The *Salamander* News

December 2002 Vol. 10 No. 12

Custom Panels and Engineered Applications When "Legos" Won't Work

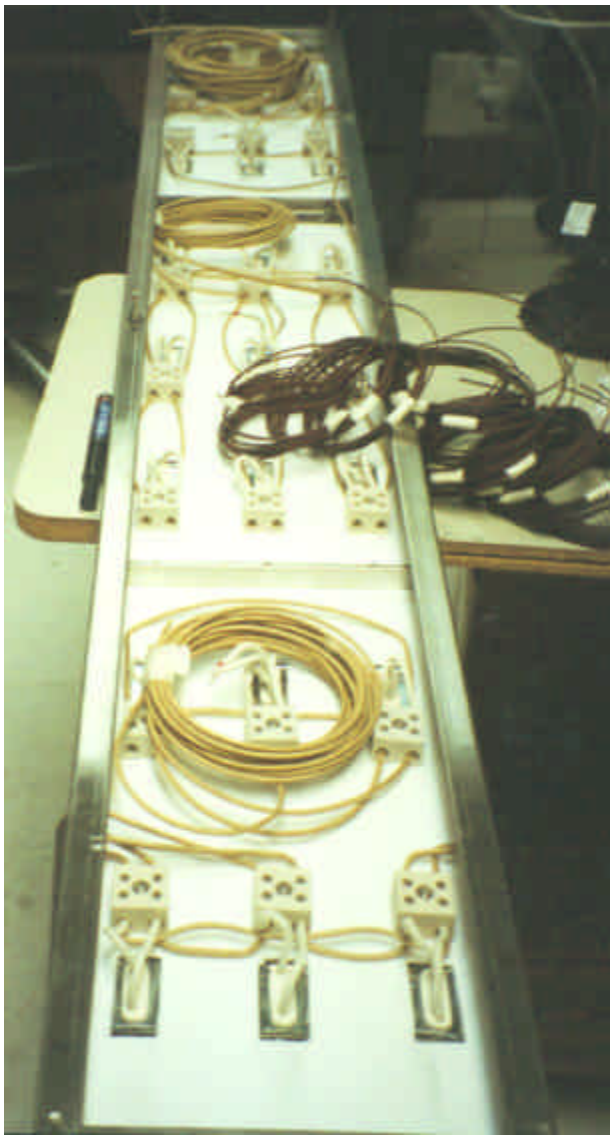
As a follow-up to last month's newsletter, this issue is featuring Custom Panels. The decision to use CRP panels and "build your own" or order a Custom Panel is usually based on size and zoning. There is a break point where the size of a panel is too large to justify the expense of using CRP Panels. In general, any size requiring over twenty-four (24) CRPs would be better off going with a Custom Panel. A need for detailed zoning requirements are another reason for custom design. A panel made of CRPs may be zoned by each 12" x 12" CRP, or each of their 3 LTE heaters, but a custom panel can be zoned per heater throughout the entire panel.

Al Kracker, President of Mor Electric Heating, and one of the engineering sales staff, is currently working on a large custom panel quote. The application is for the thermoforming of plastic dunnage parts. He is quoting a custom panel rather than individual CRPs because the overall size is 10 ft. x 7 ft. with twenty (20) zones utilizing 252 FTE emitters. If CRPs were used, the customer would need to buy seventy (70) of them and would be unable to create the zoning pattern required for the parts he is forming.

The custom panel comes with a frame that allows for ease of installation of the entire heating panel opposed to the customer having to provide a gridwork to support seventy (70) CRPs. Stability could be a problem in a gridwork this size along with its assembly adding to his overall cost and labor.

The custom designed panel can either come complete with only terminal blocks for each zone or circuit to be completed in the field, or include complete wiring terminating in power leadwires that can be easily connected to a control panel. Again, this saves the labor costs of having to electrically connect each individual CRP panel.

Al Kracker - Pictured with custom panels.



Our replaceable thermocouples can more easily be moved within a custom panel whenever there is a need to change zones or monitor different parts of the panel. Only one (large) backpanel has to be removed instead of having to remove the entire CRP module from the gridwork to make the adjustment.

If this sounds like I am now trying to convince you not to use CRP panels, it is not my intention. This article should point out to you when it is most appropriate to chose a CRP system, and when custom design is the best option. Again, size and zoning needs are the first and best criteria to use when making that decision.

Custom design is never limited to square or rectangular designs, in fact that is where custom design begins. Patterns, shapes, ovens, containers, and limitless designs are able to be created based on whatever the application requires, and we are not limited by the framework. The heaters themselves can be formed into whatever shape a mold can create and prototypes often lead the way for new product design. So don't let product availability stop you from creating exactly what you need for the most efficient and effective application. Call the sales engineers at Mor Electric Heating and ask them what they have done similarly and to suggest the variety of options available.

Infrared Internationale of North America, Ltd.

Sales office: **mor Electric Heating Assoc., Inc.**
5880 Alpine Ave. NW • Comstock Park, MI 49321 USA • Tel: 616-784-1121 • 800-442-2581
Fax: 616-784-7775 • E-mail: sales@infraredheaters.com • Website: www.InfraredHeaters.com