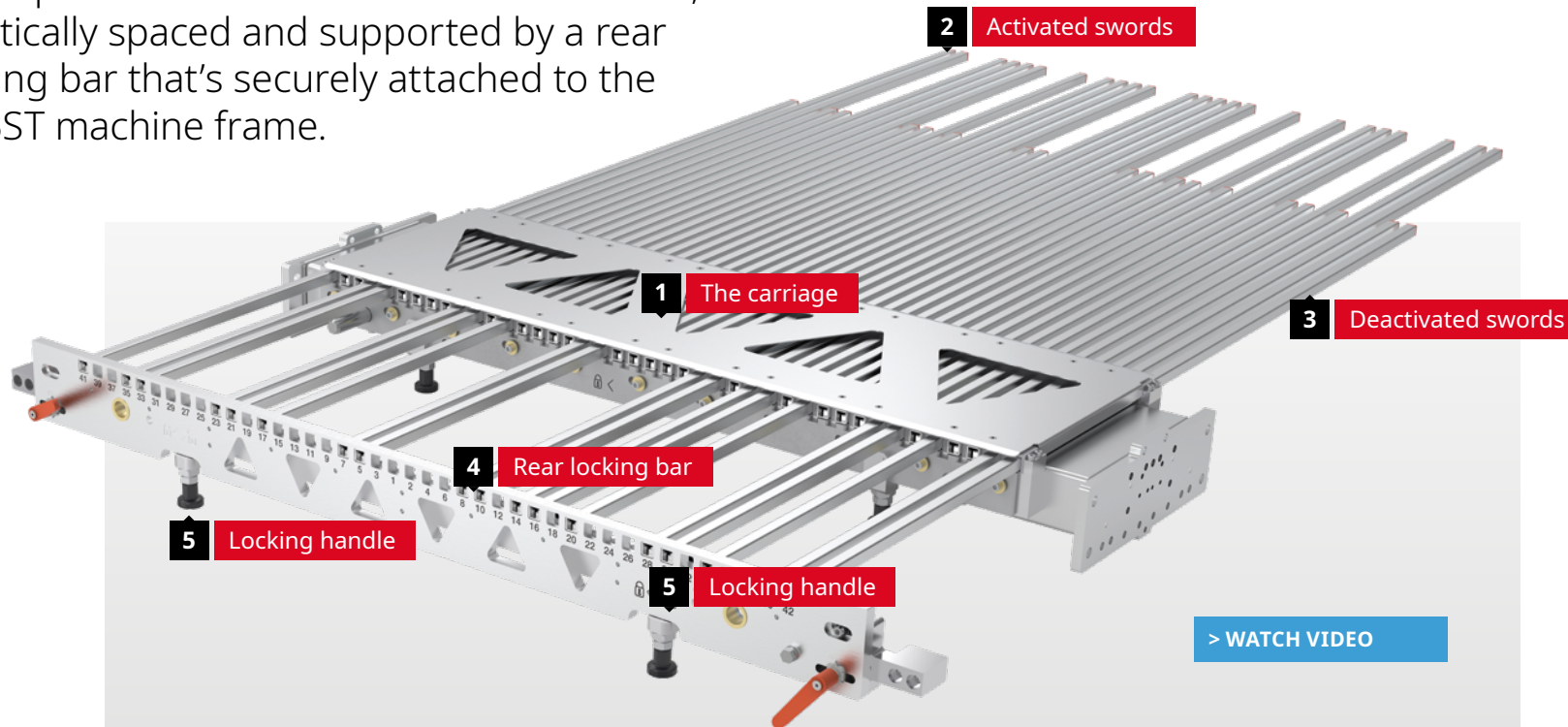
If the guides and guide strips of the lower blank separating tool fit perfectly between the swords, all non-stop swords are locked in an active position.

FLEX RACK

- > At a glance
- > Benefits and features
- > How Flex Rack works
- > Easy installation

How Flex Rack works

The Flex Rack system is simple but inventive. It comprises a rack of stainless-steel swords, identically spaced and supported by a rear locking bar that's securely attached to the BOBST machine frame.



FLEX RACK

- > At a glance
- > Benefits and features
- > How Flex Rack works
- > Easy installation

A moveable **carriage 1** runs along the swords, which are pushed against the installed blanking tool and individually locked within the carriage if they do not make contact.

While conventional non-stop racks require each sword to be individually and manually set whenever a new blanking form is accommodated, Flex Rack sets swords automatically with minimum amount of labour.

The swords are pushed against the joggles of the lower (female) blanking tool and become **activated swords 2**

The swords blocked by the blanking tool joggles become **deactivated swords 3**

The deactivated swords are pulled into the **rear locking bar 4**

Deactivated swords are locked into the rear locking bar using the **locking handles 5**

The system is now ready for operation.

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Flex Rack has been specifically designed for use in BOBST die-cutters with blanking units and can be installed on nearly all BOBST machinery, including older blanking tools.



Initial assembly of Flex Rack only takes a few hours. Because the system is simply and easily fastened to existing machine elements, installation doesn't involve changing the mechanical drives or machine control systems of die-cutters. To ensure trouble-free operation, the weight of the system is similar to original BOBST equipment.

Revolutionizing the blanking process

A new system for delivering straight blank piles, Flex Rack directly improves the productivity of converters to raise their capabilities and help them produce exceptional-quality packaging. It's a continuation of BOBST's commitment to pushing the boundaries of manufacturing technology with innovative yet reliable solutions to the challenges faced by manufacturers.

Flex Rack is suitable for the following:

- SP 102-CER*
- SP 103 ER
- SP 104-ER*
- SP 106 ER | 106 PER
- SP 130-ER
- SP 142-CER
- SP 162-CER*
- EXPERCUT 106 PER | 106 LER | 145 PER
- VISIONCUT 106 LER | 145 PER
- NOVACUT 106 ER
- MASTERCUT 106 PER | 145 PER
- SPRINTERA 106 PER | 145 PER
- SPANTHERA 106 LER | 145 PER

Find out more about how Flex Rack could transform your die-cutting operations by visiting

> WWW.BOBST.COM/TOOLING

*Modification of end door necessary

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