

Fas Track



Spreader-Feeder

The state-of-the-art solution for those who require high volume spreading and feeding of sheets and table linen into high production flatwork ironers with the added flexibility of a built-in feeding conveyor for small pieces such as pillowcases, napkins, and other items. CHI advanced microprocessor directs all linen movement in a streamlined system with fewer moving parts for accurate and dependable feeding with reduced maintenance requirements.



CHICAGO DRYER COMPANY



Outstanding Operator Ergonomics and Productivity

A Better Idea

Chicago's exclusive **CHI** technology is the foundation for a new type of spreader/feeder. One that combines advanced electronic intelligence, air pressure, and simplified motions to spread and feed linen. One that makes an operator's job easier with a lower clip height, touch sensor activation, and a message screen to guide laundry staff throughout the day.

FasTrack makes the laundry manager's job easier because it consistently delivers accurately fed items to the ironer while keeping track of each operator's performance. Maintenance staff's job is simpler because FasTrack is easy to understand and service.

Most importantly, FasTrack makes everyone's job simpler because of the elements it is *missing*: cables, clutches, complex motors, computer codes, time consuming jams, unnecessary floor pits and inefficient routines for small piece handling. As a result of this innovative blend of high technology and common sense, FasTrack is accurate, dependable, and serviceable. Here's how it works.

Loading

Operators clip sheets into one of FasTrack's four loading stations. No special skill is required, so novice operators can quickly achieve high production levels. Operators stand in front of FasTrack, so less floorspace is needed and operators have a full view of items as they are spread. Sheet loading height is only 49" above the floor, so operators do not have to reach above chest height to load. This reduces operator fatigue and helps increase the number of pieces loaded per hour.

Touch sensors energize heavy duty pneumatic rodless cylinders to transport sheets upward to the center of the spreading platform. This eliminates the problem of

sheets dragging across the floor during spreading without a floor pit and allows operators a clear view of the entire sheet for quality control. There is also a recall feature if an operator notices that an item is loaded incorrectly.

Spreading

CHI uses electronic motor control technology to spread linen by accelerating and then decelerating linen to a cushioned stop at the precise position required for correct spreading and stretch, regardless of linen type. **CHI** anti-jam circuitry rejects a misfed item before it can cause delays by becoming lodged in spreading belts or drive rolls. All items are spread from the same center point by a rugged timing belt and precision linear bearings to guarantee accurate centering and simplify spreading. FasTrack reduces component stress and eliminates unnecessary high speed motions by not using a multi-point picking mechanism with motors or pulleys and cables requiring extra attention. There are no clutch/brake mechanisms or multi-axis motions to erode system repeatability or require service. If operators notice a damaged piece, the optional **Chicago Automatic Reject Processor** can separate these items for rewash or sewing.

Lay Down

When signaled that the sheet is properly extended, **CHI** activates a high density air pulse to direct the spread item onto a conveyor leading to the ironer. At the same time, Chicago's unique vacuum wall gently holds and stretches linen to remove wrinkles and assure that a neatly presented sheet is advanced to the ironer. Because no mechanical bars or movable conveyors are used, sheet lay down is consistent and reliable.

Small Piece Flexibility

Small piece feeding is easily handled without using extra floorspace because a push of a button pneumatically raises a bypass conveyor into position when small items are being fed. Operators place small items directly on this conveyor for input to the ironer. Feeding height is a comfortable 38" off the floor – the same as most ironers. There is no need to roll FasTrack away from the ironer or lift the entire spreading assembly high in the air to accommodate small piece feeding. There is no necessity to purchase an optional small piece feeding attachment or awkwardly feed small items from behind or around the feeder. This valuable standard feature is especially important in laundries with limited floorspace.





Chicago High Intelligence – Makes It Smart



All spreading and feeding functions are controlled by the **CHI** microprocessor panel. For ease of use throughout the entire finishing area, the same type of panel also controls Chicago ironers, Chicago Skyline large piece folders, and Air Chicago – the industry's leading towel, gown, and blanket folder. With **CHI**, a laundry staff only needs to learn and use one unified control for maximum user familiarity and efficiency. The **CHI** message screen clearly displays operating, counting, testing, and diagnostic functions in "plain English" on a bright forty-eight character vacuum fluorescent display. Operational changes, adjustments, and function tests are easily performed through the **CHI** panel. There are no codes to memorize, complicated numeric keypads to learn, or difficult ladder logic to follow.

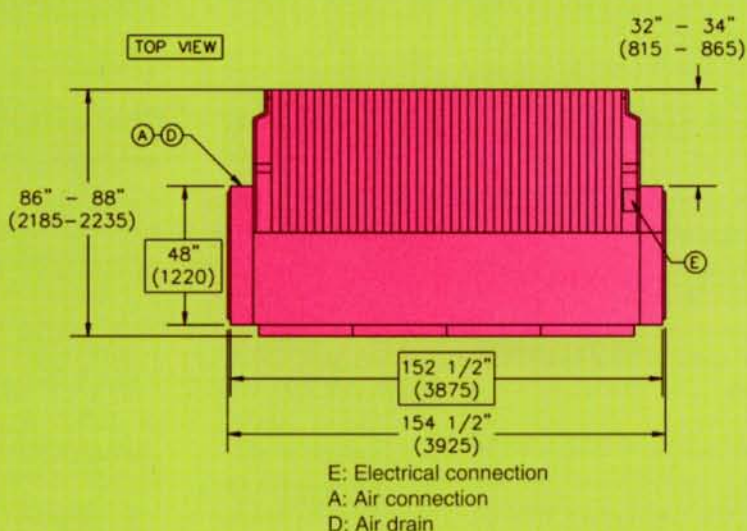
Complete production data is maintained for each individual station, including the number of pieces loaded by each operator. When connected to a **CHI** based ironer and folder, if there is an interruption in processing anywhere in the finishing line, the **CHI** panel audibly alerts operators and displays the location of the problem so that it can be promptly addressed. **CHI** can also (optionally) automatically adjust all equipment speeds to the proper levels when the speed of one finishing component is changed. Multiple feeding programs and reporting options are also available.

