

# PROCESS EQUIPMENT FOR SNACK FOOD PRODUCTION PLANTS

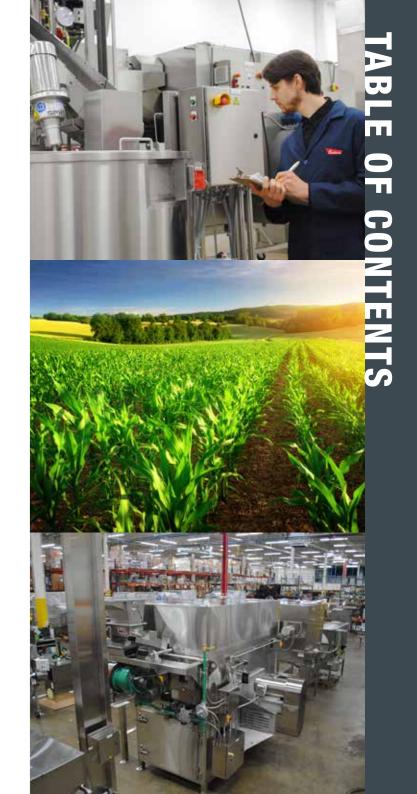


# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

INTRODUCTION
WHY DOES IT POP?
WHERE IS IT GROWN AND HOW IS IT PRODUCED?
WHAT'S YOUR FLAVOR?
HOT AIR OR OIL?
PILOT EQUIPMENT 14
PUFFERS AND POPPERS 16
SAVORY POPCORN LINE 18
OIL POPPING PRODUCTION SYSTEM 20
CARAMEL/SWEET POPPING LINE 26
CUSTOMIZATION 30
INNOVATION ROOM 32

How has C. Cretors and Company survived for over 130 years in business?

A commitment to Quality Fabrication, Innovation and Customer Service.



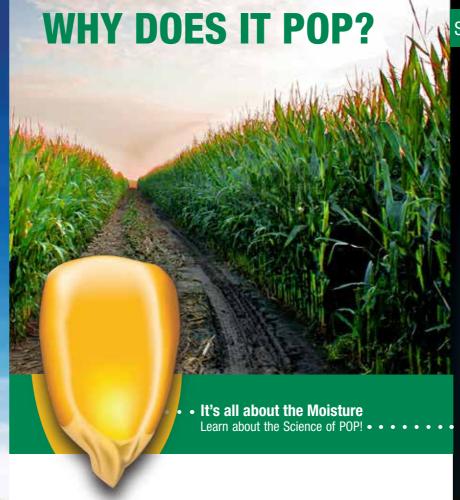


Since it was founded in 1885, C. Cretors and Company has focused on building high quality machines for the snack food industry. For five generations and counting, the *Cretors Family* has been committed to technical innovation and to quality fabrication. Our main focus has always been *popcorn* and there is no other company in the *world* better prepared to service your needs with that healthy snack.

Cretors owns two manufacturing plants with the main facility located close to O'Hare Airport (Chicago, IL, USA). At this location, we have a pilot plant available to aid our customers in process and recipe development. All of the machines and production lines are custom-built to match our customer's production capacity needs, to best fit within heir plant's space constraints and to work with their local electrical and gas services. We test all of our production lines before they leave the plant and customers can witness that testing. We do not just offer attractive and efficient machines, we also provide process know-how garnered from our decades of experience in the industry.







Popcorn is scientifically known as Zea Mays Everta. It's a type of maize or corn and is a member of the grass family. Of the four common types of corn – sweet, dent (also known as field), flint (also known as Indian) and popcorn – only popcorn pops!

So why do popcorn kernels pop when heated? Popcorn kernels contain a special tissue called an endosperm. The center of the kernel contains a soft wet endosperm which is surrounded by a hard stony endosperm. When the kernel is heated, the water at the center expands to steam, cooking the starch, pressurizing the kernels until it eventually pops open and cools rapidly to maintain its new expanded form (= popped corn!).

SCIENCE OF POP • • • • • • • • Each kernel of popcorn contains a small drop of water stored inside a circle of soft starch. Popcorn needs between 13.5-14% moisture to pop. The soft starch is surrounded by the kernel's hard outer surface. When heat is added, the water inside the kernel begins to expand and puts enormous pressure on the kernel's shell. • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

heats up, the water begins to expand. Around 212 °F the water turns into steam and changes the starch inside each ternel into a super not gelatinous goop. The kernel continues to heat to about 347 °F. The pressure inside the grain will reach 135 PSI before finally bursting the hull open.

As it explodes, steam inside the kernel is released.

