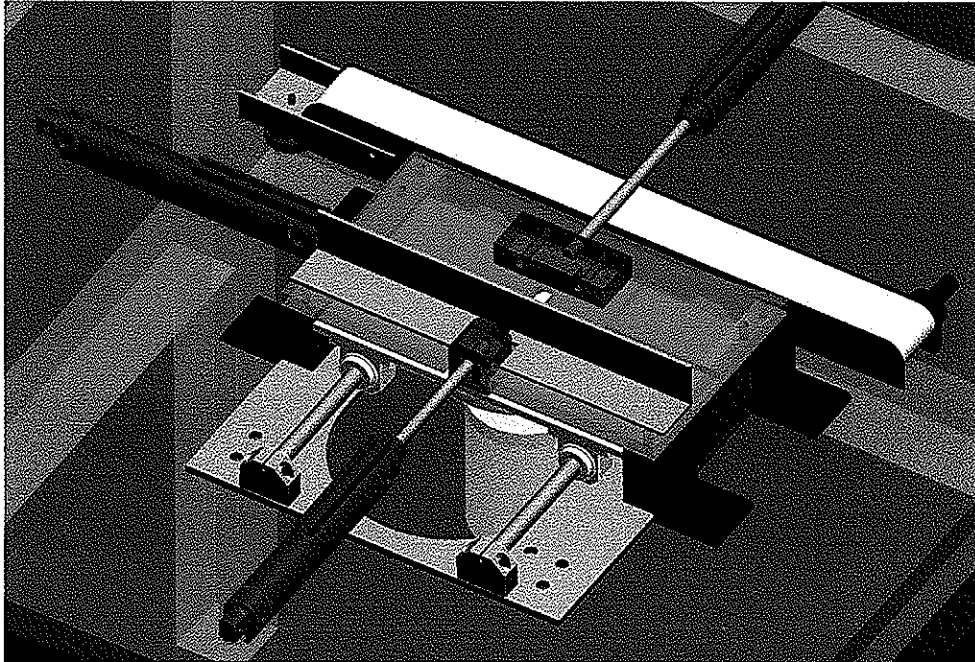


# **Awesome-O Burr Puzzle Piece Production System**



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**Abstract:**

This paper explains the burr puzzle piece production system. Specifically it details and describes the process of our automation and how we accomplish the given criterion.

How do you specify cut pattern?  
When is cutting finished?

## **Introduction:**

Awesome-o is a burr puzzle piece production system that meets specific criteria for entry and exit of blocks, part quality, dust collection, and safety.

## **Background Information:**

Our strategy was inspired from two primary sources, the ideas of past students and from a memo containing five criteria. Those criteria were:

1. The ability to cut one, two, three, or four notches .375 inches square on a single face of each block. These cuts must create puzzles that maintain ninety-five percent assembly success rates.
2. The blocks are to travel in and out by belt conveyor (oriented in the long direction).
3. The machine must be able of either (we picked the latter):
  - a. Accepting and operating on blocks that have already had two notches cut on one face OR
  - b. Cut notches on two faces by rotating the block on its long axis within the machine.
4. Dust collection must be integrated in the machine.
5. Safety is a necessary consideration and as such jams must be minimized and clearing jams made safe and easy.

While the above criteria got us moving, it wasn't until we observed the projects from the previous year and compared its abilities to our needs that our strategy started to emerge.

## **Design and Process:**

Although many of the ideas used the past year were helpful, the criteria motivated us in a new direction with the decision to accomplish a two-face cut procedure. This meant rotating the block within our machine. For a while we considered a design that would move the block from the belt to the router then rotate it using the lead screw, return it to the belt and then bring it to the router a second and final time for more cuts. This idea seemed inefficient by using unnecessary movement of the block to accomplish the rotation.

Our machine used the following process:

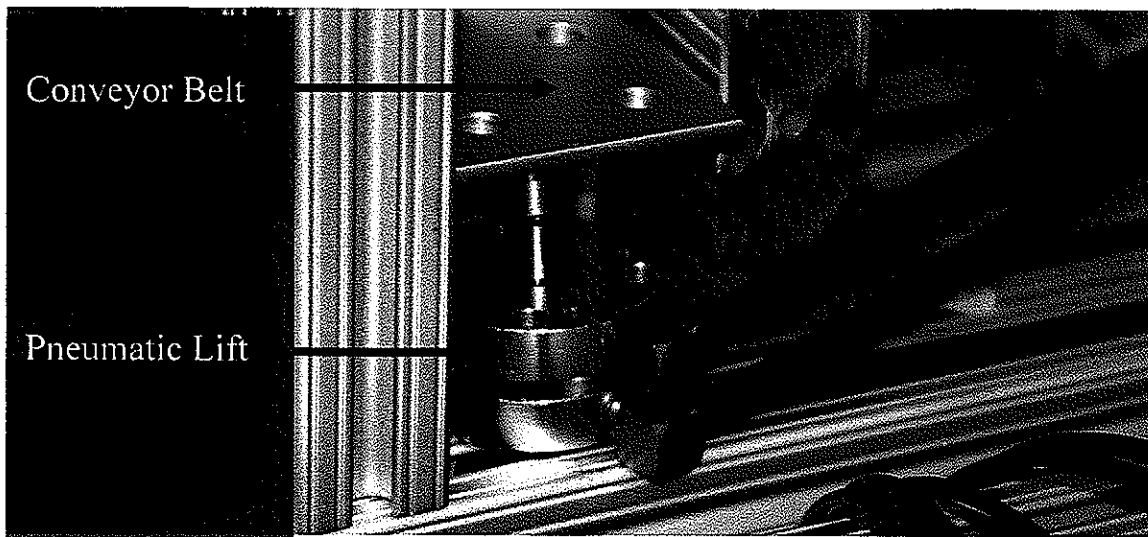
1. BLOCK LOADER and FLOW CONTROL

The blocks were placed in to the block loader, which combined with two pneumatic actuators, provided flow control at the beginning of the conveyor.



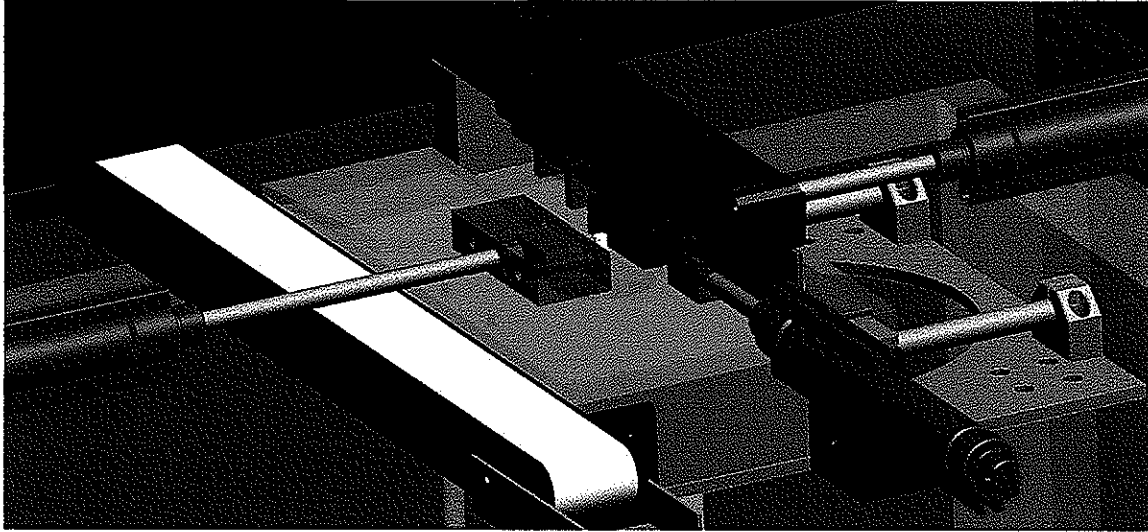
2. PIVOT GATE and CONVEYOR LIFT

Once through flow control, the block was stopped by the pivot gate while it waited to be pushed by the clamp over to the router. In order to push the block from the conveyor on to the cut plate easily, the conveyor was raised by a pneumatic lift.



