CONDITIONS OF SALE AND WARRANTY

1. Read carefully this operator's handbook before operating our P55 corking machine.
2. M.E.P. guarantees his P55 corking machine in case of breakages caused by faulty components or incorrect assembly.
3. Our P55 corking machine has a 12-month warranty. 12 month period begins on shipping date from St. Patrick’s of Texas. This guarantee is valid only for the first owner of the corking machine.
4. Warranty only consists in replacing the damaged parts and it does include neither refunds for losses caused by the shutdown of the machine nor any cost of labour or any transport cost to send the filling machine to a repair shop.
5. Any repair or modification made to the machine by unauthorized personnel will make the warranty void.
6. We cannot be held responsible for damages due to incorrect use of the corking machine, or failure to carry out maintenance and lubrication, or problems or damage incurred during transport.
7. M.E.P. reserves the right to introduce changes without previous notice to the P55 corking machine; however, the supply of spare parts of the previous models will be guaranteed.

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1. DESCRIPTION OF THE P55 CORKING MACHINE

Our P55 corking machine is almost entirely made of stainless steel. Moreover all those parts which could come into contact with the corks are made of materials that do not react with the air (such as stainless steel, plexiglass, delrin), in order to prevent all chances of polluting corks with rust splinters or whatever other substances bad for health.
The only parts made of carbon steel are the internal mechanisms but they are galvanized.
The mechanisms that must bear heavier loads are supported by ball-recirculating elements in order to guarantee both a higher precision of functioning and a higher resistance to wear.
All moving gears are protected by safety guards. As regards the jaws which is one of those parts that the operator could need to reach often, it is fitted up with an easily removable safety guard. However this safety guard is equipped with a sensor so that the corking machine cannot work when it is removed.

SAFETY SYMBOLS:

General danger

Caution: refer to the operator's handbook

Caution: 380 Volt tension.

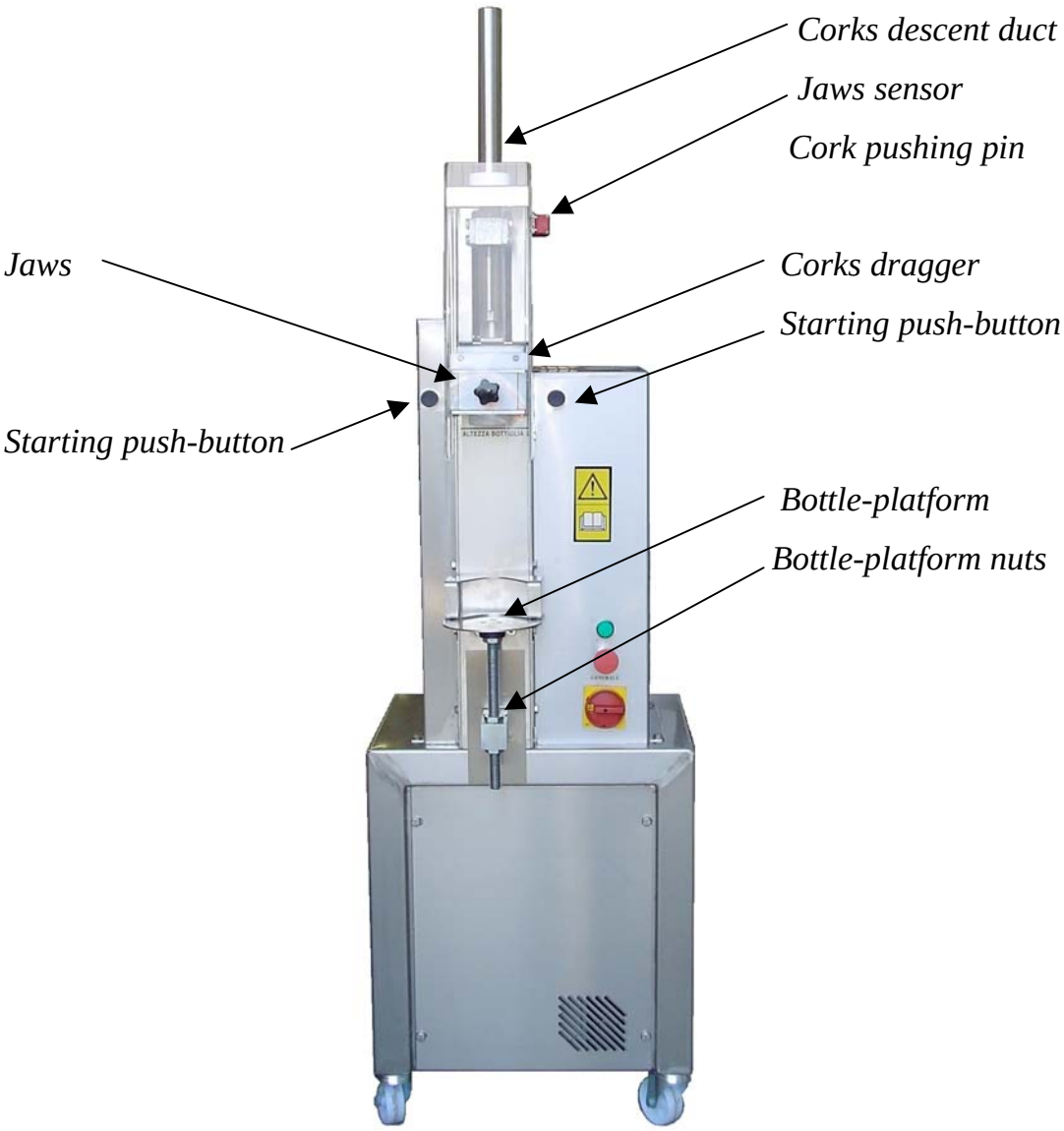
Caution: rotating gears. Severing of fingers.