The soft starch inside the popcorn becomes

inflated and spills out, cooling immediately and

forming into the odd shape we know and love. A kernel will swell to 40-50 times its original size!

Outer Shell

**Endosperm / Starch** 

- - - Germ

# WHERE IS IT GROWN AND HOW IS IT PRODUCED?









### **Seed Development**

Popcorn is a non-GMO product. Seed varieties are developed through hybridization of inbred lines. Seeds are developed in test plots over many seasons to achieve the desired growing and popping characteristics.

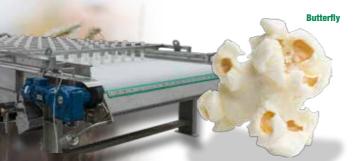
Popcorn is grown throughout the world but the main areas are the USA, that flows through the machine. The machine can Argentina, France and South Africa. The growing season is around 100 detect even the slightest visual defect. The machine days. 1"-2" of water a week is needed. Warm days followed by cool nights then uses a burst of high speed air to knock is the ideal environment (and is most easily achieved at higher altitudes). that undesired material out of the product flow.

### Harvesting

Popcorn is normally harvested when the kernels have a moisture content of 14-17%. Below 14%, the popcorn will not pop well. Above 17%, the corn may spoil when stored in grain bins.

#### **Storage and Conditioning**

In order to get the moisture content of popcorn to the ideal 14.5%, the corn stored in the bins is constantly monitored. Ambient air or heated air may be blown through the bins to achieve the optimum moisture level. There is also careful monitoring of insect and pests to ensure the integrity of the popcorn.





## **Cleaning the Popcorn**

Once the popcorn has the correct moisture, the kernels are then cleaned. Foreign materials and broken kernels are removed. There are four main steps in the cleaning process:

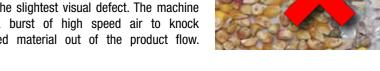
Screen Cleaner – using different size vibrating screens to sift out the kernels from the foreign material that may be found amongst the corn.

Gravity Table - An angled, vibrating screen to sort out impurities based on the density of the pieces

De-stoner - A small gravity table designed to remove very dense material (typically stones or rocks.)

Optical Sorter - A color sorter uses a highresolution camera to visually inspect every kernel





After the corn is cleaned, it is then weighed and packaged. The most common bag sizes are 50 Lbs (22.67 Kg) and 2,200 Lbs (1 Metric Ton). The popcorn is then typically shipped on pallets in trucks or in dedicated shipping containers.











Which came first? Air Popping (in a basket over an open flame). But then, our founder Charles Cretors patented the first oil popper in 1893.

## **Advantages to Air-Popping**

- 1. Dry-Popping requires about 25% less oil than wet popping.
- 2. Air-Popping produces a more uniform popped corn than oil popping.
- 3. Less labor required more automated process.
- 4.Dry-Popping makes a less expensive base on which you can add many savory or sweet flavors.
- 5. The oil applied to the popcorn after air popping is more stable and provides a longer shelf-life that the hot oil used in oil
- 6. The sprayed oil is more evenly spread around the popped corn than the oil absorbed in an oil popper.
- 7. Air-Popping production lines are easier to clean.
- 8. Air-Popping lines are available for truly large scale production (over 5,000 Lbs/Hr).

# Hot Air or Oil Popping?

Cretors offers many different lines of varying production capacities and levels of automation for both types of popping. Cretors will take the time to answer all of your questions when making this decision.

## **Advantages to Oil-Popping**

- 1. Lower initial investment especially for low production capacity.
- 2. Small space requirements for the production.
- 3. A french-fried flavor different from dry popped corn that has had oil applied after popping.
- 4. The variation in texture and flavor between kernels from an oil popper are often viewed favorably by consumers.
- 5. While nutritionals are not as favorable, most people prefer "fried" over "baked".
- 6. Simplicity in operation with minimal labor skill requirements.
- 7. Product change-over times are generally shorter with oil popping
- 8. Because oil popping lines typically involve multiple batch poppers, the full line does not have to shut down just because a single popper is off-line.

## **Every detail considered.**

Cretors offers a variety of custom features on each machine. They are truly tailored for your business. Don't be afraid to ask, we'll gladly build something just for you.

Different stirrer blades on our oil popping kettles





# PILOT - SCALE EQUIPMENT TO DEVELOP RECIPES AND TO DO SMALL PRODUCTION RUNS





## **EQUIPMENT TAILORED FOR YOUR BUSINESS** Cretors offers many different types and sizes of pilot equipment. The data can be scaled up

to use on our full-scale production equipment. Long term, the pilot equipment is a good asset for Quality Control labs in production plants for on-going testing and development.

