



Easy Arm® Helps Exercise Equipment Manufacturer Make a Strong, Smooth Transition

Industry:
Recreation

Product:
Exercise Steppers

The Problem:
Needed more precision control
during assembly

The Solution:
Gorbel Free Standing Easy Arm®



“My Favorite Thing About The Easy Arm® is That We Put It In And Haven’t Had To Think About It”

A leading manufacturer of exercise equipment was in desperate need of a process improvement for its assembly and testing line. The product being assembled is a swinging stepper which gives the user a smooth aerobic workout with minimal impact. The process of assembling the steppers, however, was anything but smooth.

The straight conveyor line for testing and assembly was creating log-jams, especially when a motor failed the testing and needed to be pulled for replacement.

A “buffer zone” was created to route machines out for testing, eliminating the log jam. When they re-enter the assembly area, the motor, which weighs about 100 pounds, is installed on the back of the machine and fastened in place by pins.

“It was clear during the design of the new process that the requirements we now had for this bay could not be met by the existing crane,” said the Manufacturing Engineer. “We needed something that gave us more control to accurately place the motor on the pins of the frame without slowing everything down. It’s too heavy to do by hand, especially when you do it 50 times per shift, but the jib crane we had in that area had too much bounce to line up the pins.”

After talking about the Easy Arm® with a Gorbel distributor, a demonstration was set up at the factory. “It was genuinely surprising,” said the Manufacturing Engineer. “If you’ve never used one before, it’s hard to explain the feel.”

The company purchased a freestanding Easy Arm® with an 8' span and 8' height under boom, and installed it so that it could serve the testing "buffer zone" and the main assembly line.

"We needed a new process, and the Easy Arm® was the cornerstone of the new process. A traditional crane just was not an option."

With the new process in place for nearly four years, the desired outcome of eliminating logjams was fully achieved. Work flows smoothly through the area without any delay caused by product handling or maintenance of handling equipment.

"My favorite thing about the Easy Arm® is that once we put it in, we haven't had to think about it," said the Manufacturing Engineer. "It's hard to find equipment that you can install and forget about."