

# AB40 AutoBagger

## What is the AB40 AutoBagger?

The AB40 AutoBagger is an automated bale handling system developed to answer the need within the ginning industry for labor reduction in the pressing/bale handling area of the gin plant. Designed by CTC Engineering, refined by and available exclusively through Lummus, this innovative system (patent pending) works with either down-packing or up-packing presses. The AB40 AutoBagger replaces the existing bagger and stuffer in a gin's bale handling system. In most installations, the customer will typically be able to utilize the bale dolly or chain conveyor/transfer station from the existing system.

The AB40 works exclusively with polyethylene film bagging, and accommodates either three small rolls or two large rolls of bagging.

The AB40 features its own console with touch-screen controls (see below right) for ease of operation and can operate in any mode from fully automatic to manual.

## How does the AB40 AutoBagger work?

1. A bale arrives at the AB40 AutoBagger via bale dolly or chain lift conveyor, depending upon the type (down-packing or up-packing) and manufacturer of the bale press.
2. The bale is pushed partially into the bagger chute by the overhead stuffer, sufficient to tighten the previously-placed bag to the bagger chute, thus allowing the bagger carriage grippers to release the bag. The bagger carriage then retracts and elevates to allow passage of the stuffed bale.
3. The stuffer continues forward to move the bale (now inside the bag) until the bale is positioned on the bale scale (optional) and then retracts 2-3 inches to allow an accurate bale weighing.
4. After weighing, the stuffer moves forward again to place the bale fully on the up-ender and in position for the auto fold/seal operation.
5. The stuffer retracts fully in preparation for the next bale.
6. The auto fold/seal sequence begins with the folding down of the top edge of the bag. This is predominantly done by gravity with the last part being accomplished through the aid of two (2) rods sweeping down (in windshield wiper fashion) to extend the fold fully out to the corners and then returning to their rest position. After the top flap is in position, the side flaps are folded by the left/right rotating fold arms (vertical axes). Finally, the bottom flap (with its heating element) comes up to seal the bag. All three rotating items now return to their home positions.
7. The up-ender lowers the bale to the floor at which point the stacker pushes the bale away in preparation for the next bale.
8. The auto load mechanism (commonly referred to as the "carriage") begins to move toward the bale chute, pulling a new bale bag from its roll. The carriage moves forward and down in its approach to the chute. At the appropriate position the bag is opened and positioned fully on the bale chute.
9. Just prior to the bag being fully positioned on the bale chute, the leading edge of the next bag is clamped and held stationary. The continued pull of the carriage on the bag being placed on the bale chute causes the two bags to separate at the perforation.

This completes one auto bag/fold/seal cycle, and the process begins again.



Console Touch-Screen Interface for AB40 AutoBagger

## Advantages:

- Reduced Labor
- Flexible Controls
- Fits in essentially the same footprint as most models of bale pusher/bagger assemblies currently in use



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