



# *The Better Bagger System* **By** **Better Packages, Inc.** **Operator Manual**

**Model 900e**



Better Packages, Inc.  
255 Canal St.  
Shelton, CT 06484  
MADE IN USA



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## Specifications

The Better Bagger is a portable machine that can produce variable size plastic bags from rolls of poly-tubing.

	<b>Better Bagger</b>	<b>With Bag Factory Attached</b>
Width:	20 inches	20 inches
Height:	10 inches	10 inches
Depth:	20 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> inches	23 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> inches
Weight:	52 lbs.	59 lbs.

**Any attempt to utilize any material other than polyethylene tubing and beyond the listed specifications will void all warranty considerations.**

Makes a 2 inch wide x 4 inch long 4 mil thick bag in about 4 seconds.

Two rolls loaded makes 2 bags in 4 seconds.

Three rolls loaded makes 3 bags in 4 seconds.

Total Width of ALL Rolls: width range 2 inches to 9 inches

Poly-tubing from 2 mil to 8 mil thick

Bag sizes from 2 inches to 9 inches wide and from 4 inches to 99 inches long.

Roll Diameter Industry Standard: 14 inches.

### **Electrical Information**

115 VAC, 60 Hz, 4.0 Amps Specifications

If an object falls into the tube feeder area, disconnect the power and notify service personnel.

### **Caution**

Metal areas under the Better Bagger 'cover' may attain temperatures as high as 194 degrees Fahrenheit.

### **Caution**

**The Better Bagger unit must be turned off whenever changing tubing, cleaning or any other maintenance .**

### **Caution**

This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio energy and if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction manual, may cause interference to radio communications. It has been tested and found to comply with the limits for Class A computing device pursuant to Subpart J of part 15 of FCC Rules, which are designed to provide reasonable protection against such interference when operated in a commercial environment. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause interference, in which case the user at his own expense will be required to take whatever measures may be required to correct the interference.

### **Caution**

When moving the Better Bagger machine from one location to another, power must be shut off and the power cord disconnected.

Note: The top cover is interlocked such that the unit will not operate if the cover is not fully closed.

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## Unpacking and setup (2 boxes)

### Unpacking

When opening the larger box, containing the Better Bagger machine, the box flaps should be directed to the sides (do not open from top). Open the flaps and the machine will slide out of box. The second carton will contain the Bag Factory. Remove packaging material and be sure the following items are enclosed:

### Contents (2 cartons)

- Instruction Manual
- Better Bagger Unit (1)
- Roll Support Bar (1)
- 'Collars' with adjustable wing nuts (2)
- 'Side Plates' for poly-tubing. (2)
- Core Guides (2)
- Bag Factory (1)

### Preparing the Unit for Operation

Though the Better Bagger is a portable unit, be sure a 2-person team lifts the machine from the box and sets it on the work area. Be sure it is situated at the end of the workbench or table so the Bag Factory can be attached and will hang over the edge of the workbench or table.

If you desire to produce 'single' bags, do not attach Bag Factory at this time. If you desire to produce multiple bags, the Bag Factory must be attached to the Better Bagger.

### Attaching Power Cord

Power cord is to attach to the receptacle at the back of the machine and inserted into a power source (see figure # 1).



Figure # 1  
Power Source

### Installing Poly-tubing

This machine is designed to utilize 2 mil to 8 mil thick poly-tubing. It is also designed to produce bags from 2 inches to 9 inches wide. Maximum diameter of roll is not to exceed

14 inches.

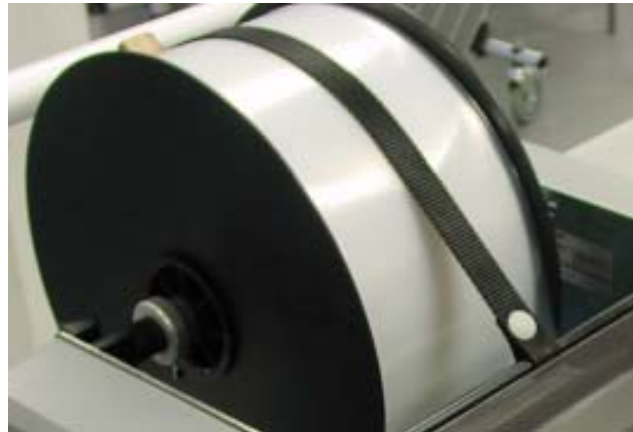
1. Once the Better Bagger is in the desired work area and the power cord is attached to the machine and power source, you are ready to install the poly-tubing.
2. The next step is to load the poly-tubing onto the Roll Bar. Slide one of the collars onto



the bar (be sure wing nut is away from the tubing). (See figure # 2)

