

F. Gaviña & Sons Coffee roasts and packages a wide range of coffee blends, including private label blends for Albertson's grocery chain, 7-Eleven and McDonald's. Gaviña Coffees was having label indexing problems on their vacuum form sealing line for brick style packages. Loose coffee product fills a tube of packaging material then gets shaped in a vacuum form and sealed. Acceptable bricks have labels that are squared up on the flat surfaces; unsatisfactory packages have the labels out of alignment. Omron solved their problem with the following equipment:

- A F160 vision system because of its ease of use, low price and two-camera capability to meet changing needs
- A F150 camera saves more money since the line speed was fairly slow
- An E3Z through-beam sensor triggers the inspection



Ease of use sold the vision system. The opportunity originated with a visit to Omron's booth at Pack Expo. The plant manager already experienced the complexity and poor performance of early vision systems and was not convinced things had improved. Good and bad samples were taken back to the West Coast Vision Lab and the application proved successful. It took just 5 minutes to demonstrate how easy the F160 is to setup and operate on the customer's conference table. The customer asked to try it on the production line. With about 30 minutes of setup for lighting and minor adjustments, the system proved itself with accurate inspections over a 45-minute test period. The plant manager filled out the PO on the spot.

For now, the system is completely standalone and triggers a light to indicate a rejected product coming for manual removal. Coffee is emptied from rejected packages and returned to the filling operation. No PLC is tied in with the vision system. In a few months they plan to add a PLC and ejector boot to fully automate the process. Gaviña Coffee's plant manager also attended the recent WestPack trade show and was one of the winners of an Apple iPod Mini. Not only did Gene Cheadle deliver a cost-effective vision system, he brought the customer a prize, too.