



## FlexLink Provides Modular Solution to Leading Manufacturer of Herbal Teas



*Traditional Medicinals, a leading manufacturer of herbal teas depends on the modularity and flexibility of FlexLink's conveyors. As the company grows rapidly, the layout of the conveyors has changed 6 times. The ease with which FlexLink conveyors can be reconfigured is crucial to the growth of the company.*



### PROBLEM

With product names like Throat Coat and Breathe Easy, you would not think we were talking about something you could drink. Welcome to the world of Herbal Teas. Over the past 25 years Traditional Medicinals, the leading supplier of medicinal herbal teas, has seen its demand grow at a rapid pace. Today, Traditional Medicinals has six IMA tea machines running 18 hours a day for 5 to 7 days per week. At this rate they produce 30,000 or more cases of tea per week. Due to the successive growth rate of the company and the high volume of tea being produced, Traditional Medicinals needed to more fully automate their process. A modular product was required, so as the company expanded, the production process could be easily reconfigured.



### SOLUTION

In 1992, Traditional Medicinals determined that FlexLink conveyors were the best choice to move their product through the manufacturing process. This original system started with exit conveyors which would take the product from the output of 2 IMA tea machines and transport them to a main line. Now, eight years later, Traditional Medicinals has 6 IMA tea machines, all being supported by FlexLink. Over 150 feet of FlexLink XM conveyor connect the IMA tea machines to high-speed check weighers, gluing and boxing stations. "The biggest advantage with FlexLink is its modularity and ease of reconfiguring", says Alvin Hasin, Facilities Engineering Manager.

As Traditional Medicinals has grown, they have had to change the layout and flow 6 different times. With each change, FlexLink was able to meet the challenges.



*XM Incline conveyors delivering tea boxes to on-the-fly box gluing and check weighing machines.*

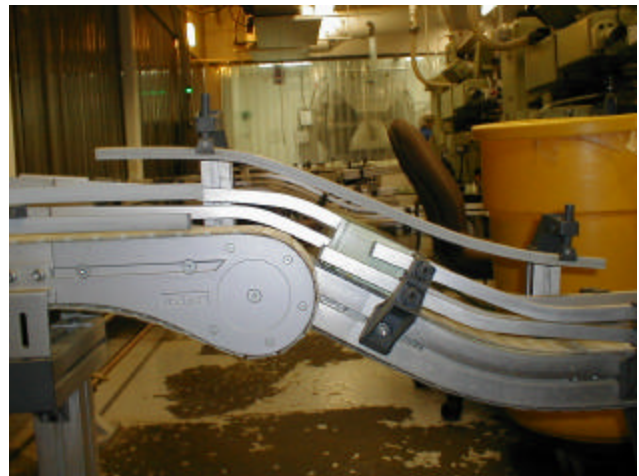
Because Traditional Medicinals understood the true flexibility of FlexLink, they designed, built and implemented an electrical and control system that is as modular as FlexLink. Traditional Medicinals went with an IDEC PLC to handle the interfaces between the conveyors and manufacturing equipment. "My idea behind the control and electrical system", according to Alvin, "was to keep it simple, reliable and modular. As Traditional Medicinals grows, the manufacturing equipment needs to be brought on-line easily and quickly."



*The vertical capabilities of FlexLink allows Traditional Medicinals to accommodate the varying heights required in their manufacturing process.*

Traditional Medicinals' success in blending and packaging has also allowed them to offer its expertise to other tea manufacturers in the form of co-packing.

With over 25 years of experience blending, testing and packaging teas, Traditional Medicinals sees a demand for high quality, custom tea blending and packaging. In support of this demand, Traditional Medicinals has recently added 12,000 square feet of warehousing and will soon be putting on-line another IMA tea machine. It looks like FlexLink Systems is in for some more reconfiguring and expanding.



*XM friction top chain allows for steep angle transitions.*

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