**Batch Savory Coating** Counter Mixer Tumbler



**Metric Weight** Volume Tester FT 80 Savory Coate

# PUFFERS AND POPPER POPCORN OVENS



## **FLO-THRU ROTARY OVEN**

The main component in our air-popping lines is our fluidized, rotary oven. They are used for popping popcorn ("Poppers") and for expanding snack pellets ("Puffers"). They are also used for toasting breakfast cereals and roasting nuts.

### **Features Include:**

- 1 Reliable screw feeder (featured) or electromagnetic vibratory feeder.
- 2 Low maintenance drum drive with electronic speed control.
- 3 Advanced flame ignition and monitoring system.
- 4 Easily accessible clean-out door.
- 5 Auger (featured above) design that ensures uniform residence time.
- 6 State-of-the-art controls with safety interlocks.
- Efficient blower with electronic speed control.
- 8 All stainless steel construction with 3 inches (80mm) of fiberglass insulation.

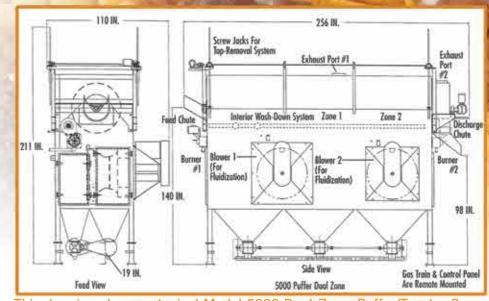
## **AVAILABLE SIZES**

Popper/Puffer Model Number	In-Feed Capacity for Popcorn				
40	40 Lbs/Hr 18 Kg/Hr				
80	80 Lbs/Hr 36 Kg/Hr				
200	200 Lbs/Hr 91 Kg/Hr				
650	650 Lbs/Hr 295 Kg/Hr				
1000	1000 Lbs/Hr 453 Kg/Hr				
2500	2500 Lbs/Hr 1133 Kg/Hr				
5000	5000 Lbs/Hr 2267 Kg/Hr				

# **PRODUCTION VERSATILITY**

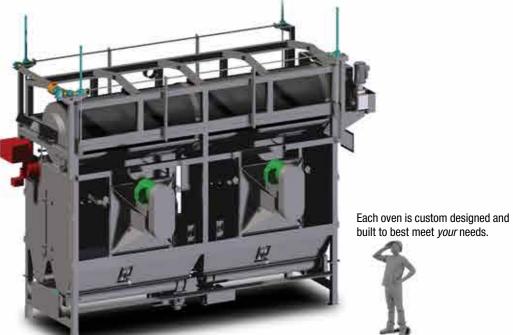


The main difference between the design of a Puffer and a Popper is the greater number of control variables on a Puffer. A Puffer has a variable speed vibratory feeder, a variable speed drum drive (oven residence time) and a variable speed blower (degree of fluidization). Our Puffers also typically feature lighted sight-glasses that allow the operator to visually confirm the correct product fluidization inside the oven.



This drawing shows a typical Model 5000 Dual-Zone, Puffer/Toaster Oven.

The temperature in the oven is tightly controlled by a digital temperature controller. The burner utilizes a state-of-the art burner system with all of the required safety features. With the use of the modulating burner valve and autotuning capabilities of the controller, it is possible to run the oven at  $\pm 1^{\circ}$  F.













Raw Corn Elevator

Stainless steel floor hopper with bucket elevator to deliver popcom kernels to the Popper on

An in-line, rotary, fluidized oven. Stainless steel construction. May be gas-fired or electrically heated. Tight control on feed rate, oven temperature, blower speed (fluidization) and drum speed (residence time). Produces uniform popped com.

An in-line stainless steel Sifting Tumbler that serves to remove un-popped kernels and under-sized popped kernels.

An in-line stainless steel Coating Tumbler used to apply additional oil, oil slurries and salt (where

A water jacketed Kettle used for mixing slury recipes, Different sizes available depending on

Inclined Conveyor

An inclined, cleated-belt conveyor to deliver the coated popcom to an intermediate storage bin or to a packaging system.

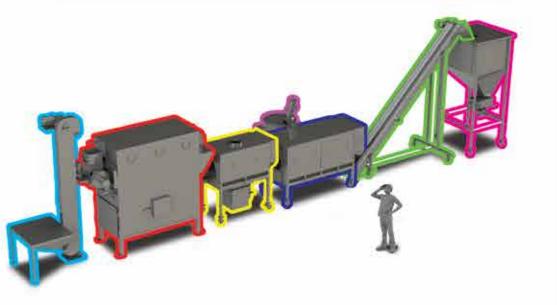


Surge Bin/Storage Bin

An intermediate surge bin on a Savory line typically feeds next to the Weighing and Packaging System. The stainless steel hopper is fitted with a vibratory discharge tray.

