



American Tire Distributors Meets Fast-Track Growth with Kodak i1860 Scanner

SITUATION

American Tire Distributors keeps on growing. The North Carolina-based tire wholesaler is continuously expanding, adding new distributors in more states. With more distributors comes significant increases in their volume of paperwork and forms needing to be scanned into their document imaging system.

OBJECTIVE

Upgrade scanning capabilities to handle increased demand of up to 18,000,000 documents per year.

SOLUTION

A new **Kodak** i1860 Scanner to work in tandem with existing **Kodak** i830 Scanner.

COMMENTS

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~ Kathy Beaver,
Imaging Manager,
American Tire Distributors

Fast-track growth in the tire business

You could call American Tire Distributors the company behind the rubber at your local tire retailer or repair shop. Since 1935, they've supported America's tire dealers, service repair shops and automotive performance shops with products, tools and programs to keep the country "on the move." Along with tires, they supply wheels, accessories, parts, business resources and more. And American Tire Distributors is not a company that likes to remain idle or stuck in neutral.

In 2007, for example, American Tire Distributors acquired several new distributors in various states, greatly increasing their coverage in Texas, California and Florida.

Based in Huntersville, NC — about 20 miles from Charlotte — the company employs over 200 at their headquarters and thousands more at 82 distribution centers across the country.

Keeping up with new acquisitions

Of course, with growth in distributor locations comes increases in paper volume. Kathy Beaver, Imaging Manager, knows that all too well. "Today we process about 55,000 documents a day with just two operators and cover a wide range of transactions," says Beaver. "Accounts receivable invoices, proofs of delivery, receipts ... just about everything you could imagine." All original paperwork is sent to Huntersville to be scanned into American Tire Distributor's system. Over the course of a year, Beaver estimates

about 18 million documents move through American Tire Distributor's headquarters.

"We scan into the system with our **Kodak** i1860 and i830 Scanners," Beaver notes. "Starting with temp files, we extract the data and create text files and index. Then this information goes to our Oracle database and is processed via OnBase for retrieval. Now we can access whatever's needed via keyword."

Beaver has been with American Tire Distributors since 1997, and the company has utilized **Kodak** Scanners for many years. Some years back they upgraded from a **Kodak Imagemark** 500S Scanner to the **Kodak** i830 Scanner, purchasing through the reseller KeyMark, Inc. of Greenville, SC, with whom they continue to work.

Performance advantages

Since acquiring the **Kodak** i1860 Scanner in December 2007, Beaver and her two operators, Sandy Gantt and Kelly McCoy have been especially pleased with the scanning volume and performance now achievable. "First, the speed is fantastic. It seems like one-and-a-half times faster than what we were used to," Beaver says. "And the touch screen interface is very intuitive. It's easy enough that when you sit down you just know how to operate the scanner. It's all right there for you: the screen settings, calibration, count ... everything you need."

Beaver also found the i1860 Scanner a breeze to maintain. "We run a lot of NCR (carbonless), multi-part paper, and that can really dirty up a scanner," she notes. "It's very

tough on the rollers, wheels and belts because the ink residue tends to cake up, and there's a great deal of paper and ink dust generated. The i1860 Scanner is easy to clean and there's little downtime. We clean it, shut it, and within a few seconds we're ready to go again!"

Every three months or so, due to their high volume and troublesome paper, Beaver calls on **Kodak** Service & Support to come in for thorough cleanings and maintenance of both scanners. She pronounces herself very pleased with their efficiency and efforts to keep her operations in top shape with a minimum of downtime.

The American Tire Distributors imaging department also praises a variety of features that contribute to their positive impressions of the **Kodak** i1860 Scanner, including auto orientation so documents

are always right-reading; SurePath paper handling to avoid jams even with varying paper types, sizes and thicknesses; and the three ultrasonic multifeed detection sensors that quickly alert operators to any misfeeds.

Getting ready for future growth

Thanks to the performance, ease, and productivity gains the i1860 has brought to American Tire Distributors, Beaver is considering upgrading their existing i830 Scanner with another i1860 Scanner in 2009. Based on the way American Tire Distributors keeps growing, it's likely that they're going to need the increased capacity in order to keep up with demand.

"It's not too strong a statement to say that we're delighted with our **Kodak** i1860 Scanner," Beaver raves. "The operators trade off days on the two machines now, as they both love to use the i1860 Scanner. It has a height adjustable transport, along with the adjustable touch screen, and those features allow each operator to position it perfectly. I'd call it ergonomically correct."

So essentially, when the rubber hits the road when it comes to high-volume, high-productivity scanning, the **Kodak** i1860 Scanner is American Tire Distributor's choice to take the flag and wind up in the winner's circle.

To learn more about **Kodak** Document Imaging Products and Services, contact your Authorized Reseller of **Kodak** Products, call 1.800.944.6171, or log on to www.kodak.com/go/docimaging.



*With an intuitive color touch screen, the **Kodak** i1860 Scanner scans unlimited pages per day and delivers a real-world 200 pages per minute at 200 dpi.*