2. FUNCTIONING

Our P55 corking machine is suitable for corking sparkling wines using cylindrical corks (they usually have a 31 mm diameter and are up to 49 mm high) which are inserted 24 mm deep into the bottle neck and the remaining part stays outside the bottle (they are the characteristic Champagne corks). These corks have a flat end and a bevelled end, which is the part that stays outside the bottle neck. The bevelled part has this special shape because it is easier to apply the wire-hood afterwards whose function is that of holding back the Champagne cork against the push of the wine gas.

Our P55 corking machine has a cylindrical upper duct inside which the corks must be inserted. This model cannot be equipped with a corks automatic loading device because these corks have a direction and the bevelled part must be upwards.

The jaws of the machine squeeze the corks elastically until they take a diameter which is near that of the bottle neck. In this way the corks can be pushed easily into the bottle neck preventing the corks from being damaged. Once the corks are into the bottle neck they will expand again and will guarantee that the bottles are sealed.



Picture 1.

To start the machine push both the starting push-buttons located on the sides of the machine (see picture 1). At the beginning of the working cycle the bottle-platform goes up, the jaws close and the cork pushing pin goes down (see picture 1, cork pushing pin) which insert the corks partially into the bottle neck. At this point the return cycle begins: the bottle-platform goes down, the cork pushing pin goes up and the corks dragger moves to pick up a cork from the corks descent duct and let it drop into the jaws for next corking.

3. TECHNICAL DETAILS

Our P55 corking machine is suitable for cylindrical Champagne corks whose diameter is 31 mm and whose height is 49 mm. However, after some adjustments, it is also possible to use cylindrical flat corks (those that do not come out of the bottle neck) whose diameter is not more than 26 mm and that are less than 50 mm high. This corking machine is suitable for corks whose diameter is rather large; then it is not suitable for corks too small.

The P55 corking machine can cork bottles of different shapes up to 375 mm high and whose diameter is smaller than 115 mm.

The corking time (that is, the time between the two starting push-buttons being pushed and the bottles being corked) is about 1,8 seconds.

