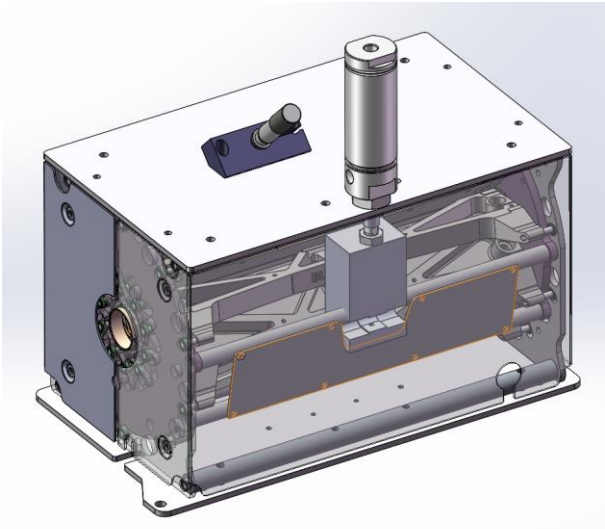



Red-Pleat Twin-Cam Comparison



Blockwise has long built reliable and effective equipment for pleating long length balloons, with the Twin-Cam stations, and more recently, the Red-Pleat stations. These are now available for 3 wings, with more planned.

Long-length balloon pleating is difficult to do, because of the challenges involving taper, wing gap, and thermal consistency. This is especially true for smaller balloons, but for more than a decade, Blockwise Twin-Cam stations have been performing excellently in the field. Our new Red-Pleat builds on and improves this technology, based on what we have learned.

Twin-Cam	Red-Pleat
	
<p>good wing gaps <i>The dies are guided independently and externally, by ball bearings rolling in cam slots</i></p>	<p>precise wing gaps <i>The dies are guided by each other, with the use of highly precise (0.00001" precision) bearing balls rolling between their assemblies.</i></p>
<p>good taper (<0.003") <i>The mechanism taper is good when compared to competition, given the length of die assemblies; some effect from mounting on base</i></p>	<p>very low taper (<0.0005") <i>The mechanism taper is easily justified from end to end, and especially isn't affected by mounting on a base, due to "flexible" feet</i></p>
<p>good heating distribution (2 to 3°C variation) <i>The heating is distributing amongst dies that are mounted to a common bar, and a good amount of face-to-face contact</i></p>	<p>great heating distribution (<2°C variation) <i>The die assemblies are evenly heated with good distribution, due to the dies being firmly and fully fastened to each other, face to face</i></p>
<p>good radial force <i>The mechanism is capable of radial force to adequately pleat almost all levels of pressure in all sizes of balloon</i></p>	<p>good radial force <i>The mechanism has at least as much radial force capability as the Twin-Cam station</i></p>