CHI allows Chicago to use high efficiency motors and pneumatic components instead of mechanical pulleys, clutch/brake mechanisms, and special motor drives, to precisely control and position linen as it moves through the feeding system. The simplicity of this method helps laundry staff to confidently operate, maintain and service the unit with minimal interruption in service.

Standard Features

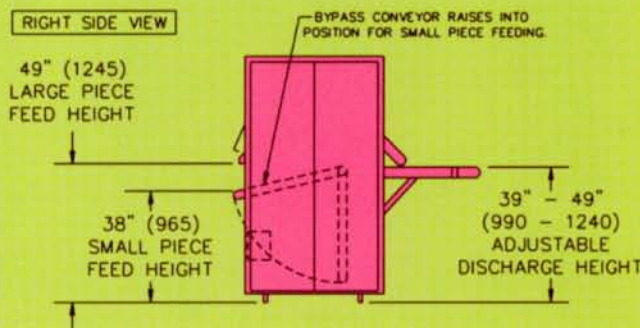
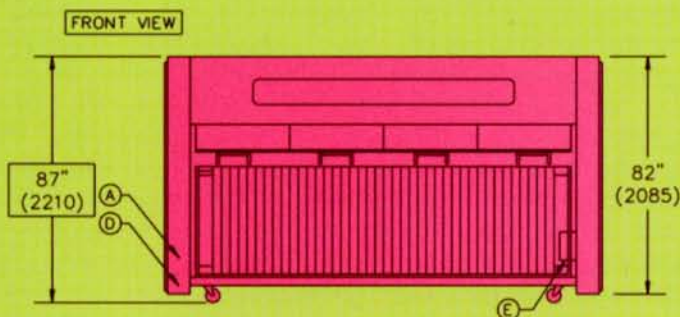
- Four loading stations handle any size sheet or large item without requiring a floor pit.
- May be operated with one to four operators.
- Functional loading clips require little maintenance.
- Space saving conveyor and doffer roll allow the shortest gap between consecutive sheets.
- Design is operator and maintenance staff friendly.
- Operators stand in front of the feeder with linen carts next to or behind them for best usage of floorspace and ease of use.
- Automatically spreads and feeds items from 54" to 120" wide without adjustment. Smaller items are easily fed on the bypass conveyor.
- For quality control, Plexiglas panels allow observation of linen as it is being spread.
- Excellent centering with high quality leading and trailing edges.
- CHI anti-jam circuitry automatically rejects poorly fed items so they do not interfere with processing.
- AC frequency inverter variable speed drive range of 30-140 FPM to accommodate any ironer speed (other speed ranges are available).
- All measurements and activations are made by reliable photocells.
- Heavy duty locking casters for mobility.
- 24 volt controls and stop buttons.
- Fast cycle time allows machine capacity in excess of 1350 pieces per hour. Actual production will be lower and depends on item size, ironer speed, operators, and condition of linen received from washer/extractor.
- CHI counts and displays total pieces loaded by each operator to aid production and operator analysis.
- Fourth loading station is used as standby in three operator plants (two station model also available).
- Interfaces with CHI-based ironing and folding equipment to form an integrated flatwork finishing system with unified control.
- Fully supported by Chicago and its world-wide network of authorized distributors.

Dimensions and Utilities



Speed FPM (m/min)	30-140 (9-42)
Motor HP (kW)	1.83 (1.4)
Air Inlet	1/2"
Air Drain	1/4"
Air PSI (kPa)	85-120 (580-820)
Domestic Weight, lbs. (kgs.)	2900 (1320)
Export Weight, lbs. (kgs.)	3200 (1450)

1. Other speed ranges and all voltages available.
2. Specifications are subject to change without notice. Consult factory for certified construction floor plan.
3. Millimeter dimensions in parenthesis.
4. All utility connections are located at rear of machine unless otherwise noted.



Optional Features

Chicago Automatic Reject Processor

Two-channel stain/tear quality control system with memory circuitry is available with any Chicago Skyline automatic folder so that operators can separate stained or torn items without delaying processing.

Operator Pacing and Reporting

Provides each operator with continuous feedback on individual production performance. Alerts operators if production goals are not being met. Summary of results may be downloaded to data accumulation device.

Auto-adjust variable speed drive

Automatically adjusts feeder speed to match changes in ironer speed to retain proper differential at all times.

FasTrack 2 - Two station model

Excellent alternative for mid-range flatwork ironers processing 500 to 800 pounds of linen per hour. Improves lay down and speed over hand feeding and can be used with only one operator in seasonal properties or when load conditions are light. Dimensions are identical to four station model.

A Complete Range of Feeding, Ironing, and Folding Systems

FasTrack is the latest Chicago product to offer the advantages of today's microprocessor technology in a system which a laundry staff can easily use and maintain. Chicago also offers a wide range of high production ironers and automatic folders. For over 100 years, Chicago has specified, manufactured, and supported flatwork finishing equipment in thousands of commercial, hospitality, health care, and institutional laundries all over the world. An experienced Chicago professional will be pleased to make an objective equipment recommendation based on your production, floorspace, utility, and budget requirements. Contact your local Chicago distributor or our factory sales assistance office.



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