Figure #2

Then slide one of the Side Plates onto the bar. Slide the poly-tubing on the bar and the other Side Plate and then the second collar. At this point, the poly-tubing should be centered on the bar so that the exit sensor will be activated as the bags are processed. (See figure # 3)



Side Plates and  
Roll on Bar  
Figure # 3

3. Once the poly-tubing is in the desired area of the roll bar, the roll bar is to be placed inside the roll bar 'receptacles' at the rear of the machine (see figure # 4)



Figure # 4  
Bar set in  
Receptacles

4. If you desire to simultaneously process multiple rolls of poly-tubing, one roll **MUST** be placed so that it will pass through the exit sensor target. (See figure # 5)

Figure # 5



5. Poly-tubing must be fed from the top of the roll. (See figure # 6)

Figure # 6



### Feeding Poly-tubing

Once the poly-tubing is properly placed on roll bar and centered, it is ready to be loaded.  
Turn on Power Switch

1. Lift clear protective cover (unit will not operate with cover opened).
2. With the poly-tubing being fed from the **top** of the roll, feed the tubing under the lower black rear guide bar (see figure # 6).
3. Lift front rubber roller with bands attached (see figure # 7)

Figure # 7  
Roller with bands



4. Proceed to feed poly-tubing under large black rubber roller and place poly-tubing against cutting blade.
5. Lower the small rubber roller and close the protective cover.

6. Place weight belt across poly tubing roll (this prevents excessive spinning of roll. See figure # 8).

Figure # 8  
Weight Belt



7. The Better Bagger will now run a 'cycle set-up.
8. Mil thickness setting should be set per thickness of poly-tubing (see figure # 9) or bag may not be properly sealed.

Figure # 9  
Mil Thickness Dial



### Setting Mil Thickness

It is important to have the proper mil setting when creating bags. There are numerous manufacturers of poly-tubing with different levels of quality. The 'mil setting knob', enables you to determine the best sealing temperature for your bags.

1. The 'mil setting knob' is on the right side of the Better Bagger machine, just above the LED read-out.
2. The setting has a range from 1 to 9.
3. Each number is an approximate indicator of the poly-tubing mil thickness.
4. The setting should be reflective of the mil thickness being used. For an example, if the mil thickness is 4 mil, the mil setting knob should also be on 4 (Depending on the quality of the tubing, you may need to adjust the 'knob' setting to a higher or lower indicator to acquire the best seal).

### Utilizing Key Pad without Bag Factory to Produce Single Bags

Using the Better Bagger without the Bag Factory will allow you to produce **single bags only**. With poly-tubing in place follow these steps:

1. After machine runs the 'cycle set-up' and the green light appears, the display will read "LEN" for length designation (see figure # 10)

Figure # 10  
LEN Display



2. Enter the number of inches you require on the keypad (see figure # 11)

Figure # 11  
Keypad



3. Press 'ENTER' and a single bag will be dispensed, sealed and cut. Remove bag and process is complete.

### Sealing 'Single' Bag Production

When producing single bags without the Bag Factory attached, it is possible to seal the open end of the bag after it is produced and filled with your product.

1. After receiving a single bag and filling it with your desired product, hold the bag with the opened end towards the Better Bagger machine.
2. Insert the opened end of the bag into the chute of the machine (see figure # 12).

Figure # 12  
Bag Sealing



3. Be sure you insert the bag in line with the 'sensor', which is identified on the measuring scale on the lid.
4. Once inserted, the sensor will send a signal and the sealing mechanism will be engaged.
5. The bag will be sealed. When sealing is completed, remove bag.