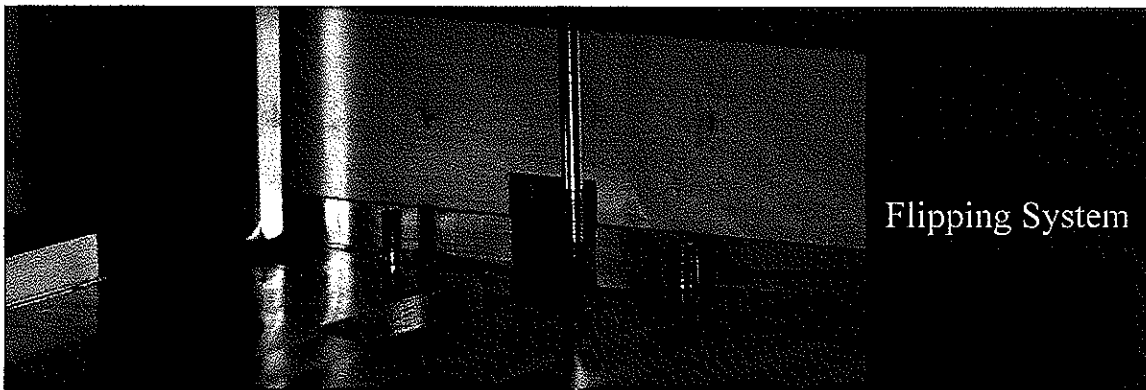
### 3. CLAMPING AND CUTTING

The block is now pushed over on the cut plate to prepare it for cutting. It is held in place by three pneumatics clamps and an electric lead screw.



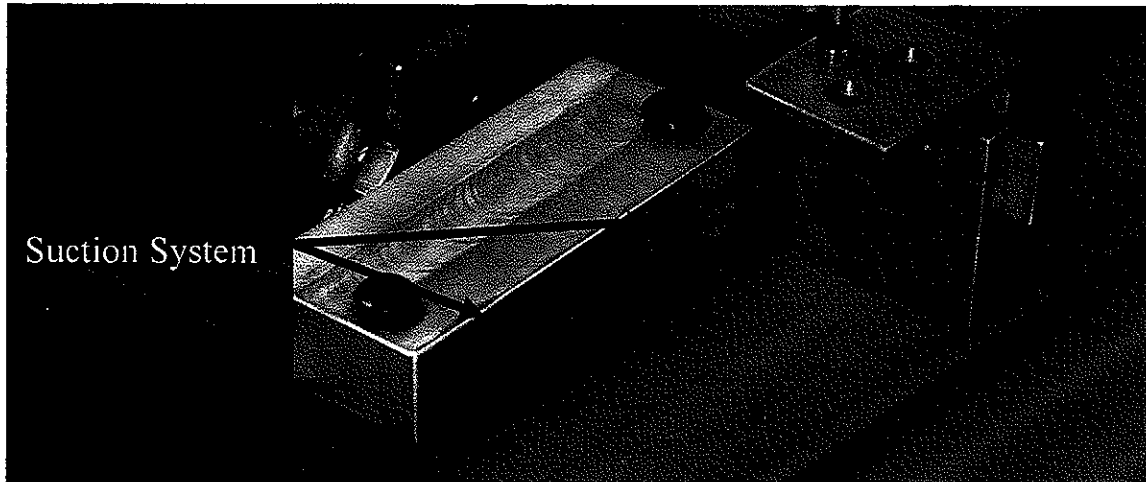
### 4. FLIPPING SYSTEM

It is at this point that we hope to save time over our initial design by retracting the clamps enough to allow two flippers to lift the block from below, rolling it ninety degrees. With the block now rolled the clamps could quickly return and cutting could continue.



#### 5. SUCTION SYSTEM and PIVOT GATE

With cutting finished, the block is ready to be returned to the belt. This is done using another new idea we incorporated in our machine. The same clamp that moved the block from the belt to the router was used to return the block to the belt. By adding two suction devices to the front of the clamp, the block could now be pulled back to the belt for its exit. With it back on the belt the pivot gate can be lifted to allow the block further down the conveyor.



#### 6. BEHIND THE SCENES

##### a. WIRING

The actuators were wired so that an E-Stop switch could cut off power to most of the actuators without disturbing the PLC. The only exception to this is the router motor itself. In order to protect the PLC from carrying accidental high currents, all positive ("hot") wires were fused before connecting to the PLC.

##### b. INPUTS

Our project used ten inputs on the PLC. These inputs were used for four optical sensors, two induction sensors, and three Hall effect sensors on the cylinders. The last PLC input was a "Position Done" signal from the intelligent slider's controller. Even though only some of the sensors were sinking type, we wired the PLC so that it sources to all sensors.

##### c. OUTPUTS

We used all sixteen outputs on the PLC. These outputs controlled nine cylinders, two blower/sucker devices, and four intelligent slider commands. One of the cylinders used two air valves (and therefore two PLC outputs) in order to "float". Of the four wires controlling the intelligent slider, three were used for communicating desired position (three bits = eight positions), and one used for activating the slider. All the

relays and intelligent slider inputs were sourcing current, because the PLC required that it sink all of the outputs.

d. **CUTTING PLATE AND BASE PLATE**

An early element of our strategic design dealt with how we would assembly and fabricate things accurately. Knowing we had the Haas mill at our disposal we set to learning feature cam to create accurately dimensioned base plates and cutting plates. In doing so we created a more rigid framework for better tolerancing. Diagrams of the base and cutting plates can be found in the appendix.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

This project was useful for learning about manufacturing and automation strategy. This project also gave us hands on fabrication, programming and cad experience.

We learned of possible ways of improving our project all the way along and certainly at the end during demonstrations.

- Our clamping system could hold the block better as it was noticed that the block moved a little on the first cut.
- It was attributed to both the clamping and a dull router bit that there were chips still attached to the block after the cutting process. This was an unexpected problem that caused trouble for our flippers and our suction system. The chips would cause the block to roll 180 degrees instead of 90.

### **Acknowledgements:**

Our group would like to thank the Engineering department at Walla Walla College for providing a laboratory in which we could perform these experiments. We would also like to thank the people of TSS for supplies and equipment. We are grateful to Ralph Stirling for ideas and support. Finally, we would like to thank Mrs. Stirling for the sustenance that kept us inspired through the hard times.

### **Description of Member Participation:**

Matt Pawluk: Team Leader, ProE developer, Fabricator, testing, report write-up.

Kevin Cristman: Programming guru, wiring, sensors, testing.

Jon Schneider: idea development, report write-up, fabricator, testing.

Ryan Werner: fabricator, idea development, motivator, testing.