P55 corking machine:
height: 1780 mm
width: 520 mm
length: 560 mm
weight: 110 kg

Three-phase motor:
feeding: 220 Volt, 60 Hz
speed rotation: 1380 r.p.m.
power: 1,5 Kw

Screw reducer without end:
reduction ratio 1/45.

4. OPERATING DIRECTIONS

Positioning. The P55 corking machine must be placed on an even ground in a lit up room and far enough from other appliances.

Make sure that the screws which hold the safety guards are screwed tight, especially those which hold the switch-board.

Clean all the parts that come into contact with the corks, such as the corks descent duct, the cork pusher, the jaws, the cork-pushing pin (see picture 1).

Check that no foreign matters which could compromise the good functioning of the machine are inside the jaws.

Take off the antiscratch blue/white nylon film from the front plastic safety guard, tighten the fasteners and make sure the fork element can activate the safety sensor (see picture 1, jaws sensor).

Adjust the height of the bottle platform by undoing the two bolts (see picture 1) which hold it tight, then re-tighten the bolts so that the top of the bottle is near the "bottle-height" line underneath the jaws.

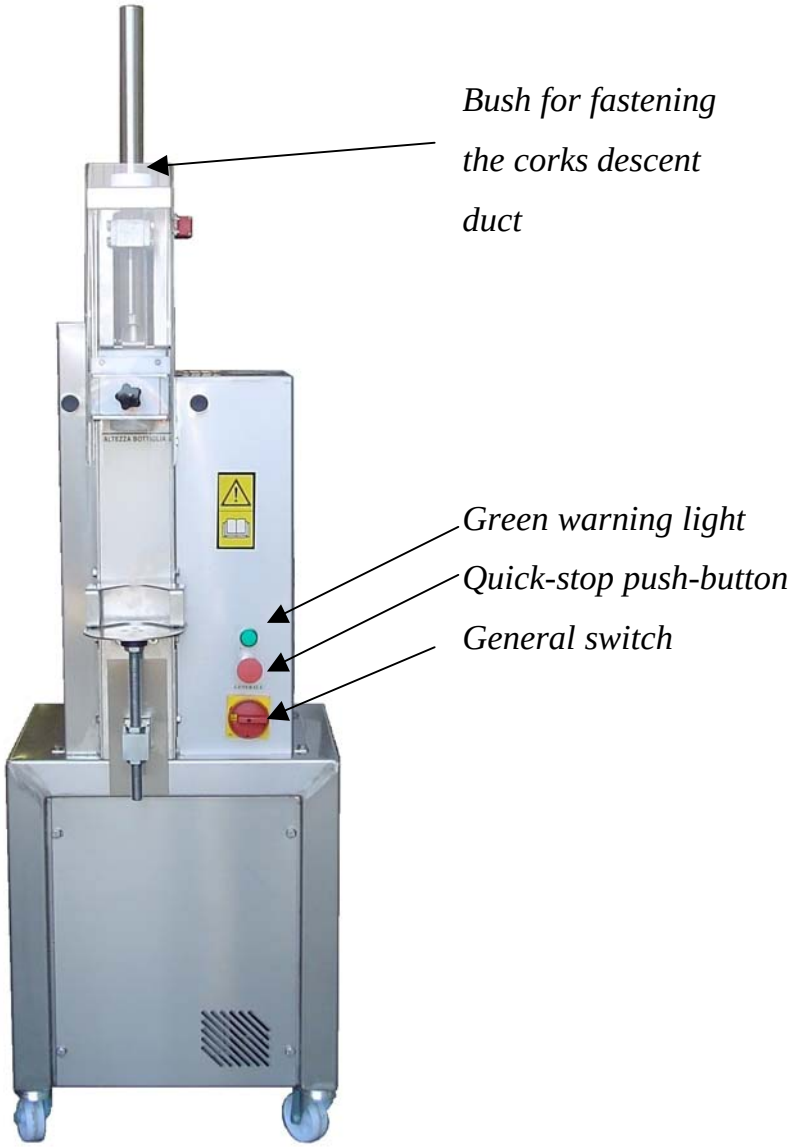
Connect the feeding cable to a 220 volt current-tap, turn clockwise the quick-stop button of the switch-board (it could have been turned unintentionally) and turn the starting switch to position 1 (see picture 2). Now the green warning light should be on.

