

# Design and Fabrication of a Stator Winding Machine

by

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## **Abstract**

This paper discusses the equipment and techniques used in the creation of a machine that winds wire onto stators for brushless motors. A machine was designed and built to wind brushless motor stators with wire. This project was done as part of a manufacturing engineering class. The focus of the class is automation techniques used in the assembly and manufacture of products.

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## **Introduction**

This year for manufacturing class, our assignment was to design and build a machine capable of winding wire onto the stators of brushless motors. The stators we are using are available as part of a kit from [gobrushless.com](http://gobrushless.com). Initially the overall goal was to build a machine to completely assemble the motor kits from Go Brushless. However for this quarter winding the stators was a more reasonable goal.

## **Equipment**

For this project a large assortment of pneumatic cylinders and electrically controlled linear actuators were available. A programmable logic controller (plc) manufactured by Koyo was used to provide logic control for the project, model DL06 is the plc used in this project. The linear actuators and controllers used in this project were made by IAI Corporation. Three linear actuators were used in this project. To provide precise rotational positioning, an Animatics Smart Motor model SM2330SQ was used. The linear actuator controllers and the smart motor each communicated with the plc. Various single and double piston air cylinders manufactured by Bimba and SMC were also used to construct this machine.

## **Creating the Machine**

The first step in making the machine to wind stators was to sit down and figure out what really was involved in winding a stator. In order to better understand what was involved in stator winding, each member of the team wound their own stator by hand. Winding stators by hand was helpful, but winding wire mechanically is an entirely different process. After gaining a basic understanding of how the wire must be wound onto the stator, the process of designing and fabricating various machine parts could

begin. The main problem now was that winding wire with a machine must be done in a completely different manner than hand winding, since building a complete replica of two human hands was not an option.

One of the first problems that had to be solved was how to hold onto the stator while it was having wire wound onto its teeth. The method used to hold the stator must be secure while allowing the stator to be rotated precisely. To accomplish this task, two aluminum rods were turned to the desired size, and a taper was cut on one end of each rod. The taper was cut so that when the tapered rod ends were pressed together they would firmly hold the stator. One of the rods was then attached to a smart motor that allows the stator to be rotated precisely. The other rod was attached to an air cylinder. Also the rod attached to the air cylinder was cut in half and machined to accept a bearing. This was done to facilitate smooth rotation between the air cylinder which becomes rigid under pressure, and the tapered end of the rod. This allows the stator to be rotated freely by the smart motor. These two parts may be seen in Figures 1 and 2.

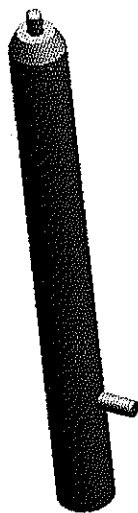


Figure 1. Top of stator holder

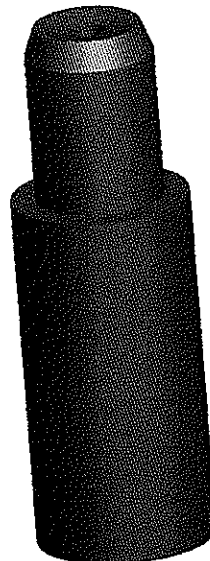


Figure 2. Bottom of stator holder.

With the smart motor providing one axis of movement, the other two axes are provided by two linear actuators connected together. One moves vertically and the other horizontally. To guide the wire onto the stator, a syringe tip from an adhesive dispensing syringe was used. The needle is moved by the linear actuators, and the wire passes from the spool through the needle and onto the stator. The needle is attached to the linear actuators with the needle holder shown in Figure 3.