### **Appendix:**

- State Diagram
- Ladder Logic
- Extra Diagrams

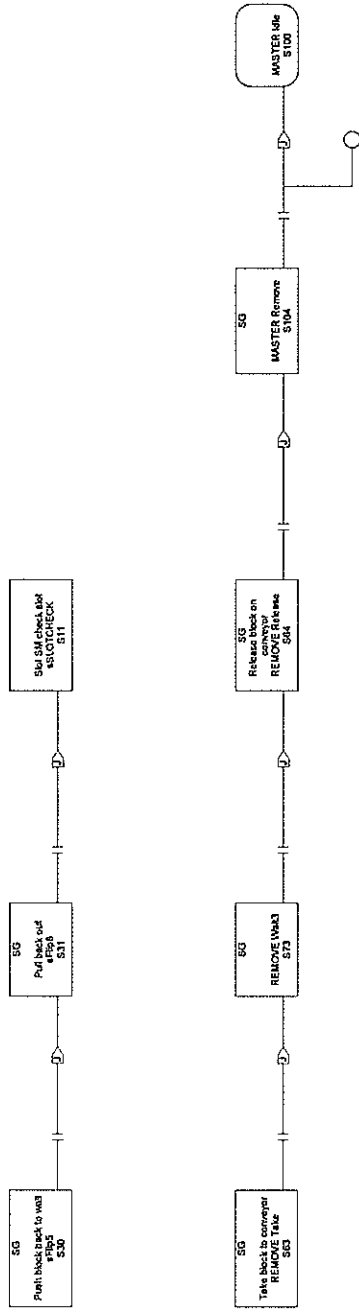
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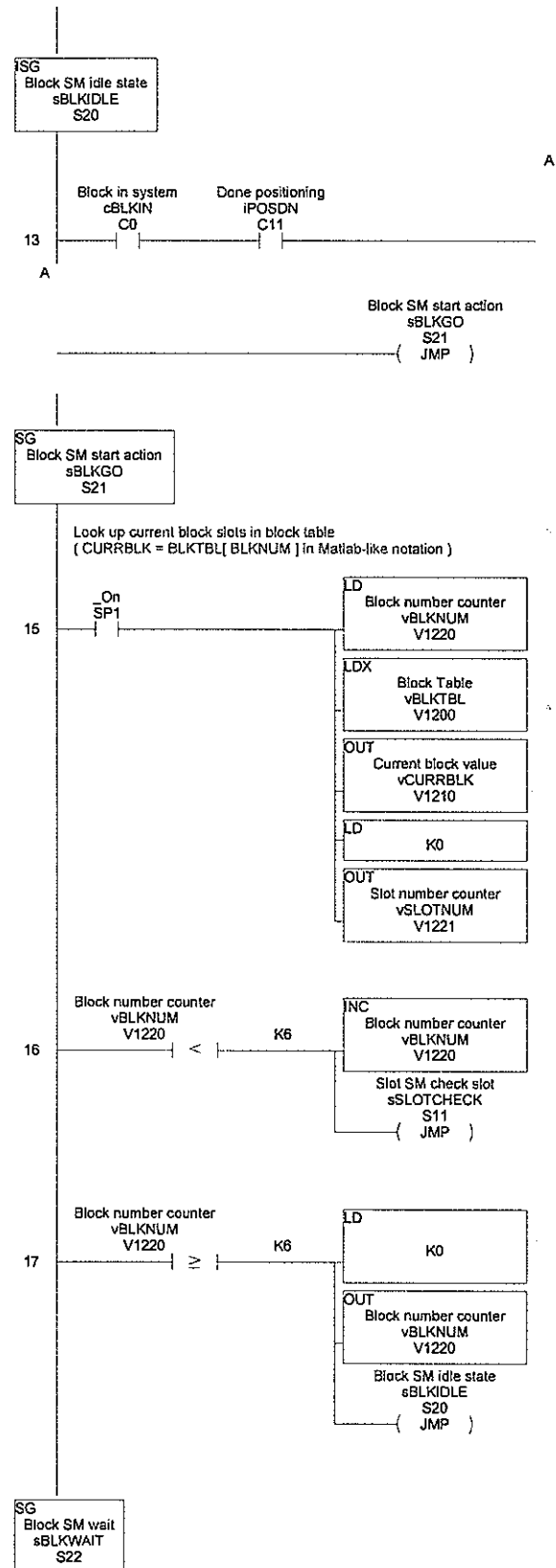
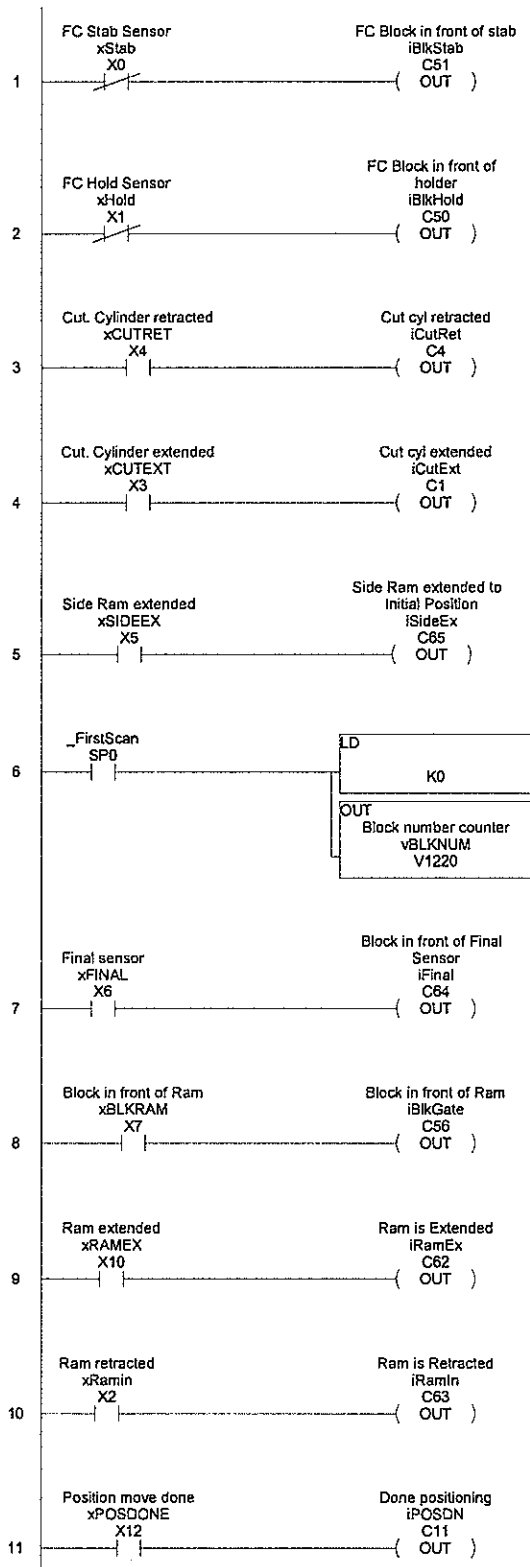
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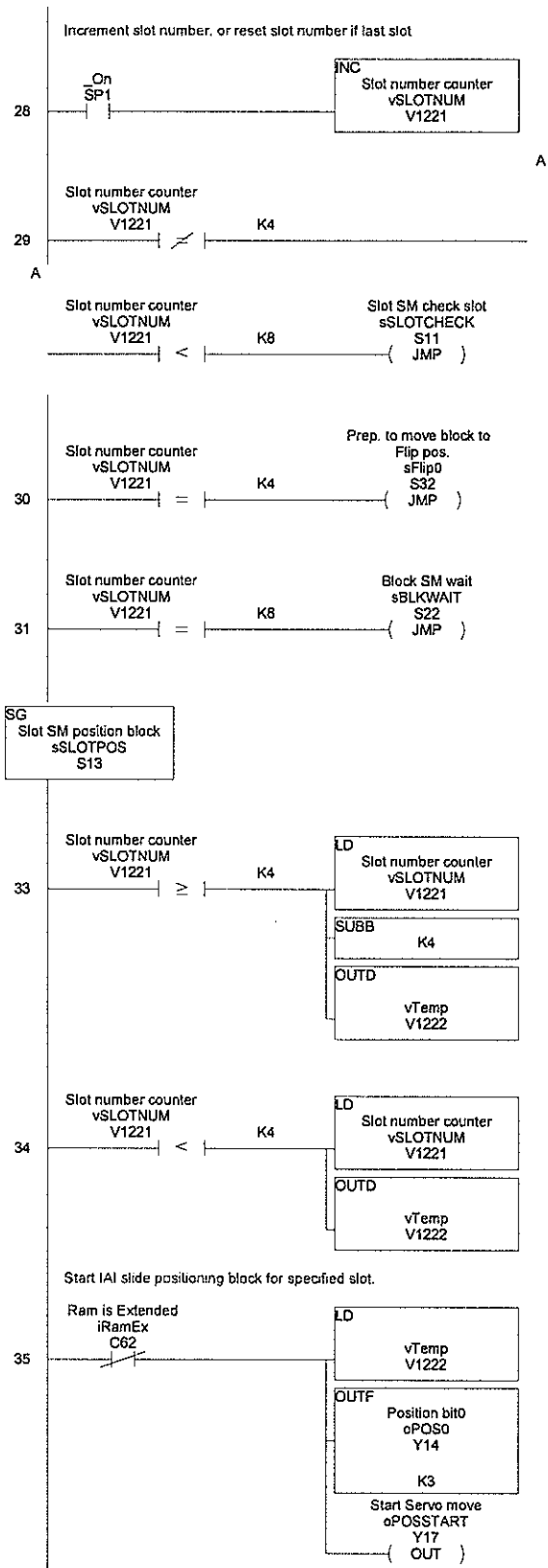