ATTENTION

The P55 corking machine is supplied with the feeding cable without the end plug. Depending on the three-phase plug system that you have in your working room, you will have to assemble the respective plug.

Check that the shaft which can be seen from the hole on the right side of the machine, moves in the direction shown by the arrow near the hole; if it were not so, reverse its direction of rotation by changing the position of one of the feeding plug wires.

The corking machine can be started by pressing the two starting push-buttons located on the sides of it (see picture 1).



Picture 2.

CAUTION

The corking machine can be used by only an operator at a time and no one else should be near when the feeding cable is connected and the corking machine is operating.
In order to prevent any accident the two starting push-buttons must be kept pressed and both hands must be kept in this position until the corking operation has been carried out.

In case you want to use cylindrical flat corks (that is, those corks that do not come out of the bottle neck), lower the cork pushing pin by loosening the respective fastening nut and turning this pin which is threaded and then will go down.

5. FAULTS AND REMEDIES CHECK LIST

When the machine is in the operating condition, the green warning light must be on (see picture 2). If it were not so, first of all check that the fork element of the front plastic safety guard activates the respective sensor in the right way (see picture 1). Moreover, once the quick stop push-button has been pushed, then it has to be turned clockwise to make the machine run again. In case the machine is not starting, it could have been pushed unintentionally; so try to turn it and restart the corking machine.
When one tries to remove the plastic safety guard, the green warning light turns off , the machine stops immediately and the bottle-platform stays half way of its stroke. To take the bottle-platform back to its starting position, push both the starting push-buttons.

IMPORTANT

Before intervening on the machine always bring the starting switch to the "0" position and disconnect the feeding cable.

In case the bottle-platform is not in the lowest position of its stroke after corking, take off the left safety plate (we mean left facing the machine). Inside there is a cam which is the end of stroke element, that is integral with the machine main shaft and activates a sensor that makes the end of the corking cycle. Loosen the cam grain and try to turn it; by turning it clockwise, one anticipates the end of the corking cycle (that is, the bottle-platform which goes to its lowest point and tends to go up); by turning it counterclockwise one put off the end of the cycle (that is, bottle-platform which does not go to its lowest point). Screw the plate again and restart the machine.

If the corks dragger does not pick the corks properly (see picture 3), take off the small plate which is a little underneath the jaws in the machine left part.
In case the corks do not go down right inside the hole of the corks dragger, move the special bush fixed by the screw without head (see picture 3). It is possible to adjust the

corks dragger position when picking a cork from the corks descent duct by moving this bush to another spot.

If the corks dragger does not centre the jaws correctly, the wedge that can be seen when taking off the little side plate must be adjusted. The end position of the corks dragger can be adjusted by loosening the screws that hold it tight and moving it a little, so that the right centrering of the corks as regards the jaws can be obtained.

