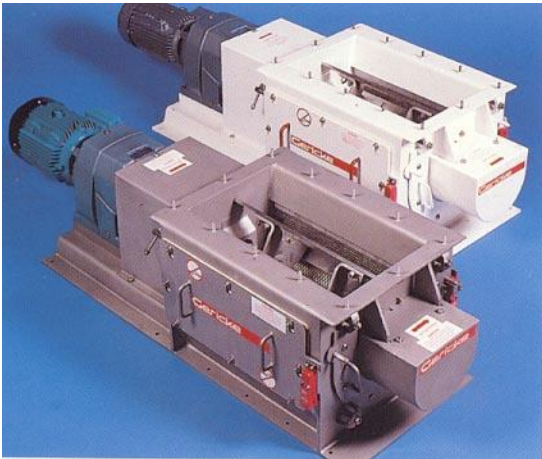


Gentle Size Reduction of Granola Base & Other Oat Based Products



Due to the nature of the low speed, high torque action of the Gericke Nibbler, it proved to be the ideal solution for a common manufacturing process in the food industry. In this day and age of focusing on individual health, protein bars, granola bars and healthy cereals have become commonplace on the shelves of supermarkets across the world.

Combine this with the food industry's focus on manufacturing aspects such as reduced cost, reduced waste and a desire to use every last drop of the ingredients, the challenge was to provide a suitable component for their process that would help them achieve their goal.

After extensive on site testing with one of our rental machines, it was determined that the N450x800 Nibbler fitted with a serrated screen was the perfect choice. During this testing period, the client noticed the versatility of the Nibbler and introduced two more of their products to test on the machine, as suspected these tests were also successful with different screen aperture sizes to provide the necessary particle size distribution (PSD). Not only was the PSD ideal, but the individual components of the product were not damaged. The Nibbler was designed with special inlet and outlet hoppers to suit the required design parameters, and supplied to the client with its own integral support frame.

The client integrated the unit into their system and the manufacturer was up and running with their process. The main product of granola/oat base is first baked in a continuous sheet and then distributed on to a wide conveyor belt. This flat base is first broken down with a finger breaker to produce manageable sizes and subsequently dropped onto a cleated belt. The cleated belt takes the product and introduces it to the Nibbler inlet where it is further size reduced. This product is then taken up to the second level where a screener separates the fines from the main sized product – the fines are re-introduced at the front end of the process (no waste product) and actual product is sent to the next step in the process, be it cereal or health bars.