

FILAMATIC NEWS

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*Manufacturers of Liquid
Filling, Capping and
Packaging Systems*



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FILAMATIC® Dual-Purpose Monobloc To Be PDA's Principal Training Equipment

National Instrument Company's newly introduced **MODULAR MONOBLOC** machine is being installed in a Class 100 environment at the PDA Training and Research Institute (PDA/TRI) located in Catonsville, Maryland. The Institute is a component of the PDA which is located in Bethesda, Maryland and was originally founded as the Parenteral Drug Association in 1946. The primary mission of the PDA is to promote the growth of pharmaceutical sciences and technology. The first pharmaceutical association facility of its kind, the Institute serves as a worldwide center for meeting the needs of the pharmaceutical industries in the area for education, training, and applied research.

Students from industry, government, and university sectors within the United States as well as individuals from abroad will train at the Institute's new facility.

According to Mike Korczynski, Ph.D., V.P. Education/Director, PDA-TRI, "This equipment will be used to enhance our current lecture based course offerings to include comprehensive, hands-on and practical applications. Further, it is anticipated that over time the PDA Institute will develop certain applied research initiatives which will prove to have broad based benefits to all pharmaceutical firms. It is envisioned that the filling line will be an important factor in contributing to those applied efforts."

This new **MONOBLOC** machine's modular component design enables the operator to easily convert it to apply either screw caps or aluminum overcaps. Trade named **FILAMATIC®** Model MNB-P-LD, this machine achieves production rates up to 55 containers per minute, with fill accuracies to $\pm 1/4\%$. A wide variety of products can be filled on this machine from free flowing liquids to viscous creams. Liquid volumes up to 250 ml can be dispensed and containers up to 2.5 inches in diameter can be handled.

The standard configuration of the MNB-P-LD accommodates stoppers and overcaps from 13 mm to 20 mm, plugs from 10 mm to 24 mm and screw caps from 10 mm to 28 mm. With modifications to the machine, a very wide range of shapes and sizes can be accommodated. Multiple operations can be performed, including fill/plug/screw cap and fill/stopper/overcap. All machine functions, such as speed, fill volume and cap torque are easily adjusted using the touch screen display panel. The touch screen control panel also enables the adjustment from one bottle, tip, cap or stopper size to another quickly and easily. Presets for each application are stored in memory which enables many of the adjustments to be made automatically.

Servo motors are employed on the filler drive, turret drive, cap and tip placing station and cap tightener drive to assure optimum performance and years of trouble free service.

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The handling process uses the familiar turret style indexing system. Containers are filled, plugged, stopped, overcapped and/or capped as they are indexed by the rotating turret.

The servo capping system has also been dramatically improved by using the new "Quick-Change Collet Chuck."** The low inertia of the Collet Chuck improves the performance of the cap servo feedback control system. The feedback control system trips the servo torque control when the torque setting is reached, and maintains a dwell to provide more precise torque control and shorter cycle times. Quick-change tooling cuts set-up time dramatically.

The Collet Crimping Head** forms and seals aluminum overcaps onto containers. The overcaps can be completely sealed in a total crimping cycle time of less than one second. The crimp tool is air actuated and provides a tight, leak-proof seal, with no visible marks or

striations. The Collet Crimping Head eliminates spinning rollers, thus reducing a potential source of particulate generation. The tool draws the edge of the cap against and over the rim of the vial to form a smooth overcap in one quick, quiet and clean motion. Optional devices that may be included on the machine are a reject station, vision system, labeler and a locate or bottom-up fill nozzle mechanism.

The **FILAMATIC®** Model MNB-P-LD is designed for use under laminar air flow in a Class 100 clean room. The top plate and container support plates are made of solid, polished stainless steel, which provides a much cleaner operation. All metal product contact parts are fabricated of type 316 or 316L stainless steel. An optional design is available for operation with flammable liquid products.

** Patent Pending