**Sealing 'Single' Bag Production with Foot Pedal (Accessory)**

By utilizing the optional foot pedal, you can seal single bags at your own speed. This may make it easier to seal long or bulky bagged items.

1. Attach foot pedal (see figure # 13) connection to the RS-232 port at the rear of the machine (see figure # 14).



Figure # 13  
Foot Pedal

Figure # 14  
RS-32 Port



Figure #15  
Depress foot pedal

2. Place foot pedal on floor in area of person working the Better Bagger machine. (see figure #15)
3. After receiving a single bag and filling it with your desired product, hold the bag with the opened end towards the Better Bagger machine.
4. Insert the opened end of the bag into the chute of the machine (see figure # 16).



Figure #16

5. When you have the bag situated inside the chute and sensor area, press the foot pedal with your foot and the bag will be sealed. With the foot pedal attached, the sensor will not seal a bag until the foot pedal is depressed. This insures proper sealing each time and will eliminate errors.

### **Utilizing Key Pad without Bag Factory using *Auto Feature***

This feature will enable you to produce single fixed sized bags repeatedly.

1. Enter the number of inches you require on the keypad.
2. Press “ENTER’ and a single bag will be dispensed, sealed and cut.
3. Remove bag.
4. Press ‘Auto’. There will be a beep.
5. Press ‘ENTER’. A bag will be dispensed. Remove bag and another bag of the same configuration will be dispensed. Continue to dispense single bags as long as needed.
6. To stop, press ‘Clear’ and the “Enter’.
7. To resume, press ‘Auto’ and then ‘Enter’.

### **Utilizing ‘Bag Factory’ for Multiple Bag Production**

The Bag Factory Feature enables you to continually produce 4-inch to 99-inch long bags.

### **Attaching Bag Factory Feature**

1. Holding the Bag Factory from both ends facing the Better Bagger machine (see figure #17), place the Bag Factory in the exit chute of the machine.

Figure # 17  
Attaching  
Bag Factory



2. Lift button on left side of Bag Factory with thumb and push the Bag Factory forward and down until it connects with the Better Bagger machine (see figure # 18)

Figure # 18  
Release Button



3. Give button a slight push downward to assure it is connected.

- Turn machine on by pressing toggle switch (see figure # 19). The machine will then take a few seconds to cycle-up. If the Bag Factory has been properly attached, the Bag Factory roller will spin for about 1 second. The ready light will change from red to green to signal the machine is ready for operation (see figure # 20).



Figure # 19  
Toggle Switch



Figure # 20  
Ready Light

### Utilizing the Better Bagger with Bag Factory Attached for Multiple Bag Production

- Program the the size of the bag length (in inches) you require on the keypad.
- Press 'Enter'
- Program the number of 'bags' you wish to produce.
- Press 'Enter' and the programmed number bags will be produced.

### Attaching 'Catch Basket'(Optional)

The Catch Basket is an attachment for the Bag Factory (see figure # 21). By attaching Catch Basket to Bag Factory and putting a receptacle in the basket, you can deposit the bags into a single container as the bags are produced.



Figure # 21  
Catch Basket Attached



Figure # 22  
Squeeze  
Basket

- While holding the basket in front of the Bag Factory, squeeze the basket extensions and insert them into the holes on each side of the Bag Factory (see figure # 22). Release the extensions and the pressure from the basket will hold it in place.
- Allow the bags to fall into the Catch Basket receptacle while producing multiple bags.

### Trouble Shooting

If the Better Bagger stops or fails to operate properly, the following should be checked.

- Exit sensor blocked:** plastic residue or bag remnants may have blocked the sensor, which will disable the machine.  
\*With the Bag Factory **removed**, open the front cavity of the Better Bagger (see figure # 23A & B) by pushing locking clips inward on each side of machine.



Figure # 23A  
Locking Clip

Figure # 23B  
Open Cavity



\* Pull the front cover forward. It will move about 4 inches.

- \* Proceed to remove any residue and plastic remnants.
- \* Wipe away any residue that may have accumulated on the sensor.
- \* Close front cover and be sure locking pins are in place.
- \* Close lid and the machine will run a 'cycle-up' process and will then give you a green light. Proceed to make bags.