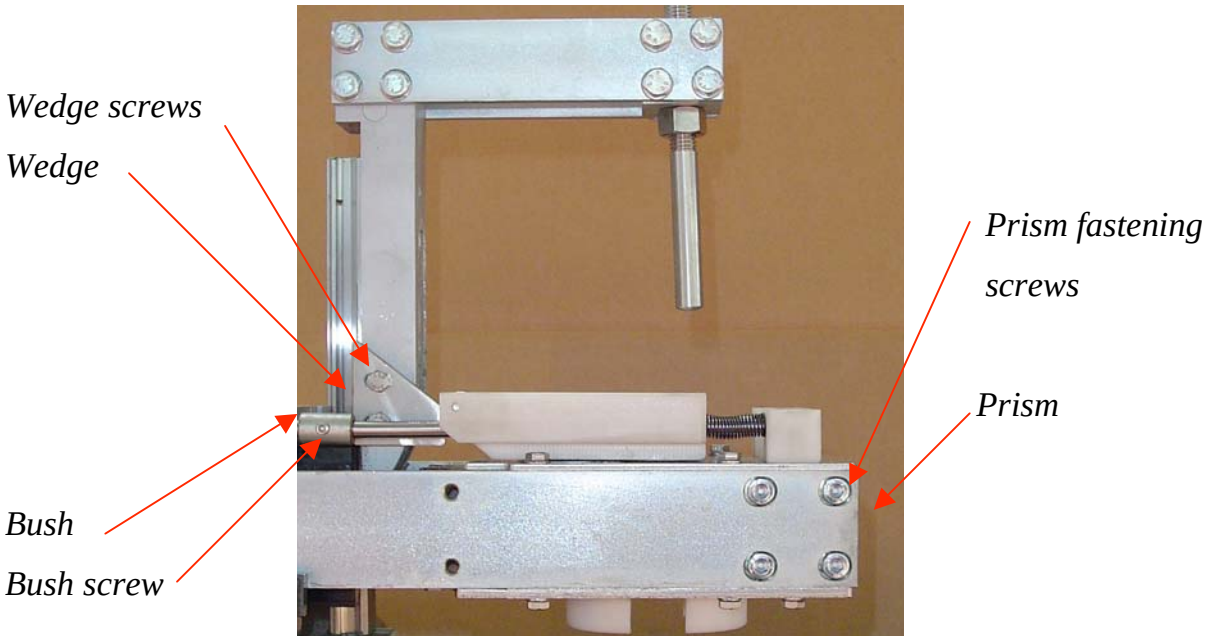
In case the corks descent duct is not centred perfectly when facing the machine, it is possible that the corks are not on the same line as the corks dragger but they could fall more on the right or more on the left. Loosen the respective threaded fastening bush and adjust its position.

If the part of cork inside the bottle has some anomalies or its external part is misshaped, check the bottle centrering system, located in the lower part of the jaws. This system is made of two half-cones: a mobile one and a fixed one. Particularly check that when the jaws are closed, that is when the mobile half-cone (see picture 4) is near the fixed half-cone, the bottle top leans against the lower part of the jaws blocks and that the neck of the bottle centred between the two half-cones moves just a little. If one of these two conditions is not so, loosen the screws of the plate integral with the mobile half-cone, which has two buttonholes and then can be adjusted.

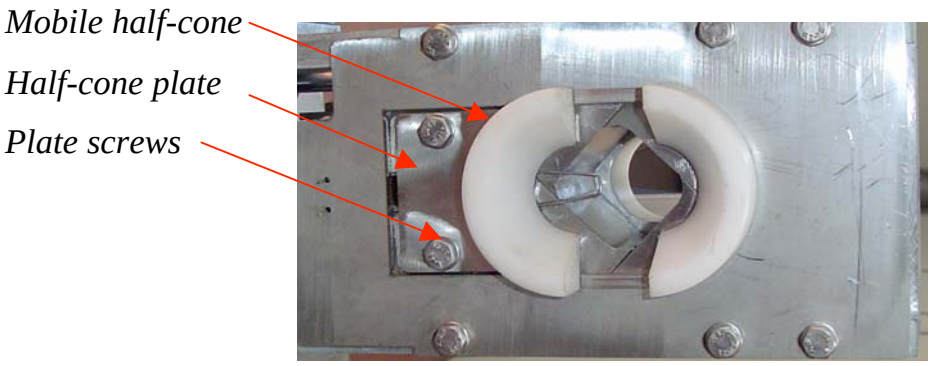
In case the bottle does not lean against the jaws lower part, move this plate towards the machine so as to make more space between the two half-cones and allow the bottle neck to come near the jaws. If the bottle neck is not right centred, move this plate to the opposite direction, making sure not to move the two half-cones too near because when moving the mobile cone could strike the fixed half-cone.

