

ABSTRACT

DOWNSIZE D CUSHIONING DUNNAGE CONVERSION MACHINE AND
PACKAGING SYSTEMS EMPLOYING THE SAME

A cushioning dunnage conversion machine (20) for converting sheet-like stock material, such as paper in multi-ply form, into cut sections of relatively low density pad-like cushioning product is provided. The machine (20) is designed so that it may be used with packaging systems requiring both horizontal and vertical positioning of the machine (20) and to this end the machine frame (36) includes a base plate (43), a first end plate (44) extending generally perpendicular from an upstream end (38), and a second end plate (46) extending generally perpendicular from a downstream end (40). The machine (20) may also include a post-cutting constraining assembly (58) for circumferentially constraining the cut sections of the pad-like cushioning dunnage product and/or a pivot cover (110) to aid in the manual threading of the machine (20). The present invention also provides packaging systems (320, 400 and 500), which include at least once cushioning dunnage conversion machine (20) positioned in a vertical manner.

(Figure 1)