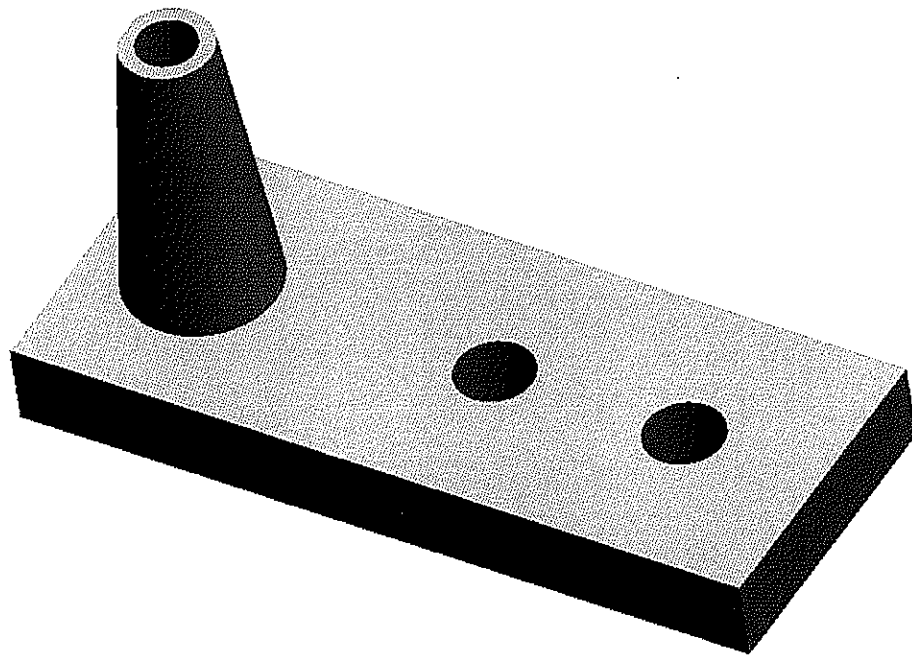


Figure 3. Needle holder.

To accurately determine the angular position of the stator an inductive sensor was used. To locate the stator before the first tooth is wound the smart motor slowly turns the stator until the inductive sensor sees a tooth and then a gap. After the gap is seen the stator is then rotated a specified amount to align the wire feeding needle with a gap in the stator. A close up picture of the inductive sensor and a stator is shown in



Figure 4. Once the stator is positioned initially all the other necessary moves are incremental and are read from a position table in memory.

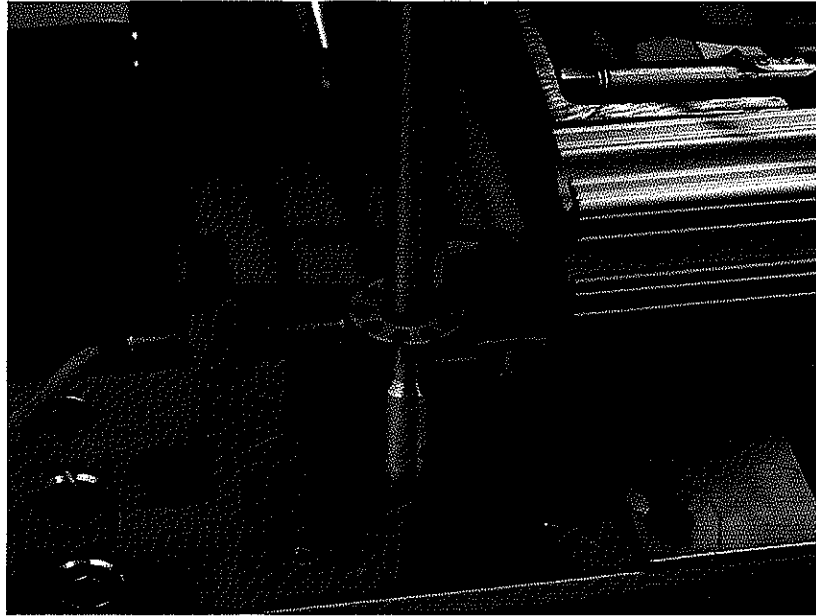


Figure 4. Close up of inductive sensor.

