



YKK

Little Parts. Big Difference.™

TACTICAL GEAR MANUFACTURER ACHIEVES 90% REDUCTION IN LABOR

The Customer

Small manufacturer of modular tactical vests and equipment for the U.S. military and tactical law enforcement

The Challenge

To reduce labor costs and material handling in the production process

90%

www.ykknorthamerica.com

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The Approach

Prior to engaging the YKK Solutions team, the customer's process for attaching zippers to its product involved six difficult and redundant steps. YKK revamped the process, dividing it into two parts, and implemented YKK's SEW200 system.

The Solution

Introducing two of YKK's SEW200 machines reduced the six-step process to just one step. The operator simply puts the fabric panels into the first machine (SEW200), which attaches the panels to the zipper with a concealed seam. The second machine (SEW200S) automatically sews the top stitch. The entire project took just three weeks from analysis to implementation.

The Results

Through engaging the YKK Solutions team, the customer achieved a 90% reduction in labor. According to the customer, "what was previously done in a 40 hour week is accomplished within 4 hours." Operators previously tasked with the zipper attaching process have been re-positioned downstream to accomplish other tasks. The training curve has also been reduced proportionate to the reduction in labor while quality has been maintained and consistency has been achieved. YKK helped this small customer achieve rapid growth by evaluating their product, manufacturing method, and strategy, and then implementing a customized solution that works for them.