To adjust the depth of the cork insertion inside the bottle, the cork pushing pin has to be adjusted by loosening the respective fastening nut (see picture 1) and turning the pin itself which is threaded and then will go up or down according to the rotation sense.

The P55 corking machine is set to squeeze the corks up to a final diameter of 16 mm.



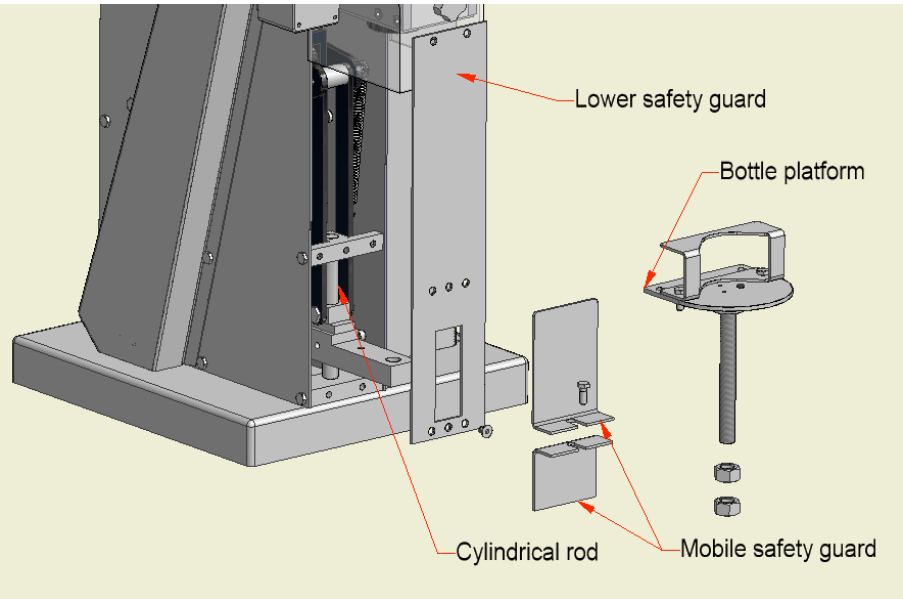
Picture 3.



Picture 4.

When the jaws are closed and the cork pushing pin pushes on the cork, it might happen that the bottle-platform cannot keep this position and tends to go down, with the result that the cork parts outside the corked bottles could be different. In this case the machine works correctly but the bottle ascent system needs maintenance. To do that, take off the bottle-platform by undoing the nuts which hold it tight, take off the mobile safety plates and the lower safety plate (see picture 5); then, clean the cylindrical rod on which the bottle-platform glides (see picture 5). Use a clean and dry piece of cloth and rub

energetically to remove dust or any foreign matters that could be on the cylindrical rod. It is advisable to let an oil drop fall on that rod (just a drop is enough because it does not need to be lubricated much).



Picture 5.

In case the machine presents some vibrations, lubricate a little the jaws inside; then let the machine do some blank strokes before starting work again to clean the excess of grease and prevent the corks from getting dirt (see picture 1). If the vibrations go on, loosen the screws of the back safety plate and lubricate all the pins and bearings inside. In case the problem persists turn to the manifacturer M.E.P.

CAUTION

In the event of strong vibrations of the machine or whatever else anomalies immediately push the quick-stop push-button and contact the local dealer.

MAINTENANCE

A long machine working life is dependent upon constant and methodical compliance with the following instructions:

- take off the back plate and lubricate using grease the bearings, the linear slide and the pins inside the machine;
- clean the jaws from any cork dust;
- lubricate just a little the inside of the jaws using food grease and remove the excess of grease before starting work again.

At the end of each season or before a long stop we recommend to:

- carefully clean the machine and the jaws;
- store the machine in a dry place and cover it up with a cloth or a nylon film in order to prevent the dust from crusting over the corking machine.

ELECTRIC SYSTEM