



Fig. 2. The different product carriers are bolted to the chain links of the linear conveying system and can be positioned very exactly without locking

springs from becoming entangled. The machine supplies all remaining individual parts via vibratory feeders or shafts to the respective station, which mounts them on valves. After the sealing ring has

been mounted, a leak test is performed to measure the pressure drop, and the O-ring is then inserted.

The last process step uses a YAG laser to apply a unique code to the exterior and

thus to ensure the traceability prescribed by the automotive industry.

Summary

This example shows that the assembly of products that come in many variants can be automated too. When a product change is due, the modularity of the machine allows the individual components to be adapted to the new tasks.

It remains to be seen, however, whether the industry will accept such plants or will outsource complicated assembly work to low-wage countries. That is where the manufacturer of the plants sees the stiffest competition. ■

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