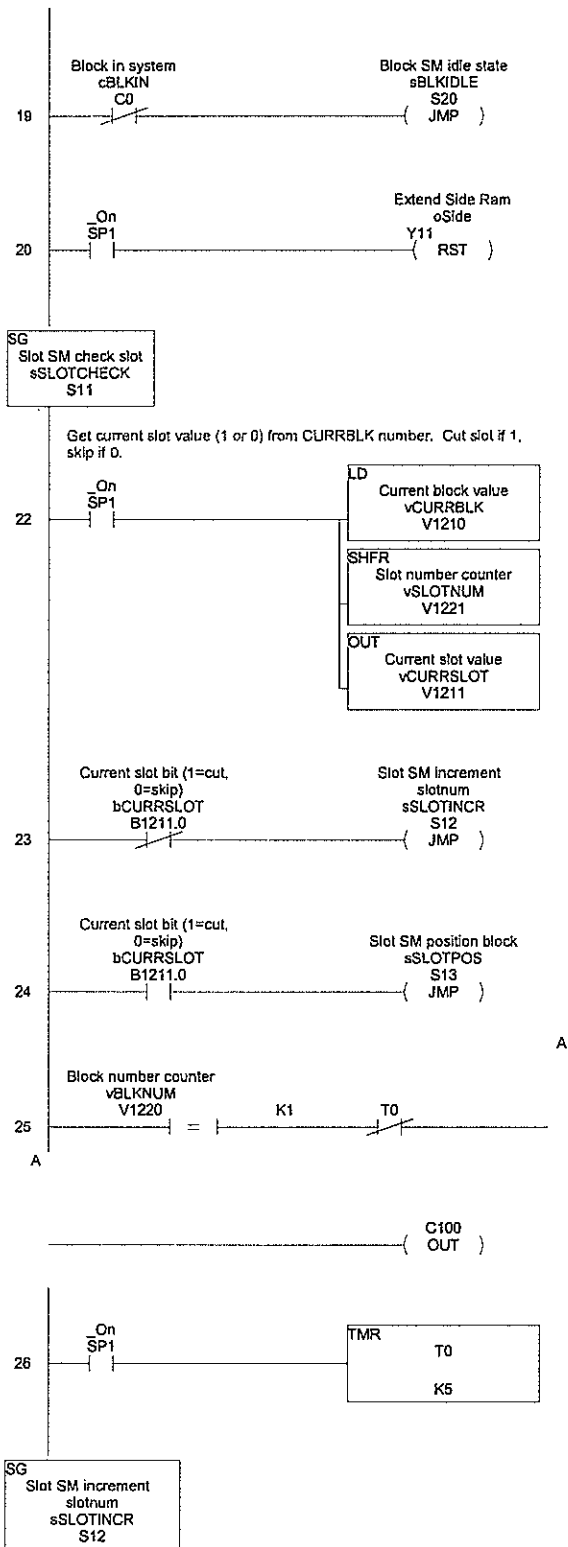
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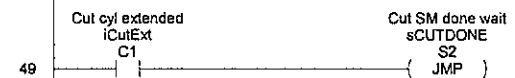
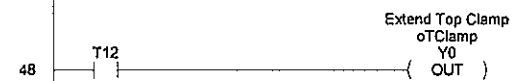
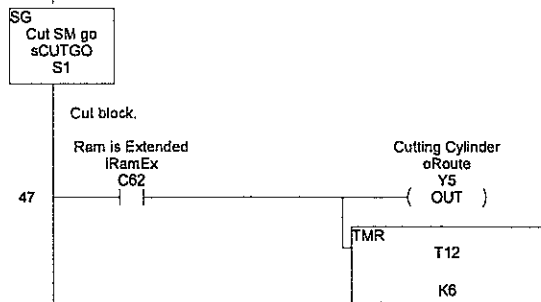
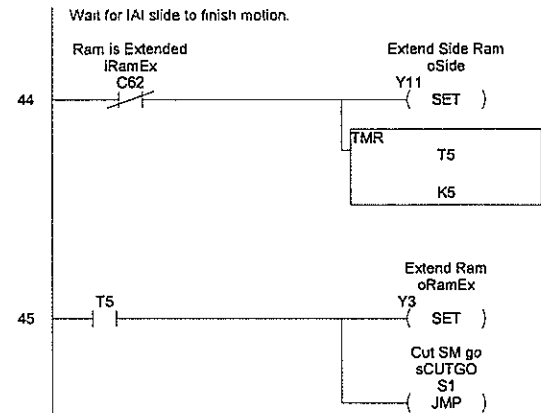
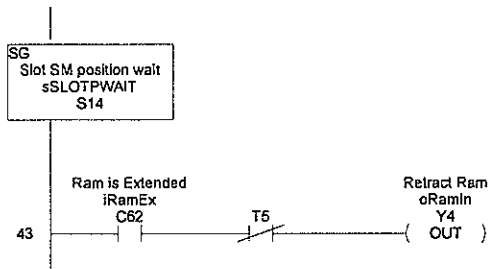
