

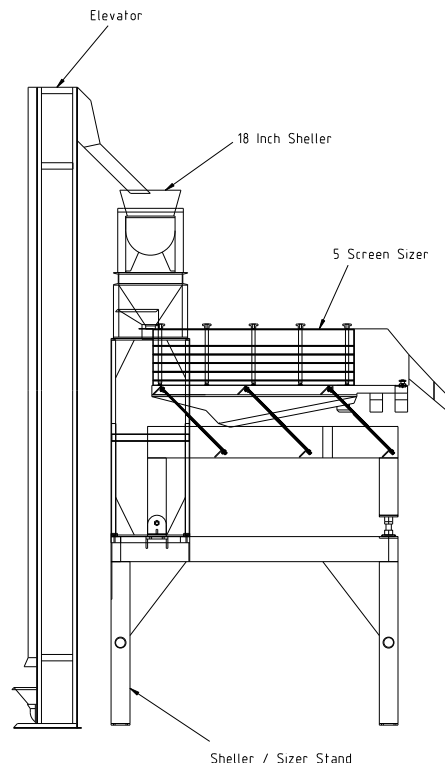


Installing the Stick Tight Roller

The stick tight roller, when used properly, can provide a more attractive product and can increase the capacity of a cracking line when used in conjunction with an aspirating stage at the end of the cracked nut conveyor. In the typical pecan shelling plant, floor space is very limited. Many machines are positioned very close to each other leaving only a small amount of room for the addition of another machine. In this document, we will attempt to provide the information needed for plant administrators to determine if the addition of a stick tight roller is feasible. First, a typical setup will be shown, then two options that show how to integrate the stick tight roller will be discussed.

The Typical Setup

There are many different ways that our customers have installed their machines. For the purpose of this letter, we will be discussing a typical setup. The machines discussed here will be limited to the those that are between the cracked nut conveyor, and the first set of blowers. This typically includes an elevator, sheller, 5 screen sizer, and a stand that holds the sheller above the sizer. This stand should have some form of catwalk that allows a worker to climb to the top to inspect and adjust the sheller. This setup is represented in Illustration 1.



Some of the clutter associated with a real world setup has been removed from the Illustration for simplicity. In particular, the catwalk is not shown because it is usually added by the customer upon installation of the sheller / sizer stand.

Your setup may not look exactly like Illustration 1, but the process should be very close. All of the product that comes off of the cracked nut conveyor passes through the elevator, sheller, and sizer.

Illustration 1: Typical Setup



P.O. Box 817, Mansfield, Louisiana, 71052
280 Independence Ave., Grand Cane, Louisiana 71032

318-872-4764
Fax: 318-872-4768
www.me-equip.com

Stick Tight Roller (Option 1)

The first option requires that more floor space be sacrificed, but requires a slightly smaller extension to the elevator. It would be possible to further reduce the length of the elevator extension if the customer is willing to order a custom input hopper, and discharge chute for the stick tight roller. The stick tight roller is positioned at a 90 degree rotation from the sheller. This option will require an extension to the catwalk so as to allow a worker to adjust the rollers on the stick tight roller. See Illustration 2.

When adding on to the sheller / sizer stand or catwalk, care must be taken to ensure that the stick tight roller is far enough away from the sheller so that the covers can be removed.

Stick Tight Roller (Option 2)

The second option takes up less floor space, but requires a longer extension to the elevator. The stick tight roller is positioned directly over, and inline with the sheller. This option may only need a small addition to the

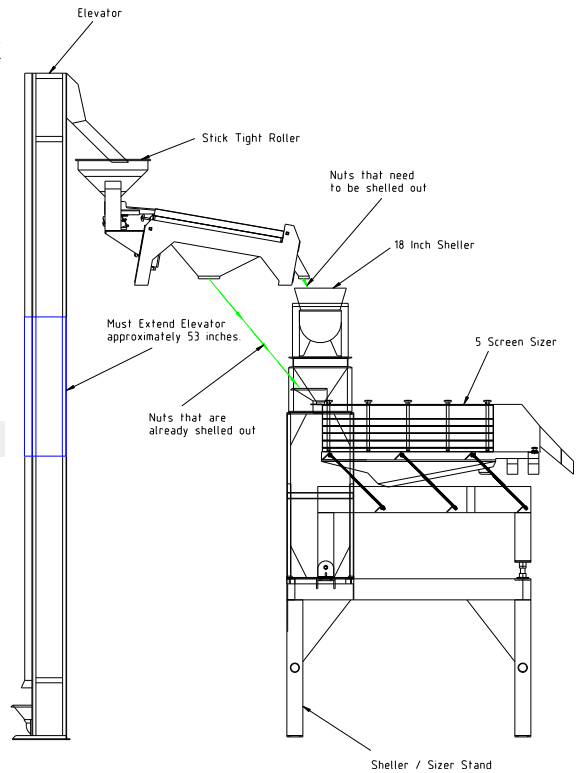


Illustration 2: Option 1

sheller / sizer stand or catwalk, but a provision must be made for a worker to access the stick tight roller to make adjustments. See Illustration 3.

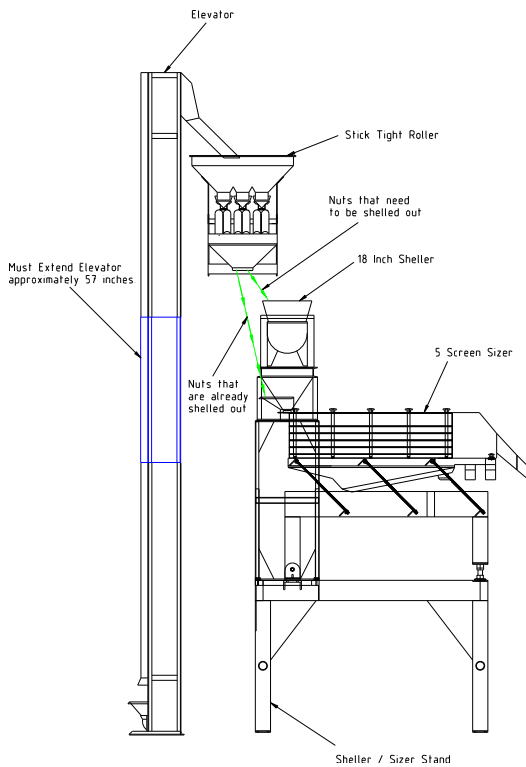


Illustration 3: Option 2



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Other Options

Options 1 and 2 cover possible scenarios for what we consider to be the typical plant setup. There are, however, many other solutions. As an example, a plant could place the stick tight roller near floor level, add a second elevator, and feed the product that does not need to go to the sheller into this second elevator which could be a short elevator that fed directly into the sizer. This would eliminate the need to add on to the sheller / sizer stand and would allow the workers to stay on the floor while adjusting the stick tight roller. This option might require that the cracker feeder and the cracked nut conveyor be moved to make room for the stick tight roller.

Conclusion

If you are interested in improving the quality of your halves, or would like to increase the capacity of one or more cracking lines, a stick tight roller can help you accomplish the goal. Some of the existing machines will need to be moved in order to accommodate the stick tight roller. We have discussed several options that would allow you to make a stick tight roller an integral part of your shelling plant. If your setup is not similar to the ones discussed above, we are sure that we can help you determine what would be best for your plant. As always, we are here to help you, and we look forward to hearing from you.