We offer in-line Continuous Savory Popcom production lines featuring our air poppers. We offer a range of models and sizes and there are man optional features available.

			Financial in		Output Rate when		
earnitimes.	Imheri Carrerne		VM 61	iming	Coming and Selecting "		
80	80 Lbs/Hr	36 Kg/Hr	68 Lbs/Hr	31 Kg/Hr	>95 Lbs/Hr	>43 Kg/Hr	
200	200 Lbs/Hr	30 Kg/Hr	170 Lbs/Hr	77 Kg/Hr	>238 Lbs/Hr	>108 Kg/Hr	
650	650 Lbs/Hr	295 Kg/Hr	552 Lbs/Hr	250 Kg/Hr	>773 Lbs/Hr	>351 Kg/Hr	
1000	1000 Lbs/Hr	453 Kg/Hr	850 Lbs/Hr	385 Kg/Hr	>1190 Lbs/Hr	>540 Kg/Hr	
2500	2500 Lbs/Hr	2267 Kg/Hr	2125 Lbs/Hr	963 Kg/Hr	>2975 Lbs/Hr	> 1350 Kg/Hr	
		***************************************			* Recipe dependent		













An all stainless steel, dished-bottom, jacketed-kettle for holding oil and heating oil. The kettle has a self contained thermostatically controlled heat system to heat the oil.



### **G60 OIL POPPERS**

Giant 60 oz. Electric, Stainless Steel Kettle, with built-in oil pump and timer. Kettle comes with beacon light to notify operator when a batch is completed.



#### MOBILE SALTER

Hopper with variable speed discharge screw leading onto a vibratory scarf plate.



#### COOLING SIFTER

Constructed of a rotating stainless steel mesh wire cylinder with helical flights for conveying com and a stainless steel tapered scrap chute. Includes cooling fan.



## CORN / SUGAR BINS ON ACCESS PLATFORM

A stainless steel access stainway and platform to be placed in front of the collection conveyor. Allows the operator to easily pull/empty the popping kettles. Includes 6 bins for com and/or sugar.







An automated batch system featuring our "G-zilla" Poppers. Each G-Zilla can produce up to 250lbs/(113Kg) of salty or sweet popcom. Lines can feature one, two or four G-Zillas (1,000 lbs/hr out (453Kg/hr)). Down-stream coating and seasoning equipment can also be provided.



Batch Oil-Popper fabricated from stainless steel. May be gas-fired or electrically heated. Each batch will typically take around 4 minutes before the kettle is automatically emptied forward.



An electrically heated water-jacketed kettle used to pre-heat oil before the oil is pumped to the G-Zilla Popper.



#### Corn/Sugar/Salt Feed System

Stainless steel Floor Hoppers fitted with Inclined Spiral Feeders to deliver the raw material up to the over-head Diverter System - leading down into the next available G-Zilla.

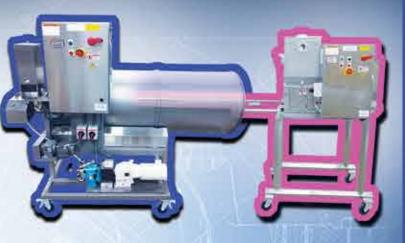


#### **Cooling Sifter**

An in-line stainless steel Sifting Tumbler that serves to remove un-popped kernels and under-sized popped kernels. In the case of sugared corn, it also separates and cools the product before it continues down-stream.









An intermediate surge bin that is used to convert the irregular batch flow from the G-Zillas into a steady continuous outflow to the down-stream Coating Tumbler. A stainless steel hopper fitted with a vibratory discharge tray.



