

ME & MY...

# Pit Stop FM Speed

Mask Documents director Julian Mason has been impressed by this creaser and perforator's market-leading top speed, high quality and flexibility

**What does the machine do?**

The Pit Stop FM Speed digital creaser and perforator is designed for high-volume digital and litho users. It handles stock up to 600gsm and sheet sizes up to 500x700mm (or 500x1,000mm with feeding extension). The rise and fall platen action ensures a high-quality crease without cracking. As it is three-phase and has separate pumps for suck and blow, consistent and accurate feeding is assured.

**Why did you choose this particular machine?**

The Pit Stop FM is the only model on the market that can crease, perf and punch on the same machine. It's also the fastest, operating at speeds up to 11,000 sheets per hour. The Pit Stop has the added advantage of being able to punch holes for wire-bound documents as well.

**Did you look at any other similar machines?**

We went to Drupa to see what was available, but there were no similar machines. There were digital creaser/perforators, but none had the on-line punching tool. They also operated at much slower speeds.

**Why did you make the purchase?**

Historically, we produced a lot of perfect-bound financial documents, but recently there has been a vast increase in stitched work, which requires creasing and perfering. We also have a growing market for wire-bound documents. The Pit Stop FM automates and streamlines these finishing processes at high speed.

**What features do you particularly like?**

It's the most robust machine of its type on the market. I can see us still using it in 10 or even 20 years time.

**What extras are available?**

The machine is also available with optional deep-pile delivery and a deep pile feeder. The sheets can be loaded into the feed hopper as the machine is running, giving a smooth continuous feed without the need to stop the machine to reload. For ultimate productivity, it can be run inline with an MB38 fold unit so that it can crease and fold in one pass. There is also an optional punching tool for wire binding.

**Is there anything you wish it had that it doesn't?**

We would like to be able to punch two and four holes to the left-hand edge.

**How reliable is it?**

Excellent. The quality of the creasing, the die and punching tool are remarkably good, time and time again.

**How easy is it to use?**

It's very user-friendly and easy to follow the sequences, which are shown in the window.



Mason: "It has saved us a lot of time"

**How much time has it saved?**

It's saved us a lot of time because, previously, we had more manual operation or this type of work was outsourced at great expense. It used to take us an hour to crease 100 covers, but now we can do it in less than five minutes.

**Has it won you any new work?**

It's too early to say because we are only just promoting the new equipment to our clients.

**Would you say it offers value for money?**

It is more expensive than the other digital creasers on the market, but then it is in a different league.

**Who do you think the machine is right for?**

It's the ideal machine for digital printers, who have high-volume creasing, perfering and punching requirements. ■

**CONCLUSION**

**User's verdict**

Speed	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

**Supplier's response**

Mike Biggs, managing director of Encore Machinery, says: "The Pit Stop AF Speed, which operates at 8,000sph, was the fastest machine until Bacciotti realised that, as digital printers were getting faster, there was a demand for even faster and more versatile creasing machines. The new line-up of machines was launched at Drupa and include the Pit Stop FM and the Pit Stop DH double-headed machine, which creases and perfs in one pass at 11,000sph. The two and four hole drill punch will be available in the next couple of months."



**Recently made an investment?**

If you would like to appear in a Me & My... contact simon. creasey@haymarket.com