The overall assembly is built using T slot material to hold various parts of the assembly in place. The platform that the machine assembly sits on is also constructed from the same aluminum T slot material. Figure 5 shows a Pro E model of the entire machine, and a picture of the actual machine is shown in Figure 6.

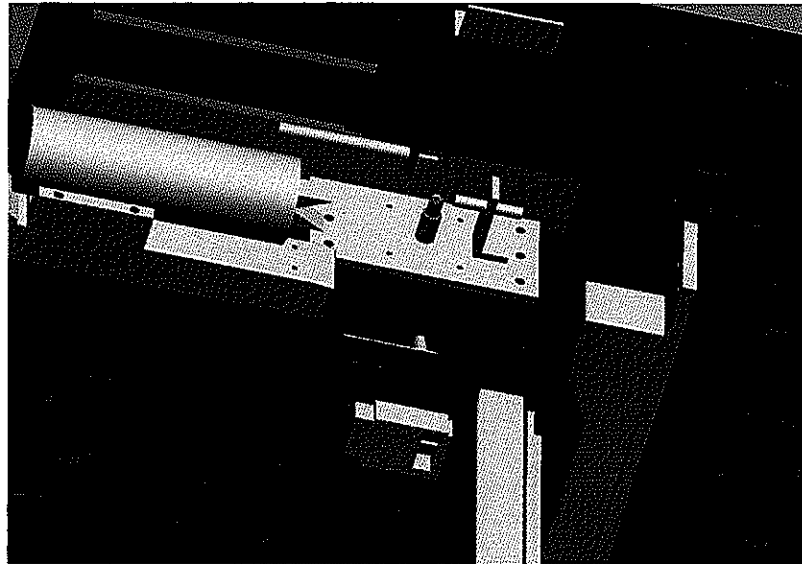


Figure 5. Pro E model of machine.