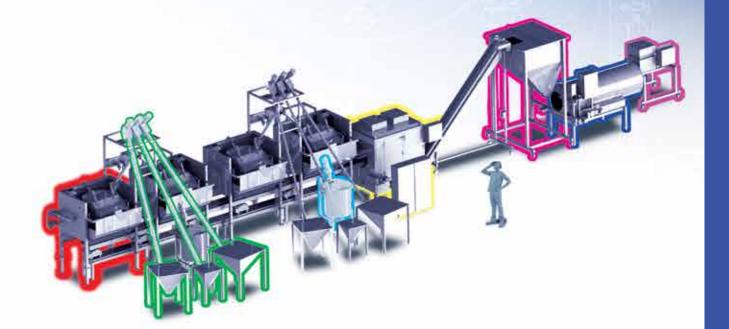
#### **Savory Coater**

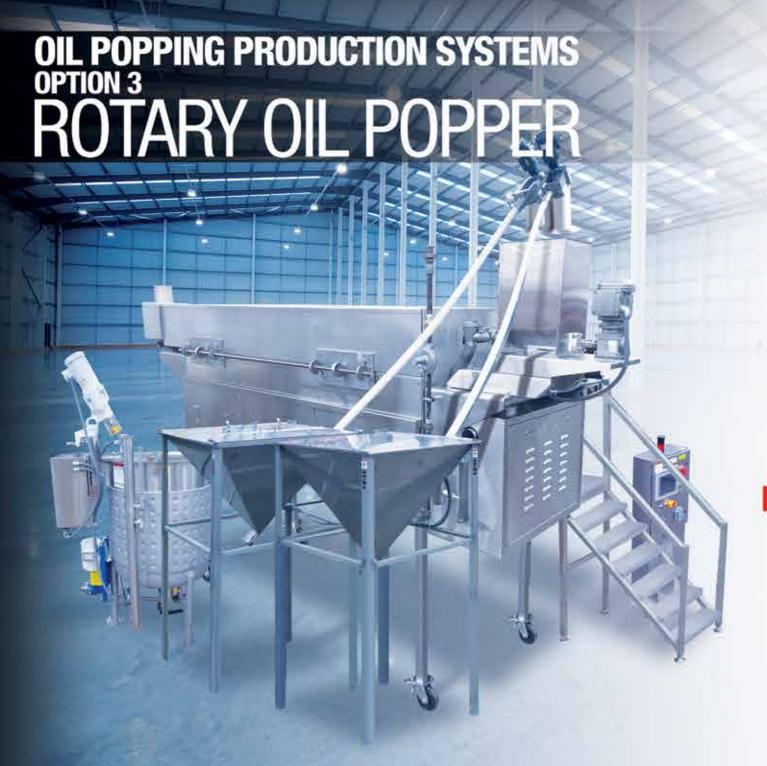
An in-line stainless steel Coating Tumbler used to apply additional oil, oil slurries and salt (where needed).



#### Dry Seasoner

Used in conjunction with the Coating Tumbler to add additional dry ingredients onto the popped com (where needed).







An in-line continuous line featuring our model 250 Rotary Oil Popper. It Produces 250 lbs/hr (113Kig) of salty or sweet Popcom.

#### Model 250 Rotary Oil Popper

A patented rotary popper specially designed for continuous in-line, oil-popping. A gas-fired unit with stainless steel construction. Tight control on the temperature of the different zones in the Popper.





An electrically heated water-jacketed kettle used to pre-heat oil before the oil is pumped to rotary popper.



## Corn/Sugar/Salt Feed System

Stainless steel Floor Hoppers fitted with Inclined Spiral Feeders to deliver the raw material up to the over-head Diverter System.



#### **Cooling Sifter**

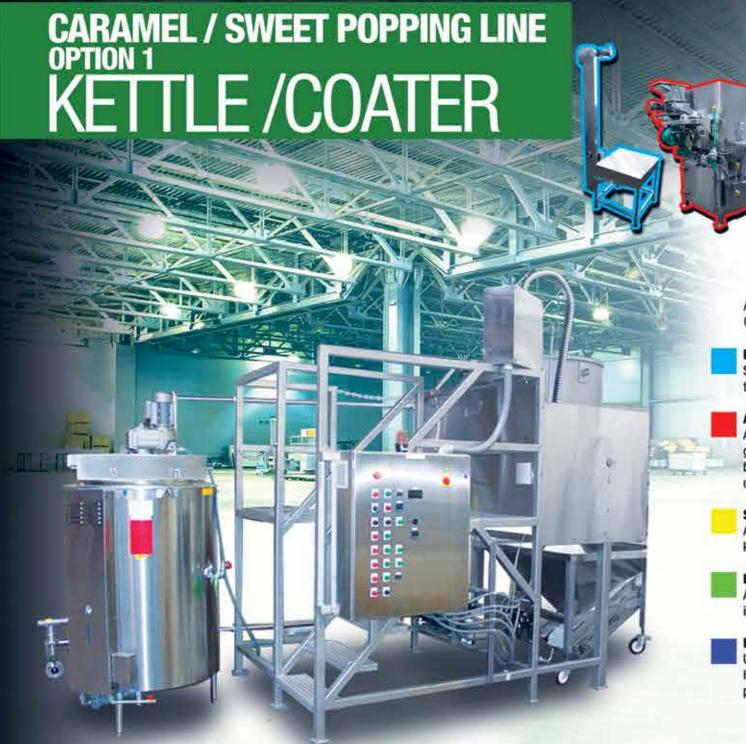
An in-line stainless steel Sifting Tumbler that serves to remove un-popped kernels and under-sized popped kernels. In the case of sugared corn, it also separates and cools the product before it continues down-stream.



