

# Layer picker upgrade

**Netto:** A long-standing collaboration.



**Netto decided to invest in a complete upgrade of the K.Handle Layer Picker® heads, stripper and descrambler units of their three Layer Pickers, after nine years of operating the facility 24/7, 6 days per week. After the upgrade it was possible to cut the regular working week from 6 to 5 days while increasing capacity at the same time.**

## The customer

The Danish supermarket chain, Netto, operates a fully automated and modern distribution center in Køge, responsible for supplying goods to all the chain's 454 supermarkets in Denmark. The distribution center holds up to 18,000 pallets and handles more than 1.5 million pallets on an annual basis. Every 50 seconds all year round, a truck passes through the gates, replenishing the warehouse with new goods, and if this did not happen, the building would be empty within four to five days. Netto is in the top tier of logistics enterprises with its ongoing development of warehouse technology and logistic processes.

## At a glance

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### Project goals

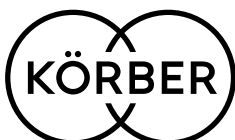
- Obsolete control equipment upgraded to new standard
- Reduced maintenance cost
- A larger variety of products to be picked automatically

### Solution

- K.Handle Layer Picker Hoist
- Descrambler
- Stripper plate

### Features and benefits

- Increased capacity
- Improved handling of light and small products
- Availability of spare parts secured for the next 10 years



The Japanese company Daifuku supplied the warehouse systems to the customer in 2004, and through Daifuku, Körber supplied 3 Layer Picker® hoists with stripper and descrambler units. Due to increased flow and a significant increase in product variation, Netto chose in 2009 to have the Layer Pickers upgraded with new suction soles and weightless suspensions in order to handle even more products.

### The solution

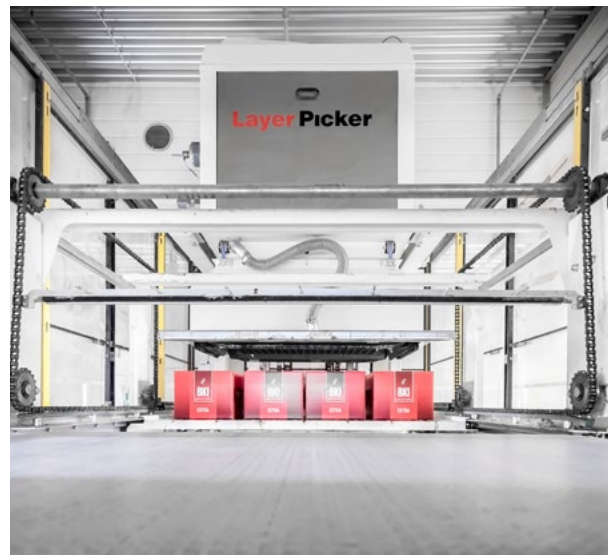
Körber has continuously developed the Layer Picker® and stripper and descrambler units, based on our own experience and customer-driven wishes and inputs. In 2013 – after 12 years of operating the facility 24/7, 6 days per week – Netto decided to invest in a complete upgrade of the Layer Picker® heads, stripper and descrambler units.

Körber's Layer Picker® uses a patented suction technology to achieve secure and careful manipulation of products. At Netto's distribution center, the Layer Picker® is used for around 80% of all the products, but by using a principle based on extremely gentle clamping from inflatable bellows and vacuum, the system may handle more than 95% of retail products – including many traditionally considered unfit for automatic handling.

The upgrades at the distribution center made it possible to manipulate more different products than in the past, including many heavy products that had caused strains and back problems to employees when manually handling them in the distribution center.

Furthermore, the regular working week has been cut from 6 to 5 days while simultaneously increasing capacity. For Netto, it was essential to keep production going, and to accommodate that, a very compact time schedule was agreed. When executed, the upgrade and commissioning took 3 weekends instead of the 6 weekends originally estimated.

Careful planning in close cooperation with the customer, as well as a highly motivated and extremely competent service team, rendered it possible to accomplish the task without any significant interruptions for the customer or the production.



**“I am very satisfied with the Körber upgrade. Especially, the new descrambler has reduced the need for manual action during production. Besides an increased capacity, we experience better continuity with fewer errors.”**

**Brian Sverke**  
Warehouse manager  
Netto, Køge

### Facts and figures

#### Scope of delivery

- 3 Layer Picker® heads replaced with new updated versions
- 3 stripper units with pushers replaced with new ones
- Discard of defective pallets

#### Working environment

Highly improved ergonomics

