

SORTING BY SHAPE AND COLOUR

Buhler Sortex in the UK, the well known manufacturer of electronic sorting machines notes that its sorting technology is based on simultaneously sorting by shape as well as colour, using shape sorting technology developed by the company.

"This gives coffee processors who use Buhler's SORTEX Z+ optical sorters a unique advantage," claimed the company. "Without this technology it is only possible to distinguish defects in coffee beans by optical colour sorting. The removal of foreign material the same colour as the product - such as brown sticks in roasted coffee - could, previously, only be done by a mechanical or hand sorting process."

"However, the new PROFILE shape sorting technology enables SORTEX Z+ sorters to simultaneously identify material to be rejected by shape as well as colour. This unique facility dramatically increases productivity and operational efficiency, within the same operating footprint," said a spokesperson for Buhler Sortex.

The SORTEX Z+ can also connect by phone to 'Buhler's Z-Anyware' service, which allows engineers to evaluate and optimise performance remotely. Up time is increased as a result, and service calls can be reduced by as much as 80 per cent, as problems can be remedied over the phone."

NEW SORTER FROM DELTA TECHNOLOGY

Another well known manufacturer of sorting machines, Delta Technology Corporation, already well known in the coffee industry for its IGUAZU sorter, one of the first high production free fall sorters, has announced details of a new product.

The company, which also supplies products such as the Iguazu-II and Penta-II high resolution monochromatic and trichromatic sorters to the coffee trades, says the latest addition to its product range is the i-IQ 'intelligent' colour sorter, which it describes as an efficient, productive, easy to use and affordable colour sorter for Robusta coffee.

The i-IQ intelligent colour sorter is the latest addition to the growing range of electronic sorters from Delta Technology Corporation



INEXPENSIVE MOISTURE ANALYZER FOR FARMERS & ROASTERS

QC Lab Equipment in the US has provided C&C/I with details of an inexpensive moisture analyzer which is suitable for use on coffee. The COFFEE MT PRO C uses the electrical properties of water to provide an indirect method of moisture determination. However, instead of using a balance to determine the mass of the sample, it has a fixed volume sample cup. The screw down compression cap is used to help provide uniform density.

Because there is no internal balance, the units virtually never fall out of calibration. Made with quality components and rugged design to withstand operating conditions in the field, and ensure years of trouble free service. Quick and accurate results are obtained with no need for sample preparation.

There are no charts to read or complicated instructions, meaning very little operator training is required. No moving parts reduces down time for calibrations, adjustments, or repairs. The unit's compact design makes it ideal for testing coffee moisture levels at remote locations.

Company spokesperson Robin Thorum said: "Purely by accident, we stumbled across the manufacturer of a technology that has been used successfully to measure the moisture in green coffee. Because they do not manufacture the unit with coffee calibrations on it, we had to pay a little extra to get this done. Currently it only has a calibration for green coffee. A free upgrade with parchment coffee calibrations will be sent out to customers who request it, when it is completed."

The upgrade is expected to be available in June 2009. The price of the unit is US\$295.00.