Control Panel
Control Panel available in either PLC or Relay logic.

















A single Kettle /Coater line that will typically produce 350lbs/hr (160Kg//hr) of Caramel Com. A twin Kettle/Coater line will produce double that.

#### Raw Corn Elevator

Stainless steel floor hopper with bucket elevator to deliver popcom kernels to the Popper on demand.

An in-line, rotary, fluidized oven. Stainless steel construction. May be gas-fired or electrically heated. Tight control on feed rate, oven temperature, blower speed (fluidization) and drum speed (residence time). Produces uniform popped com.



An in-line stainless steel Sifting Tumbler that serves to remove un-popped kernels and under-sized popped kernels.



#### Inclined Conveyor

An inclined, cleated-belt conveyor to deliver the coated popcom to an intermediate storage bin or to a packaging system.



#### Heated Hopper with Inclined Conveyor

Used to store the next batch of popped com for use in the Kettle coater. Heated air is passed through the popcom while in storage to prevent the popcom com from absorbing ambient moisture.



#### Syrup Kettles

Jacketed, stainless steel kettles used to dissolve and heat the caramel syrup to 180 degrees F. May be gas-fired, electrically heated or steam



#### Lecithin Tank

Electrically heated, water-jacketed stainless steel tank that is fitted with a mixer. Used to heat and mix oil and lecithin that is then pumped to the Kettle/Coater. The lecithin is as an emulsifier that aids in the separation of hot caramel com.



#### Kettle/Coater

Large cooking kettle to cook the syrup up to 300 degrees F. Stainless steel construction. Features a bottom scraper mixer and a top-mounted auger mixer. Once the syrup is cooked, popped com is added and the batch mixes. Lecithin is then sprayed onto the batch. Next the batch is emptied forward using the automated, pneumatic dumping system.



#### Take-away Hopper /Conveyor

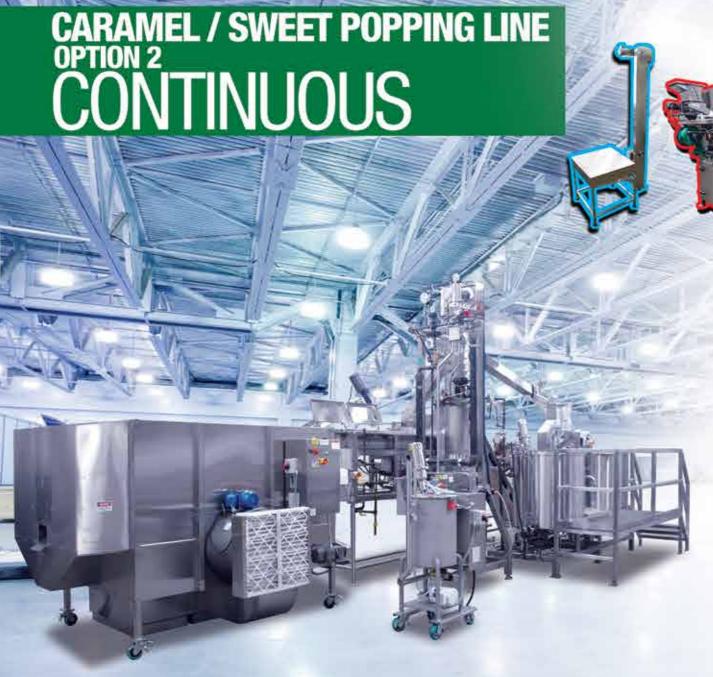
Serves to meter the batch of hot caramel com up and into the down-stream Cooling Tumbler.



#### Cooling Tumbler

In-line, continuous rotating Cooling Tumbler designed to separate caramel com and to then cool the product. Stainless steel construction. Large blowers deliver ambient air through the product in the tumbler.









Stainless steel floor hopper with bucket elevator to deliver popcom kernels to the Popper on demand.



An in-line, rotary, fluidized oven. Stainless steel construction. May be gas-fired or electrically heated. Tight control on feed rate, oven temperature, blower speed (fluidization) and drum speed (residence time). Produces uniform popped com.



