

GARMENT SORT SYSTEMS



Garment Sort

Softrol Garment Sort Systems: Accurate, efficient, and flexible

Garment sort systems are an integral part of Softrol's Total Plant Management program, which focuses on plant efficiencies and maximum performance.

Garment sorting is a critical operation for uniform rental plants. It is labor intensive, consumes a large amount of floor space and customer satisfaction is dependent on returning the correct garments. Softrol offers garment sorting options for any size plant. New modular technology offers scalable systems that can meet the requirements of any size facility for a much more manageable investment. By designing solutions that are more flexible and scalable, we can now provide solutions for practically every uniform rental facility – independent of current size or future expansion requirements.

Softrol's sortation systems are used to manually, automatically, or semi-automatically sort garments in uniform rental plants. These systems accurately sort garments with minimal labor, make use of overhead storage that can increase available floor space, and provide information to management that usually results in significant savings in labor and inventory investment. Cost effective, labor saving systems can be designed for plants with throughput from 1,500 garments per day to plants with over 50,000 garments per day.



Distributed control platform for reliability



Minimize operating costs and improve customer service

Sorting options for any size uniform rental plant



"Scan-on-the-fly" technology for reading garments



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Selecting the right sort system for your plant

Budget, space limitations and number of garments processed determine what type sort system is best suited for your facility.

Uniform rental operations that employ manual garment sortation face many of the same operating problems of human errors, employee absence and fatigue, and high costs. Autosortation systems can now be scaled to any size operation in order to minimize these operating problems. These advancements now bring all of the power and advantages of autosortation to any operation, even those with extreme space limitations.

Softrol offers three types of systems:

Directed Sort

- Increased accuracy & speed used on existing sort rails
- Minimal investment for data and improved processes

Hybrid Sort

- Directed sort primary
- Automated 2nd & 3rd Sort –reduces labor – 83%
- 6,000 to 12,000 garments per shift

AutoSort

- System utilizes a primary sorting conveyor and a final sort conveyor - each with its own induction station for maximum output
- Fully automated with power storage rails
- 12,000 to 50,000+ garments per shift

Directed Sort

Directed Sort is an add on software package with hand scanners for a manual sort system. This offers a uniform rental plant the ability to take advantage of wearer and garment tracking data for a small investment.



Using barcode or radio frequency identification (RFID), workers are directed in sorting garments with visual or audio instruction. One or more operators are required depending upon the garment throughput desired.

Directed Sort Features and Benefits:

- Combines Softsort's computerized sorting with manual sort hardware
- Provides garment tracking data
- Reduced costs versus a hybrid or full autosort
- More accurate sorting because system directs operator for garment hanging
- Interfaces to 3rd party systems (RAS/RFID)
- Interfaces to existing material handling hardware
- Software and scanners may integrate with expansion into a hybrid or full autosort as the customer's throughput is increased
- Allows for real time reporting on sorting throughput productive labor

Hybrid Sort

Hybrid Sort combines manual sort with automated sort for a semi-automated garment sort system. It combines existing manual equipment with Softrol's automated sorting capabilities.



There are many different configurations that are possible to best fit the requirements of a plant where a full Autosortation System is not desired or justified.

Hybrid Sort Features and Benefits:

- This system is ideal for plants with daily sort volume of 6,000 to 12,000 garments
- Utilizes sorting conveyors to double as both the primary and final sort, reducing investment and floor space
- Storage rails may either be powered or slick rail for a hybrid systems
- Generally fits into the existing floor space without having to expand or give up valuable production square footage
- Provides faster throughput and increased productivity while also reducing labor costs with faster payback

AutoSort

AutoSort employs a fully automated conveying, buffered sorting, and load out to route storage. Autosortation Systems utilize fully automated induction. No manual garment sorting labor is active in this type of system and typically requires only a few attendants for its entire operation.



Auto Sort Features and Benefits:

- Can handle daily garment volume from 12,000 to 50,000 or more with throughput reaching 6,000 garments per hour
- Utilizes a primary sorting conveyor and a final sort conveyor, each with its own induction station for maximum throughput
- Garment database has been interfaced with a large variety of existing route accounting packages for information transfer vital to sort system production and tracking
- Barcode read rates exceeding 97%
- RFID read rates nearing 100%
- Scanning speed exceeding 14,000 garments/hr
- Includes software for data collection and analysis
- Open Windows-based database management



Barcode read rates exceeding 97%



Scanning speed exceed 14,000 garments per hour



Scalable to increase sort capacity along with business growth



Lowers garment inventory



Reads barcodes or RFID



Smooth conveyance on normal hangers

Features of any Sort System

- Can be designed for garment throughput starting at 1,500 per day
- Highly flexible system configuration allows for easier installation in almost any existing plant
- Smooth, reliable garment conveyance on normal hangers
- Tracks garment location
- Automatic data collection and analysis
- Full range of management reports included with all systems
- Scalable to increase sort capacity along with growth in uniform rental sales
- Pre-sort and post-sort buffering conveyors for labor-free garment transportation
- Compatible with bar codes and/or RFID chips
- Open Microsoft Windows database management
- 24 hour technical support available
- Barcode read rates exceeding 97%
- Scanning speed exceeding 14,000 garments/hr
- Customer defined batch process
- Custom designed systems from standard components
- No split orders or loose pieces
- Scan on the fly
- Extremely high speed Induction & sorting
- No "mother hooks"

Benefits of any Sort System

- Improves customer relations
- Lower operating costs with FTE reduction
- Increases quality
- Reduces late or missing pieces
- Garment location with real-time reporting



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