

## Machinery is a cut above

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Western Container Corporation has a new Optima cutting machine for more precise cuts and faster lead times.

With 24 employees, Western Container Corporation, 1100 E. Inman Parkway, Beloit, is a customer-focused manufacturer of spiral wound paper tubes and precision cores.

It serves a wide variety of customers ranging from packaging industries to battery makers. The metal bar and converting industries, for example, use the cores for packaging and roll winding purposes. Gauze and tape manufacturers use the cores for the inside of tape and gauze rolls.



From left; Western Container President Jeffrey Perrigo, Plant Manager Darrell Crusan and Sales and Marketing Representative Ellen Peck work on the new Optima cutting machine. The new cutting machine will be used for film, tape and label cores — or anything requiring extremely accurate cuts.

*Staff photo by Hillary Gavan*

Western Container Corporation President Jeffrey Perrigo said the company is known for being flexible, and able to react to customized orders from its customers. Western Container purchased a smaller index cutter 10 years ago, but Perrigo said it was time for an update. The new machine's capabilities will expand the company's already diverse customer base. Cores are used inside tape and label rolls, in the middle of gyro meat roasters, as well as for making cheese molds.

The new cutting machine will be used for film, tape and label cores - or anything requiring extremely accurate cuts. Customers such as gauze manufacturers, which line up the cores end to end on their machines, will benefit from more accurate cuts.

“Before the new machine arrived, the cutting process was a continuous bottleneck in the manufacturing process. With the machine, lead times will be reduced and the company will be able to pursue more business. New tooling has been created in-house, as well as with the help of Do-It Tool & Die in Beloit. The new tooling will enable Western Container to perform an even greater range of customer requests,” said Plant Manager Darrell Crusan.

The new cutter cost \$190,000. Ordered last July, it came from France and arrived a few weeks ago. The new machine can cut 1-inch to 12-inch inside diameter cores, lengths range from a quarter of an inch to 80 inches long. The machine's computer sets everything up according to the operator's specifications.

“The new machine runs a lot faster, runs bigger diameters and gives a better cut,” Crusan said. “It's going to make a better product.”

“The cuts are going to be better and more precise. There will be tighter tolerances on our lengths,” said Ellen Peck, sales and marketing manager.

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