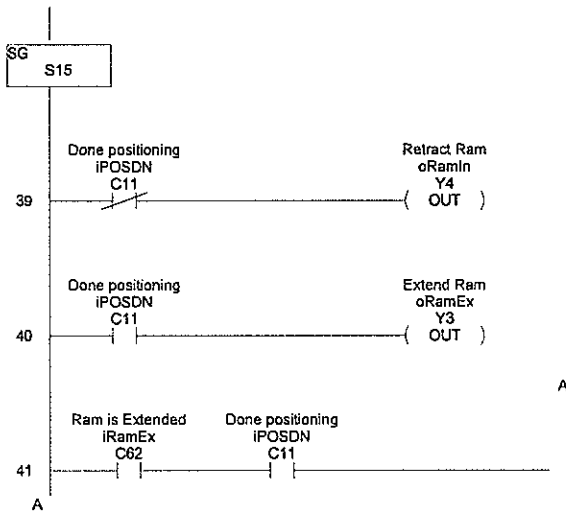
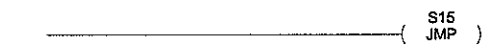
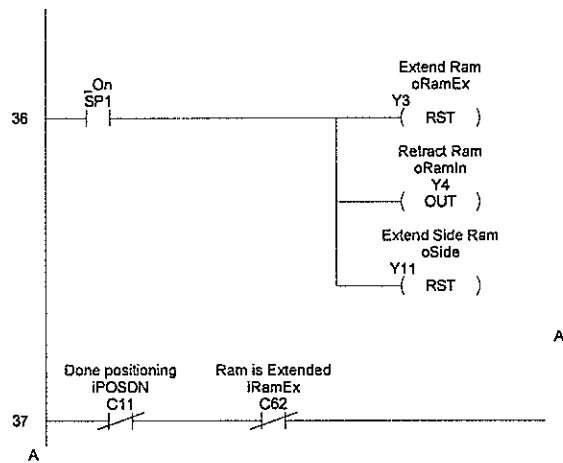
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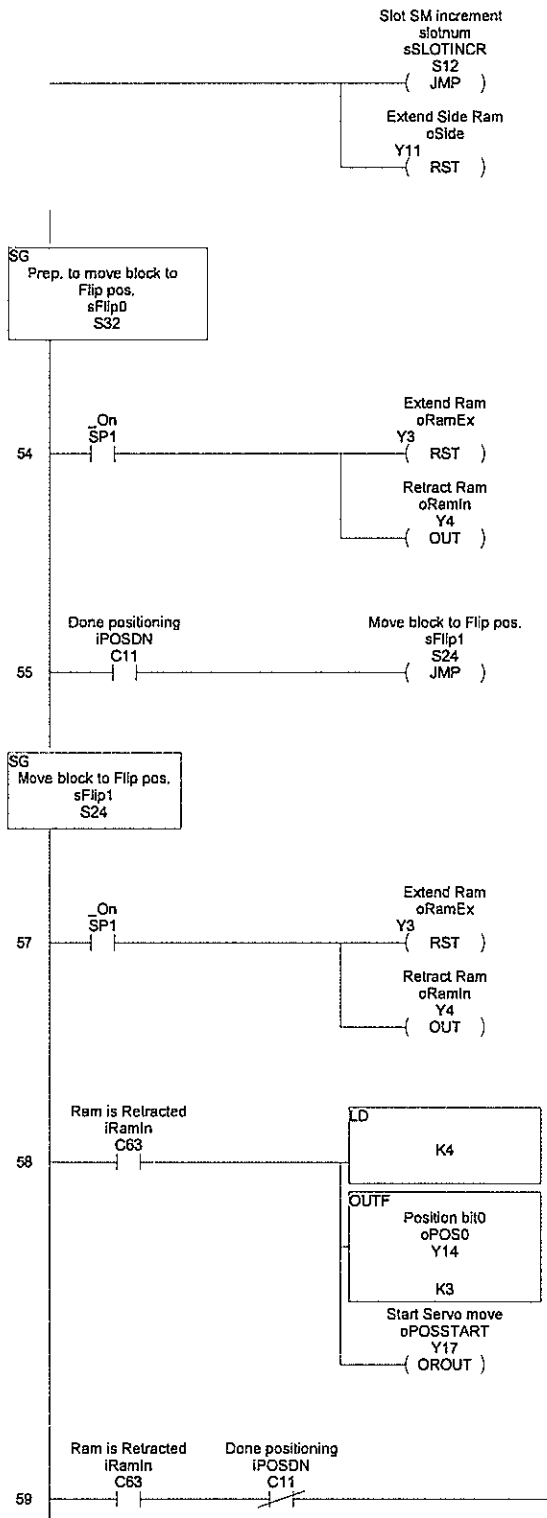
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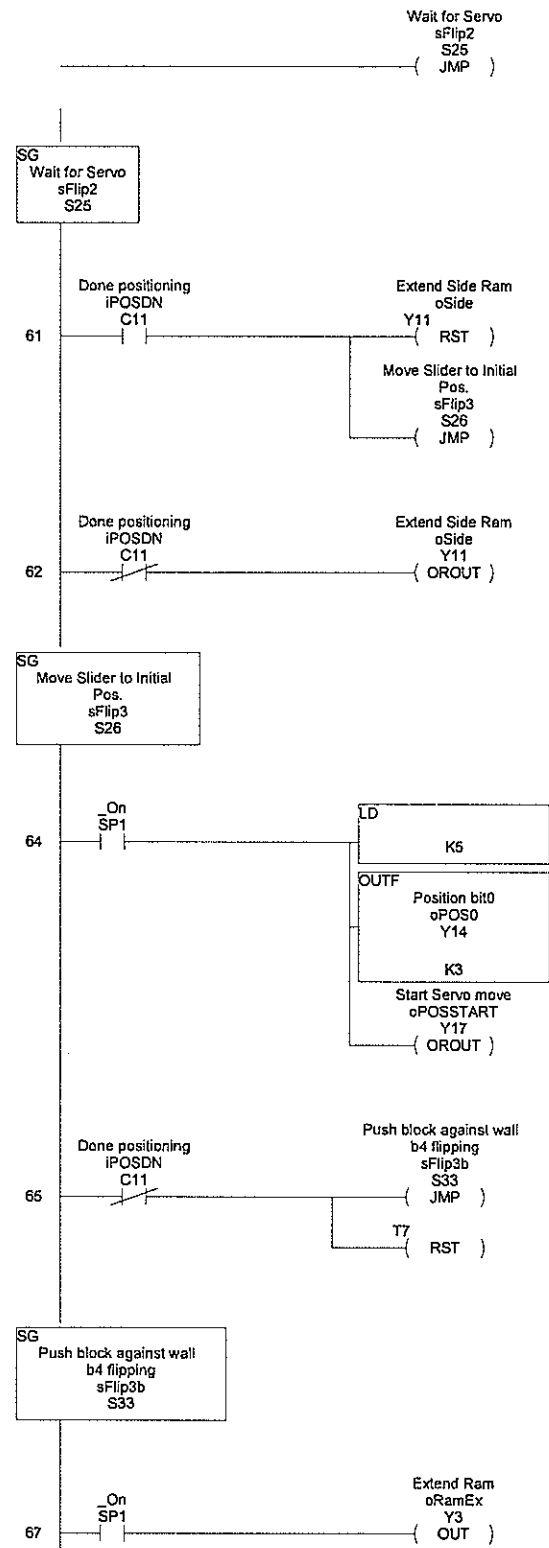


