

BrilloPAK Boosting UK Manufacturing Efficiency With Automated Solutions



Peter Newman
Founder of Brillopak

One of the major areas in which the UK has room for improvement, compared to other advanced economies, is productivity in manufacturing. One key component of this improvement is the investment in automation and robotics. Brillopak, a company based in southeast England, plays a pivotal role in this transformation by manufacturing flexible automated end of line packing systems, particularly “pick and place” machines.

Founded in 2001, Brillopak has seen substantial growth as more companies seek to automate their packing processes and reduce labour costs. Since then, Brillopak has built numerous machines that have enhanced productivity at various plants nationwide. Their clients include household names like Morrisons, Worldwide Fruit and Pladis. While primarily serving the food industry, their machines are versatile enough for any packing line.

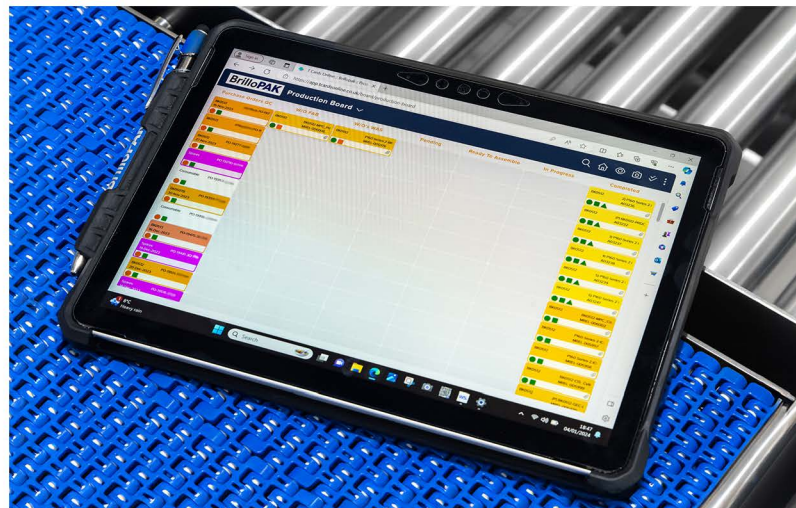
Peter Newman, founder and technical director

“We produce automated end of packing line solutions, including pick and place machines, palletisers and de-stackers. We utilise the latest proven technology platforms to deliver packing and palletising automation to create flexible machines and systems that can rapidly adapt to future unknown requirements”.

From their manufacturing base in Tonbridge, Kent, Brillopak’s machines are distributed across the UK, with hopes to begin exporting worldwide. With an ever-increasing order book, Peter has always prioritised robust yet flexible internal processes to ensure quality and to make sure deadlines are met. In recent years, Brillopak has turned to T Cards Online to provide visibility and accountability throughout the organisation.

Directors Peter and Xavier and Production Supervisor Elliott explored various options to manage the manufacturing process, seeking to avoid large and clunky MRP and ERP systems.

They wanted a simple and lean approach that staff could quickly grasp and that would evolve with the business as it grew. Having seen T Cards Online in other companies and being familiar with the philosophy of keeping it simple with the manual T Cards, Peter suggested trialling the T Cards Online system, which was agreed upon by the rest of the team.





Ease of use was one of the most crucial features for Brillopak. As a dynamic and fast-changing business, they needed a tool that staff could quickly understand that could be adapted over time without having to rely on others. Peter reports: "T Cards Online is so user-friendly that our team immediately took to it when we first trialled it in a small area. It worked perfectly for us, and importantly, those using it had confidence that it worked, inspiring us to quickly roll it out across the company. Our new Tasks board, where tasks are allocated and assigned to individuals, is simple yet effective, helping us avoid disruptions and enabling us to deliver on time. We are continually expanding its use across more of our work areas due to its easy customisation."

Since adopting T Cards Online in early 2023, Brillopak has utilised many additional features. These include importing, which allows data from its ERP system to avoid duplication of data input, as well as the setup of Automated Workflows that send automatic alerts to specific team members highlighting that a job or task has reached specific due dates. This has significantly improved the process of reaching internal deadlines and key dates. Moreover, it has enabled proactive problem-solving when delays do occur.

Leading the way with automating end of line packing, Brillopak has needed to be agile in its approach to workflow and process planning. T Cards Online ensures that all staff have 'information at a glance', offering them a flexible and dynamic system that operates effortlessly and coherently. By taking these steps to implement tools such as T Cards, Brillopak is contributing to the enhancement of UK productivity.

With the support of the experienced T Cards Online team, Brillopak were able to set up a straightforward management system to address their specific issues. Primarily, they needed a clear and precise method to show the updated status and progress of a machine build and, importantly, tie part numbers (in stock) for components to specific jobs. Additionally, they required a way to keep abreast and updated with drawings to ensure timely completion. The visual planner was crucial for visibility across departments.

Elliott noted: "As part of my role, I enter the purchase orders, the work orders for fabrication and welding as well as the assembly data and set their priority. The production team (including foremen, machine builders, fitters and welders) use T Cards in the workshop to easily view the tasks to complete and in what order. T Cards has helped us to quickly create a visual display that is updated as the build progresses and is visible across all departments. The fact the drawings are with the relevant T Card also means they are available with a couple of clicks, streamlining the operation. Overall, T Cards Online has integrated all our processes seamlessly."



Production with T Cards Online
Elliot Quinnell - Production Supervisor

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