An in-line stainless steel Sifting Tumbler that serves to remove un-popped kernels and under-sized popped kernels. In the case of sugared corn, it also separates and cools the product before it continues down-stream.



Inclined Conveyor

An inclined, cleated-belt conveyor to deliver the coated popcorn to an intermediate storage bin or to a packaging system.



Jacketed, stainless steel kettles used to dissolve and heat the caramel syrup to 180 degrees F. May be gas-fired, electrically heated or steam heated.







Lecithin Tank

Electrically heated, water-jacketed stainless steel tank that is fitted with a mixer. Used to heat and mix oil and lecithin that is then pumped to the Caramel Coater. The lecithin is as an emulsifier that aids in the separation of hot caramel com.



Evaporator

A steam heated, heat-exchanger designed to continuously cook the syrup to the final hard-crack temperature. May be a Rising-Film Evaporator or a Scraped-Surface Evaporator. Stainless steel construction. Tight control on syrup temperature and steam flow.



**Caramel Coater** 

An in-line, screw-coater. Steam is passed through the jacket on the trough and through the hollow shaft of the auger. Stainless steel construction. The Coater is fitted with spray nozzles for the application of the lecithin. Nut feeders are available to accommodate the addition of nuts/fruits/seeds to the caramel com inside the Coater.

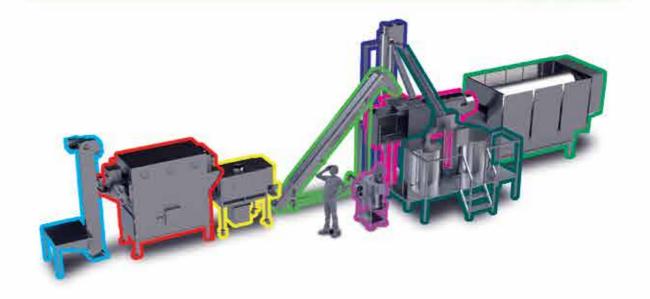


Cooling Tumbler

In-line, continuous rotating Cooling Tumbler designed to separate caramel com and to then cool the product. Stainless steel construction. Large blowers deliver ambient air through the product in the tumbler.

Our Continuous Caramel Com Lines feature steam jacketed Kettles, Evaporator and in-line Coater. Many different sized lines are available. and they can be customized to match your proposed recipe.

	Popcorn rate .		Weight Ratio Of Casamel: Popcorn (recipe)								
opper available for		available for		available for 2:1		3:1 Final Output Rate		4:1 Final Output Rate		5:1 Final Output Rate	
Model	coating		Final Output Rate								
200	170 Lbs/Hr	77 Kg/Hr	510 Lbs/Hr	231 Kg/Hr	680 Lbs/Hr	308 Kg/Hr	850 Lbs/Hr	385 Kg/Hr	1020 Lbs/Hr	463 Kg/Hr	
650	552 Lbs/Hr 2	250 Kg/Hr	1656 Lbs/Hr	751 Kg/HR	2208 Lbs/Hr	1001 Kg/Hr	2760 Lbs/Hr	1252 Kg/Hr	3312 Lbs/Hr	1502 Kg/Hr	
1000			2580 Lbs/Hr						5160 Lbs/Hr	2340 Kg/Hr	
2500	2125 Lbs/Hr 5								12,750 Lbs/Hr	5782 Kg/Hr	



# Customization of Production Lines **Savory Line Options**

In addition to customizing the size of the production line, Cretors offers many specific components to best match your needs. We will look closer at some elements here.

### Some of the options available on our Savory lines:

The use of Load Cells.



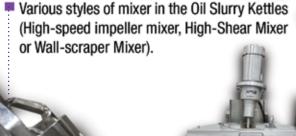
Many different types of pumps for the oil/slurries



(Gear, Centrifugal or Lobe Pumps).



Customizing of the control system (Relay Logic or PLC)



Dry Seasoners to add dry ingredients in addition to those added in the oil slurries

Various arrangements for Air-Atomized Spray Nozzles

used inside the Savory Coating Tumbler.





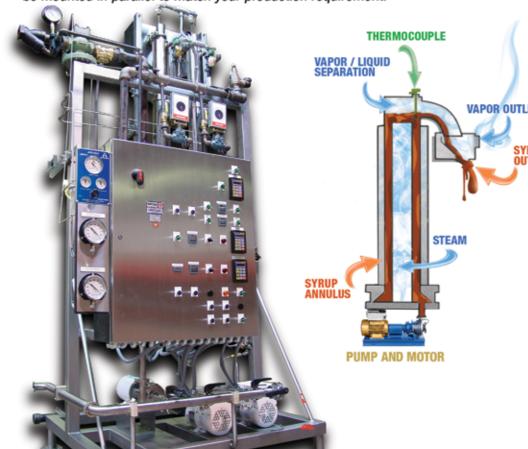
The main customization of our Automated Caramel lines are in regards to the Evaporator used. The Evaporator is used to cook the candy syrup to 300 °F (149 °C). We offer two types of Evaporator, the Thin Film Evaporator and the Scraped-Surface Evaporator.