## 2. Lead Edge not Seen by Exit Sensor

In this condition, the poly-tubing is not being read by the sensor. Be sure the poly-tubing rests against the blade prior to making bags (see figure # 24).

Figure # 24  
Opened



Closed



The sensor may be covered with dust, disabling the system. Open the front section of the Better Bagger and carefully wipe any dust or debris that may have accumulated. This can be avoided with daily maintenance.

## 3. No Seal Current

This will be caused by a bad connection between the heating or sealing area and machine. To check, you must open the left side cover of the Better Bagger. **TURN MACHINE OFF**. Giving the top of the panel a slight outward push with the heel of your hand, will release side cover (see figure # 25 ).



Open with heel of hand  
Figure # 25



Slide element from housing  
Figure # 26

Once the panel is opened, proceed to remove the element by pulling it away from the machine (see figure # 26). Reconnect the element by pushing it back into the machine. There will be a slight snap, indicating the element is connected. Close the panel, turn on the machine and it will recycle.

## 4. Seal Time Too Long

If the mil setting for your poly-tubing is set too high, the machine will stop and it will be indicated on the condition code. Re-set the knob to a lower setting and then proceed to produce bags.

**5. Seal Bar Temperature Sensor Disconnected**

The Seal Bar must be properly engaged for the Better Bagger to seal and create bags as they exit the chute. If this procedure IS NOT functioning, the Error Code will be illuminated and the light will appear red. Open the left side panel (see figure # 25) and be sure the Seal Bar is pushed all the way into the enclosure (see figure # 26).

**6. Bag Factory Could Not Be Initialized**

This is an indication that the Bag Factory is not properly connected to the Better Bagger Machine. In this case, remove the Bag Factory and then re-connect it to the Better Bagger (See figure # 17 & 18) illustrating attachment procedures).

**7. Bag Factory Disconnected During Feed**

This indicates that the Bag Factory became disconnected during operation. Follow instruction on Condition # 6 listed above.

**Maintenance**

As in any piece of electronic equipment, the Better Bagger MUST be maintained. On a daily basis, the Better Bagger should be cleaned at least once and more, if the environment requires it.

With machine turned off:

1. Wipe down the machine completely with a dry cloth or electronic friendly material.
2. Accumulation of powder or plastic residue is likely on all rollers and exit chute. Wipe these areas clean so the machine is free of any obstructions.

**Replacing Heating Element**

To remove the Seal Bar from the Better Bagger, first turn the machine OFF (see figure # 25 & 26) and open the left side panel and remove the element bar. Turn it over and insert it back into the machine. The Better Bagger has two (2) elements on each Seal Bar to insure you will not be caught without a working element. If it is necessary to replace one of the elements, remove the Seal Bar from the Better Bagger and place the Seal Bar in front of you. Slowly peel back the opaque covering over the element (see figure # 27 ). Once the covering has been removed, disconnect the spring loaded connection at one end with a pair of pliers (see figure # 28) then un-hook the connection at the other end (see figure # 29). The element will then be easily removed from the Seal Bar. Replace the element in the same manner as the removal by using a pair of pliers to re-hook the spring connection.

Figure # 27



Figure # 28



Figure # 29



**Accessories Available**

**Foot Pedal**

**Catch Basket**

**Limited Warranty**

The manufacturer warrants each new BETTER PACKAGES, INC. machine and accessory to be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal and proper use, its obligation under this warranty being limited to making good any defective parts within **one year** of delivery to the original purchaser. HEATING ELEMENTS AND HEATING ELEMENT KITS OR ASSEMBLIES ARE NOT COVERED UNDER THE WARRANTY.

The company will replace any defective parts within warranty, on a no-charge basis. The Distributor will furnish for the first 6 months, without charge, necessary labor or instruct the customer's Maintenance Department in servicing the machine.

For service (in or out of warranty), contact your local authorized Better Packages, Inc. Distributor. You can find out who the authorized distributor in your area is by calling (800) 237-9151

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**Better Bagger 900e**

Cut Here

**Warranty Card**

Please fill out warranty information and forward to Better Packages, Inc. For on-line registration, go to: [www.betterpackages.com](http://www.betterpackages.com)

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Model Number \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_

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