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# Elscint Ahead



*Feeding In The Latest ...*  
Monish Shete

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This edition of the Elscint Ahead newsletter reaches you at the start of summer. Day temperature has already crossed 35 degrees here in Pune, India and the cricket world cup is further making things hot, especially in India!. Coming to this edition of the Elscint Ahead newsletter, the first news item is about a vibratory bowl feeder for feeding certain types of medical parts while the second lists down the advantages and disadvantages of rotary feeders vis a vis vibratory bowl feeders.

## Elscint Vibratory Bowl Feeder for Threaded Stopper & Hub Cover

Elscint has developed a lot of expertise in manufacturing vibratory bowl Feeders for blood bag components. The main requirement is for feeding of parts like the threaded stopper and hub cover, which go into the blood bag as well as saline bags. Orientation and feeding of the “threaded stopper” is quite easy but the “hub cover” is quite difficult to orient and secondly, getting the required speed / feed rate is a challenge. However, Elscint has developed a very modular design for its bowl which makes it easy to achieve various speeds. Further, being medical parts, a medical grade bowl made of stainless steel with proper welding and polishing is required. Along with this, Elscint provides a European make controller for controlling the speed of the vibratory feeder. Frequency as well as voltage controllers can be provided as per the customer specifications.



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# Comparison between Vibratory Bowl Feeder & Rotary Feeder

Vibrations have fascinated human beings since a very long time. Vibratory Bowl Feeders are around since the early part of the Twentieth Century. Till date no major alternative to a Vibratory Bowl Feeder has been invented. The only viable alternative is a Rotary Feeder which uses a motorised drive. However, it is definitely a very poor cousin of the Vibratory Bowl Feeder. For any part where a particular orientation is required, feeding through a vibratory bowl feeder is the only alternative. The first major distinction is that in a Rotary feeder, the parts which can be fed through a Rotary feeder are limited to certain flat caps where the diameter is more than the height, needles and rollers where the length is more than the diameter and any face can come out etc. As against this, in a vibratory bowl feeder almost any type of component can be handled. Second and most significant disadvantage of a Rotary feeder is that due to the positive pressure generated because of the rotating disc, the parts being fed are thrown against each other and against the wall of the feeder. This can result in damages to the parts. Compared to this, the parts do not get damaged in a vibratory bowl feeder. Even brittle and delicate parts can be handled in a vibratory bowl feeder. Thirdly, the speed or feed rate in case of a Rotary feeder can

be as high as 40 metres per minute while that of a vibratory bowl feeder can be at the most 12 metres per minute. In fact Elscint recently manufactured a Rotary feeder for flat dripper where the curved face was required to be up. A speed of 800 parts per minute was achieved for this 40 mm long flat dripper as against this, we could achieve a speed of just 200 parts per minute in case of a vibratory bowl feeder for the same component (for a different application where the speed requirement was much less). This high speed is the only advantage of a Rotary feeder. Price of a vibratory bowl feeder is also substantially much less than that of a Rotary feeder.



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