The Thin Film Heat Exchanger consists of one or more parallel tube concentrator elements. Each element is dual jacketed to provide a heat transfer surface on both the inner and outer walls of the narrow product annulus. An extremely high heat transfer rate can be achieved since the product is fed in a turbulent, thin film between the two heat transfer surfaces.

In applications where it is necessary to concentrate highly viscous liquids, solutions with a high protein content or heat sensitive liquids (such as with some recipes of caramel), It is necessary to use a Scraped surface Heat exchanger. This style of exchanger achieves extremely high heat transfer rates by incorporating jackets on both the inner and outer walls of a narrow product annulus. During operation, the inner walls of the product annulus are continuously scraped by the spring-loaded scraper blades, which prevents product scorching and fouling . The mixing action provided by the scraper blades also provides even heat transfer and product homogeneity

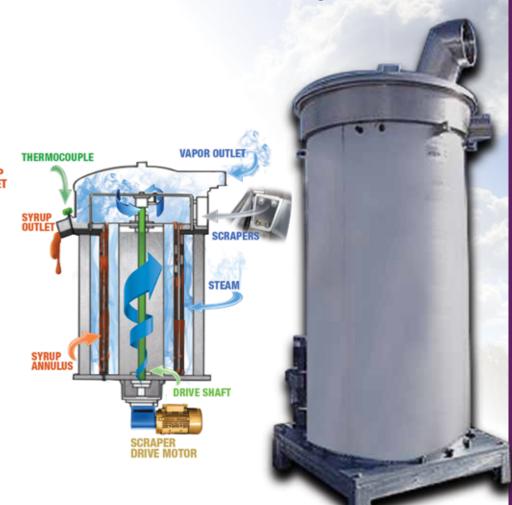
## Thin Film Heat Exchanger

Various tube diameters and lengths are available. Tubes can also be mounted in parallel to match your production requirement.



## Scraped Surface Heat Exchanger

Different diameters and lengths are available



## The use of individual kettles on casters or pairs of kettles on skids

The type of heating system for

the Holding Kettles





With over 130 years of experience Cretors has the knowledge to tailor a system for your processing application.

Cretors offers a pilot plant for snack development and production. It is conveniently located within a 20 minute drive from O'Hare International Airport (Chicago, IL, USA). It can be used to produce savory and sweet popcorn. It can also be used for processing snack pellets and some cereals. We can process from raw ingredients through to sealing cartons of bagged snacks.

Small batch processes are available for initial tests and for recipe development. Scale-up can then be done onto the Pilot Lines. While the larger-scale, pilot lines use air-popping, our smaller test machines include oil-popping options.

The Room is air conditioned to ensure product stability and to limit moisture absorption. The packaging machine is also fitted with a nitrogen flushing system to displace any humid air in the snack package before sealing.

Customers can ship us their own ingredients or provide us with a list of required ingredients. Cretors can source ingredients locally and then invoice afterwards at cost.

A modern Vertical Form and Fill packaging machine with multi-head weighing system is provided. Products can be packaged at over 60 bags/minute. The output product can be boxed and shipped out for further evaluation at the customers' own facility.

## 2 Line Options Available

Two separate Pilot Lines are offered: one for in-line, continuous production of savory coated popcorn/snacks and one for caramel or candy coated popcorn/snacks. The savory popcorn Pilot Line has a capacity of over 200 Lbs/Hr (90 Kg/Hr). Both Oil Slurry (Spray) and Dry Seasoning applicators are available. The caramel popcorn production line has a capacity of over 400 Lbs/Hr.

## State of the Art Instrumentation

Test instruments are provided. For example, the moisture contents of the raw material and the finished product can be accurately measured.

<u>Dickey-John Moisture</u>

Analyzer Accurate temperature-sensing capabilities allow you to measure frozen and





# NOTES

# ES

# **MOVING FORWARD**

Cretors continues to lead the way in design and delivery of equipment solutions for the concession and snack food industry. As a fifth generation family business with a long tradition of exceptional quality, we take pride in providing revolutionary, profitable goods and services to our customers.

Thank you for giving us your time.





## **C. CRETORS AND COMPANY**

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