



## FM Nicholson (Materials Handling) Limited



**CLIENT:**

Hilti UK

**SECTOR:**

Distributor of  
power tools

**CONVEYOR:**

Installation of two-  
tier conveyor

**DATE:**

Autumn 2016

HILTI UK  
CASE STUDY

# Tooled up for a two-tier logistical challenge with power provider

## THE CHALLENGE:

As one of the UK's biggest providers of leading edge technology to the global construction industry, Hilti UK approached FM Nicholson following a logistical challenge at their distribution base. Hilti had identified a major bottle neck within their process, creating delays in the efficient delivery of its parcels to customers.

Based in 120 countries across the globe, Hilti's UK headquarters are in Stockport and provides solutions to hundreds of thousands of customers every day. Its values lie in the integrity of its business, teamwork and commitment to customer excellence – values shared with Nicholson.

The challenge was discovered in the process layout which required the parcels to be prepared and packed on the first floor and despatched for delivery by pallet from the ground floor resulting in an inefficient and wasteful process with a high degree of manual handling and work in progress.

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***“We were able to overcome this logistical challenge and delivered a unique, world-class handling system which allows the customer to safely deliver the products on a two-tier level.”***

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***Peter Hopwood, FM Nicholson.***

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## THE APPROACH:

In order to maintain an efficient way of delivering the products to the highest standard possible, Nicholson carried out a full review of the process which was already being used by Hilti UK. After process re-mapping it was decided to introduce a new, dedicated conveyor system to transfer automatically all the parcels onto a chute which allowed the parcels to slide in a controlled manner down to the ground floor and onto an un-loading table, via a gravity roller conveyor storage section.

Purpose-built packing tables were designed having gravity roller feed, with low friction packing area and the facility to be manually adjusted in height to create the ideal ergonomic working conditions.

The line-shaft conveyor system features a 90° corner turn, using much less space than a standard powered roller conveyor bend, feeding directly into the spiral chute.

The extensive control system indicates to packers on the first floor the availability of palletisation on the ground floor showing if the lines are full and the chute cannot accept further packages. Thirty seconds before start up visual and audible signals are given, warning operatives of imminent movement. The system stops if there are no packages on the conveyor, saving electrical running costs and reducing maintenance.



## THE RESULT:

Despite the logistical challenges which went into designing and delivering a two-tier conveyor system, FM Nicholson produced a world-class installation for Hilti UK. Collaborative working with the client and using the expertise of KP Industries, the customer is now the owner of a unique handling system which allows Hilti UK to deliver the products safely and efficiently to the customers.

### Clients Include:

M&S  
EST. 1884

Boden  
NEW BRITISH

CHARLES  
TYRWHITT  
JERMYN STREET  
LONDON



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