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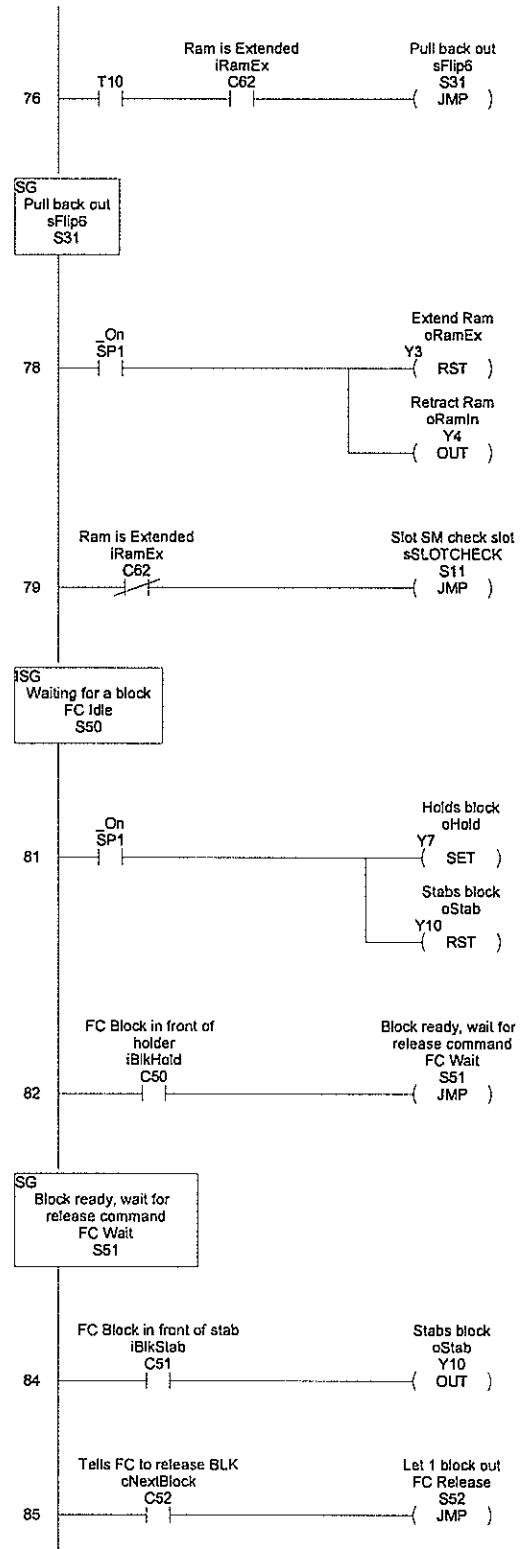
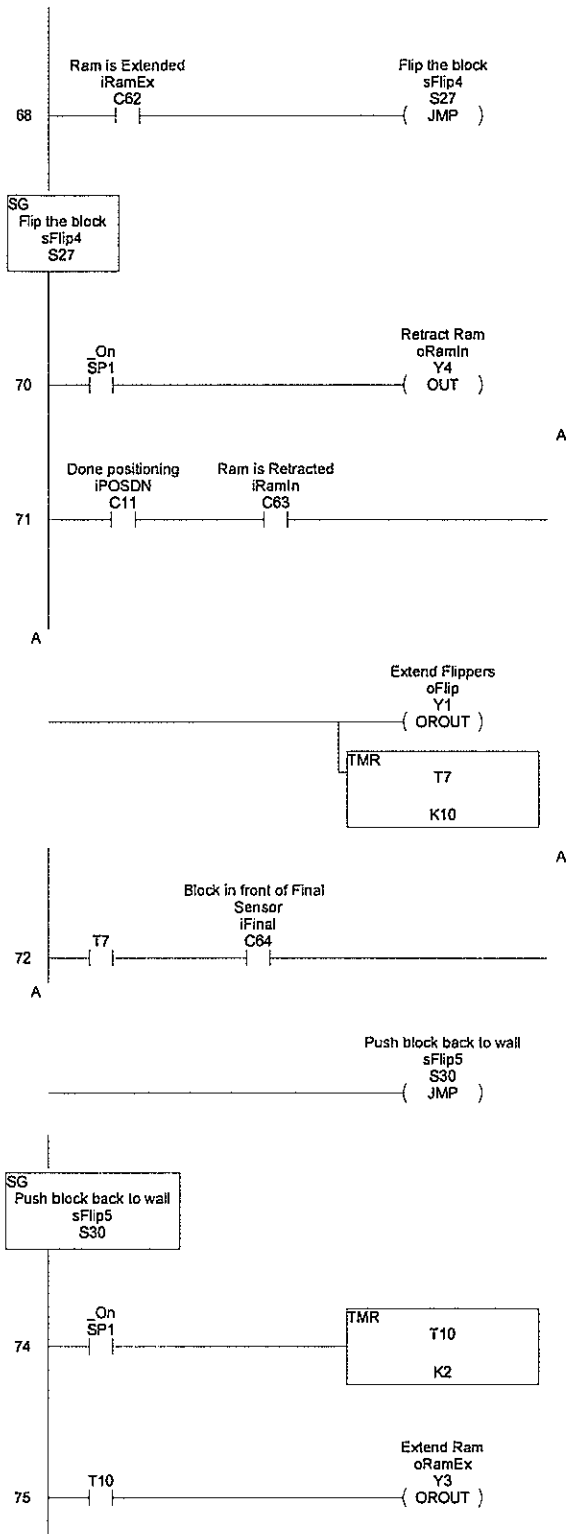
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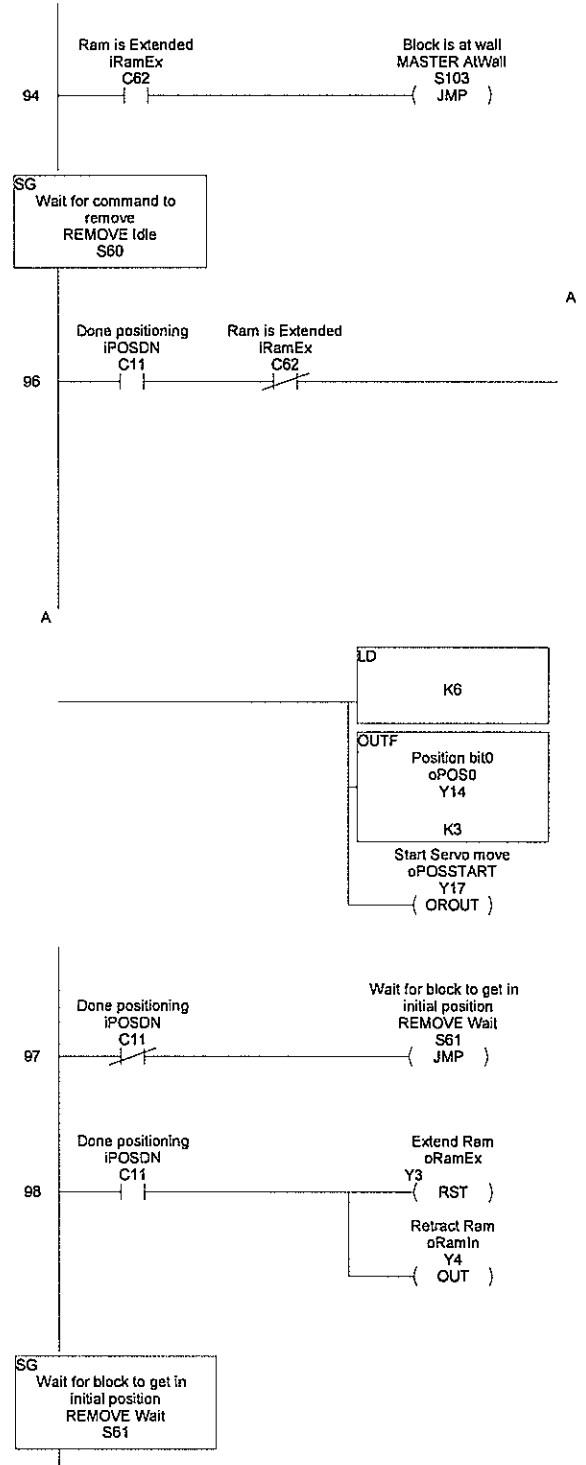
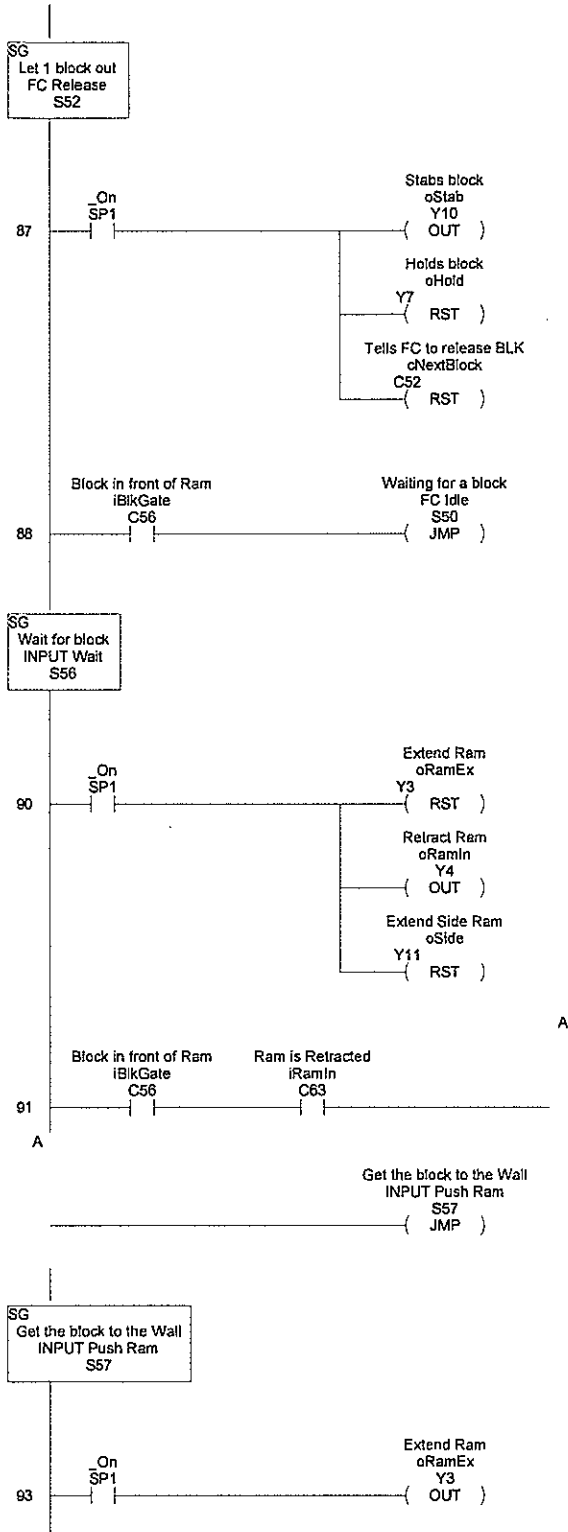
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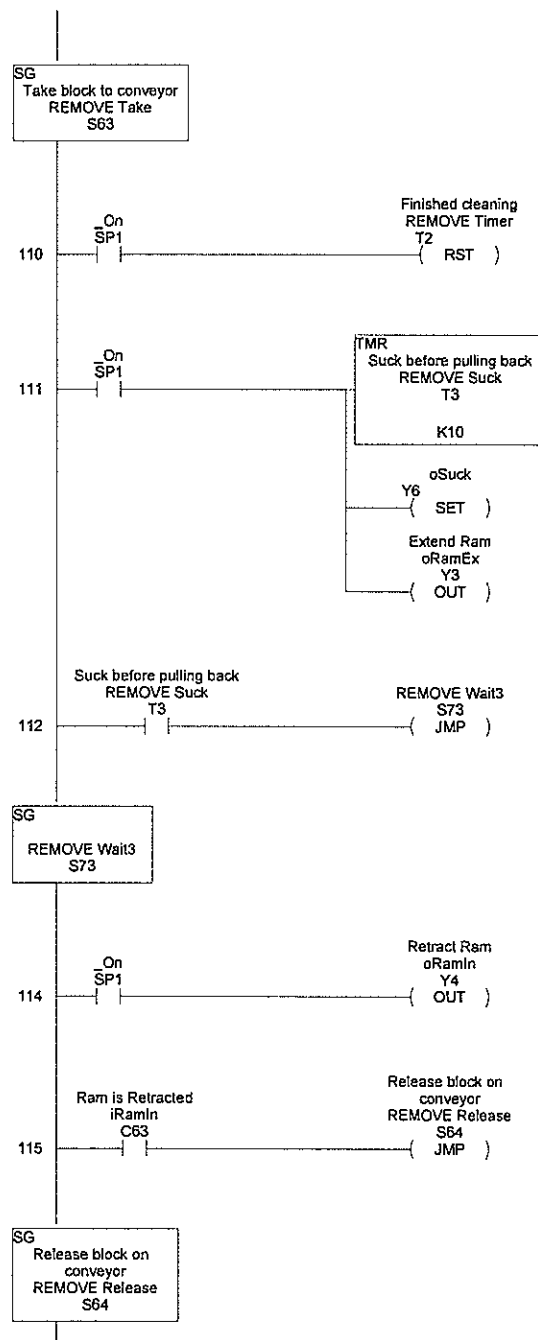
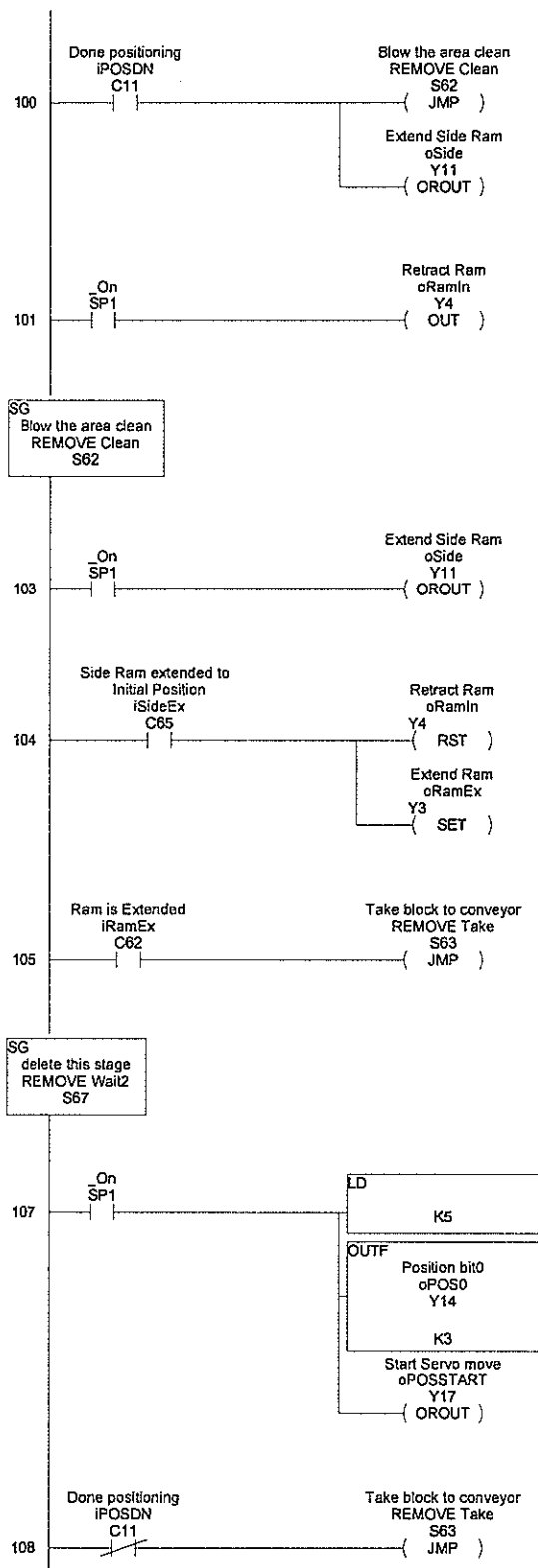
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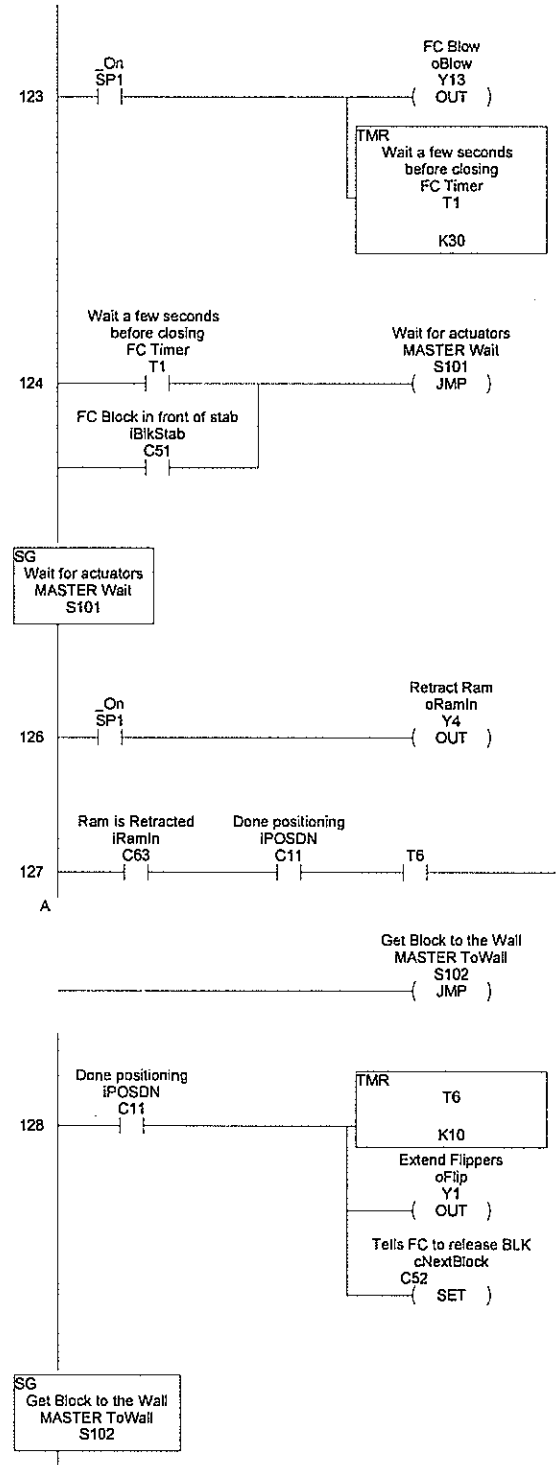
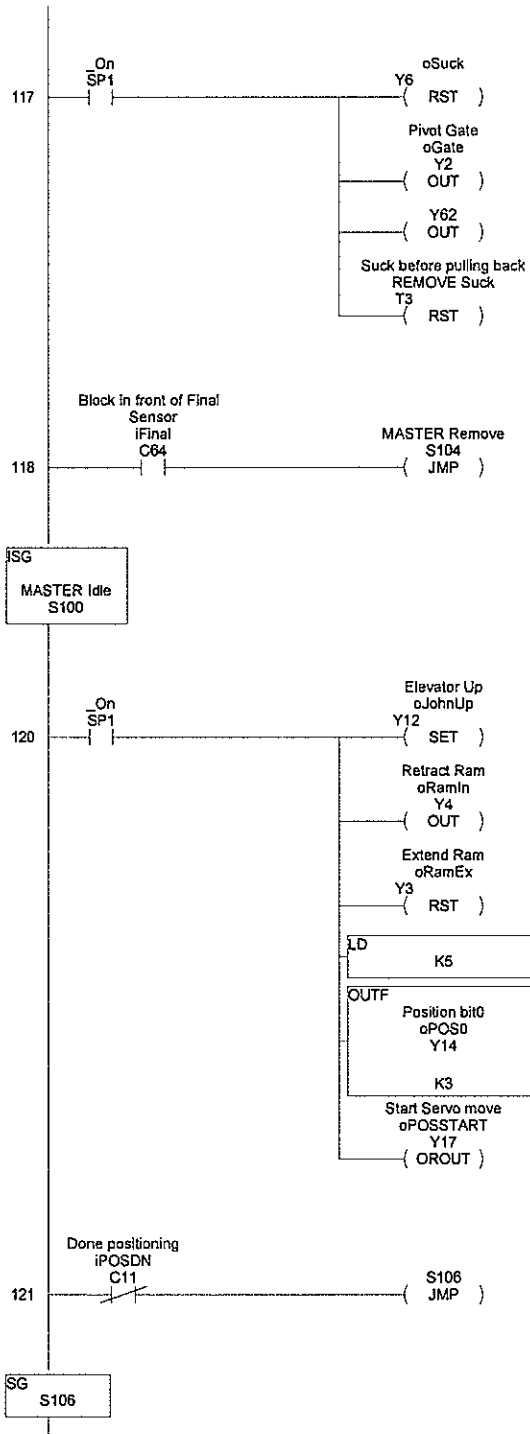
