



E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

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This Issue's focus:

Transporting, Cleaning & Storage of Slat Filler Change Parts

Transporting:

Customers often ask us about the best way to transport change parts from the packaging line to the cleaning and storage areas. Usually, a wheeled stainless steel utility cart with one shelf on top to hold the slats and one on the bottom for the chute, divider or manifold assembly is what is used for transport.

Unfortunately, slats, chute, divider, manifold and other fragile components like pin bars can be damaged if they fall off a general utility cart onto the floor. To overcome this problem, **Berkshire Packaging** makes a stainless steel cart with pins that hold the slats firmly in place while in transit. The bottoms of the slats rest securely within a recessed tray.



Brushes on shafts are held in a cradle at the top of the cart and fragile components are set safely within custom-designed holders.

Cleaning/Washing:

Another problem customers encounter is the shrinkage of slats due to being washed at too high a temperature.

Every slat shipment from **Berkshire Packaging Services** includes "Slat Handling Instructions" with the following recommendations:

- ✚ Handle slats with the same care that you would for any other precision component. Avoid dropping, hitting or banging the slats against hard objects. Dents or burrs on the machined surfaces may affect the tablet handling characteristics.
- ✚ Do not use sharp metal objects to scrape, clean or remove broken product. The machined surfaces can be damaged and affect the performance of the slats.
- ✚ Use care when installing or removing slats from the filler. Do not force the slats onto the carrying pins. The slats should fit snugly but not tightly. Slats may have bushings on one or both mounting holes to reduce the effect of wear during installation and removal. **Berkshire Packaging** uses flanged bushings to prevent them from popping out.



- ✚ Install tongue & groove slats with the tongue facing you. Install non-tongue & groove slats with the stamped part number facing you. Ensure that the slats are fully seated on the slat chain. Minor bowing of 39" slats is not uncommon. If slats are bowed, remove the bow by gently flexing the slat in the opposite direction.
- ✚ Remove slats at the top of the machine just as they pass the upper sprocket. Carefully place slats on a flat surface taking care not to damage the machined surfaces.
- ✚ Clean slats with a soft, non-abrasive brush in warm, soapy water or an alcohol solution (120° F or less). It is very important that slats be washed in water temperature that is under 120° F. They can also be cleaned in ultrasonic or automatic washers.

Storing:

- ✚ Berkshire Packaging Services suggests storing slats in a temperature-controlled environment of 70° F, +/- 5°. Place slats face down on a flat, fully-supported level surface between layers of cardboard, heavy paper or sheets of stainless steel.
- ✚ **Berkshire Packaging Services** makes a stainless steel slat & change part storage cabinet specifically designed to safely store your components. The cabinet has ten adjustable slat storage shelves and a pull-out shelf for chutes and dividers. It is available for 39" and 16" size slats.



Slat & Change Part Storage Cabinet

*Berkshire Packaging Services, Inc.
was established in 1999
by John Miller and Bill Lawton.*



*With a combined experience of over 50 years in the pharmaceutical packaging industry,
our goal is to be a reliable, high quality source of change parts for slat fillers.*

*As a small company,
we work closely with our customers to develop new and innovative solutions
to improve the operation of the machines.*

*As a practical alternative to big OEM's,
Berkshire Packaging offers a full complement of slat filler change parts
made from identical or superior materials.*

We work with only your satisfaction in mind.

***If you, or others in your organization would like to receive our newsletter or
more information about our company, products or services, please contact us
at any of the telephone numbers or e-mail addresses listed.***

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