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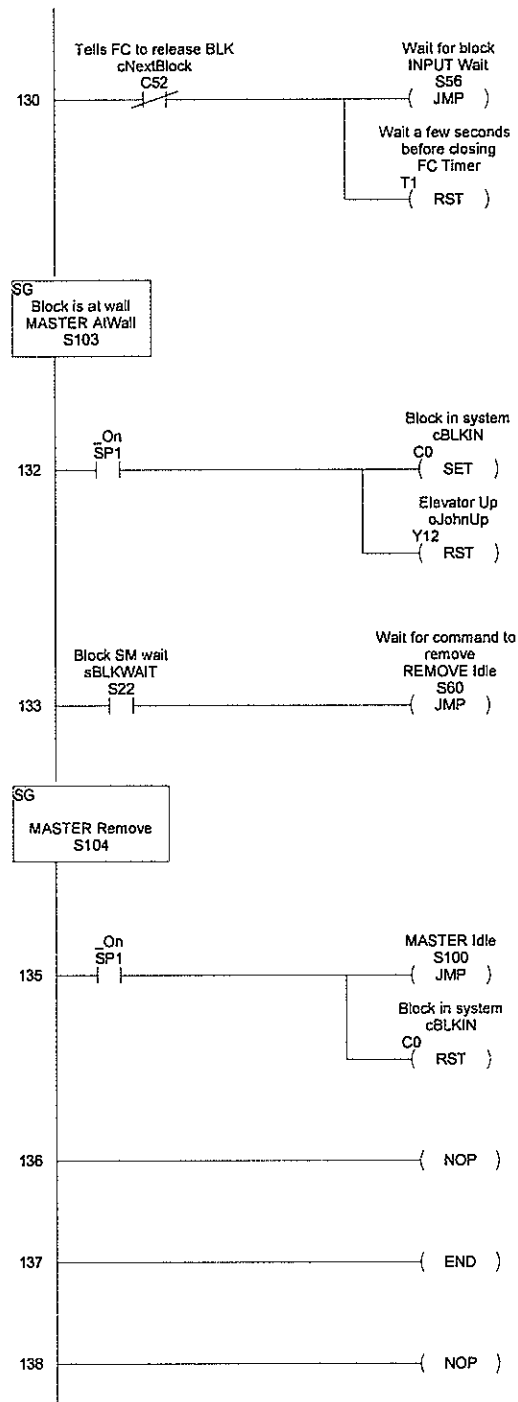
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QTY	COLOR	PART NAME	DESCRIPTION
1		TABLE	Provides support for all parts and sensors.
1	Light Blue	BOTTOM_PLATE	Medium between ROUTER, CUT_PLATE and TABLE.
1	White	ROUTER	Router for Block cutting.
2	Purple	BASE_STEP	Base for ACTUATOR_FLIPPER.
1	Light Green	CUT_PLATE	Support for the CUT_PLATE.
			Part on which block cutting occurs.
			Base for STEPPER_MOTOR.
1	Gray	ANGLE_BAR	Side support for Block during cutting.
2	Pink	STEPPER_MOTOR_MOUNT[2]	Support and spacing from CUT_PLATE and STEPPER_MOTOR.
1	Dark Green	LEAD_SCREW_MOTOR	Includes STEPPER_MOTOR, STEPPER_MOTOR_TAB, and LEAD_SCREW_PUSHTAB.
			Moves the Block axially for precision cutting.
1	Dark Blue	CONVEYOR_SMALL	Includes CONVEYOR_SMALL and CONVEYOR_SCREW.
			Moves the Block from initial stage to complete stage.
1	Orange	ACTUATOR_PANCAKE	Pushes the CONVEYOR_SMALL up and down for smooth Block positioning.
4	Red	ANGLE_4HOLE_BRACE	Provides various support for CONVEYOR_SMALL.
2	Light Pink	BLOCK_CLAMP	Includes BLOCK_SIDECLAMP and BLOCK_ENDCLAMP.
			Pushes Block into cutting area.