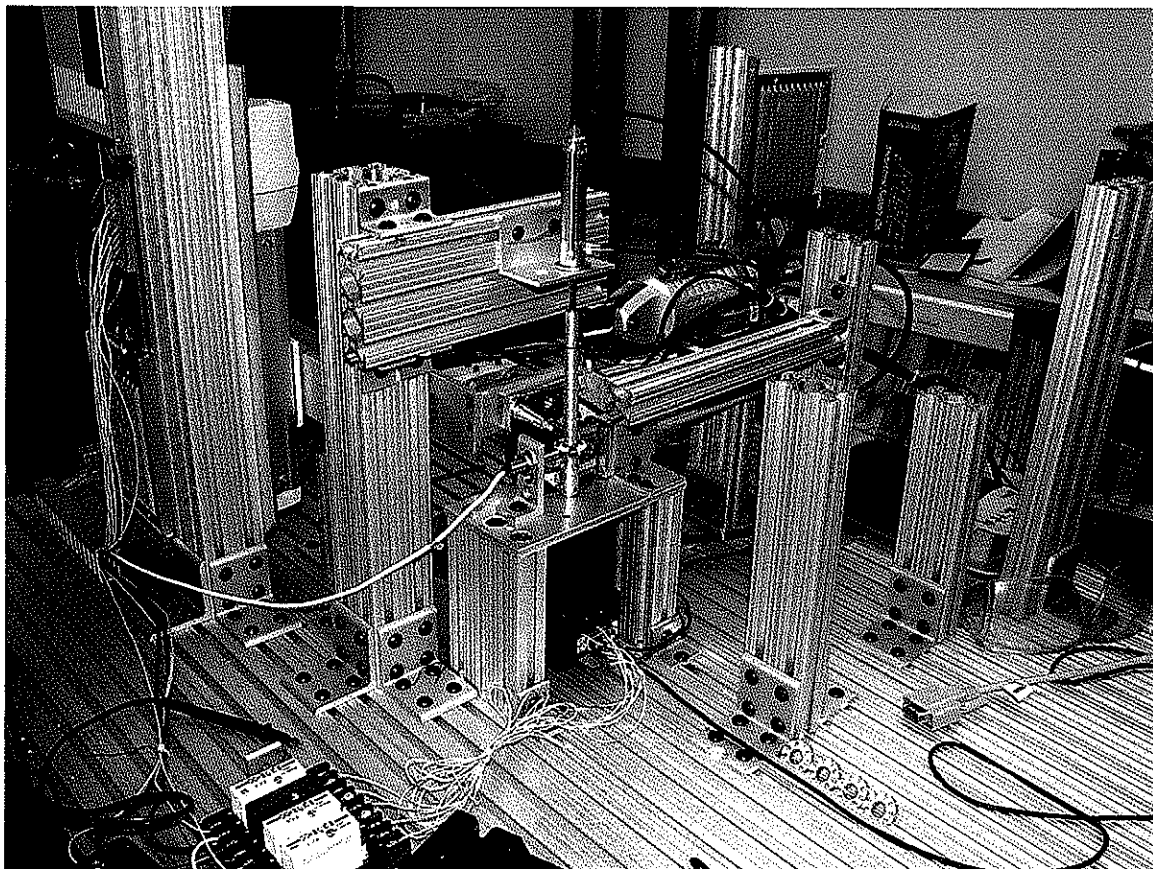


Figure 6. Picture of winding machine.

When the winding process is first started it is necessary to hold the tip of the wire stationary, as the first few turns of wire are wound. To accomplish this, a pneumatic gripper with custom jaws was used. When one phase of the stator has been wound and the wire needs to be cut before the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> phases can be wound the process is as follows. First the needle is brought upward and a cylinder is extended to keep the wire pointing straight up from the stator. Then the needle is pulled back and the wire cutters are brought in by a linear actuator and the wire is clipped. The next phase can then be wound.

## **Specifications**

This stator winding machine is set up to wind nine tooth stators up to seventeen turns of wire per tooth, though it has only been tested for up to ten turns. The number of stator teeth can be changed but parts of the programs would need to be modified. The only wire that has been tested is the 26 gage wire that comes with the motor kits. The needle must protrude 0.792 inches from the aluminum cone that holds it. This dimension is critical to proper operation of the winding machine, if the needle protrudes too far it will hit the stator or the stator holder and get bent or broken. When the wire is initially threaded into the needle by hand it should extend past the end of the needle between 1 and 3 inches, but not less than 1 inch, the machine will cue the wire to the exact length needed before the winding process is started. The amount of time required to wind one stator is approximately 9:27. This time will of course depend on the number of turns to be wound. The time listed here is for ten turns per stator tooth.

## **Operating Instructions**

Before the power to the machine is turned on several things must be checked. First the linear actuators marked Henry and Bob must be moved back away from the stator to the extent of their range by hand. This is to prevent the linear actuator named Victor from damaging the needle when it moves up. Also before the power is turned on the wire should be threaded into the needle so it has between 1 and 3 inches of wire sticking out. Next, a stator should be loaded into the machine as shown in Figure 4. Once these steps have been done the power switch should be turned on. The linear actuators will now go through a homing sequence. Once all the sliders have stopped moving check all three slider controllers. They should each be displaying p01. If any of the controllers are displaying ready (rdy), then it will be necessary to reload the correct program and the position tables into that controller from the computer using a program named Selwin. If all three sliders are displaying p01, and the wire and stator are in position then press the green button to begin winding. When changing stators, the power must be reset to initiate the stator gap homing function done by the smartmotor.

To clear a jam or other malfunction it will be necessary to reset the machine. Resetting the machine requires the following steps. Turn the power off and immediately move the linear actuator Henry back to its home position. Remove whatever is causing the problem and replace the stator back on the stator holder. Now check that the stator is in the correct position, the wire has enough wire sticking out, and Henry is all the way back. Next, turn the power back on. When the homing sequences have finished check the

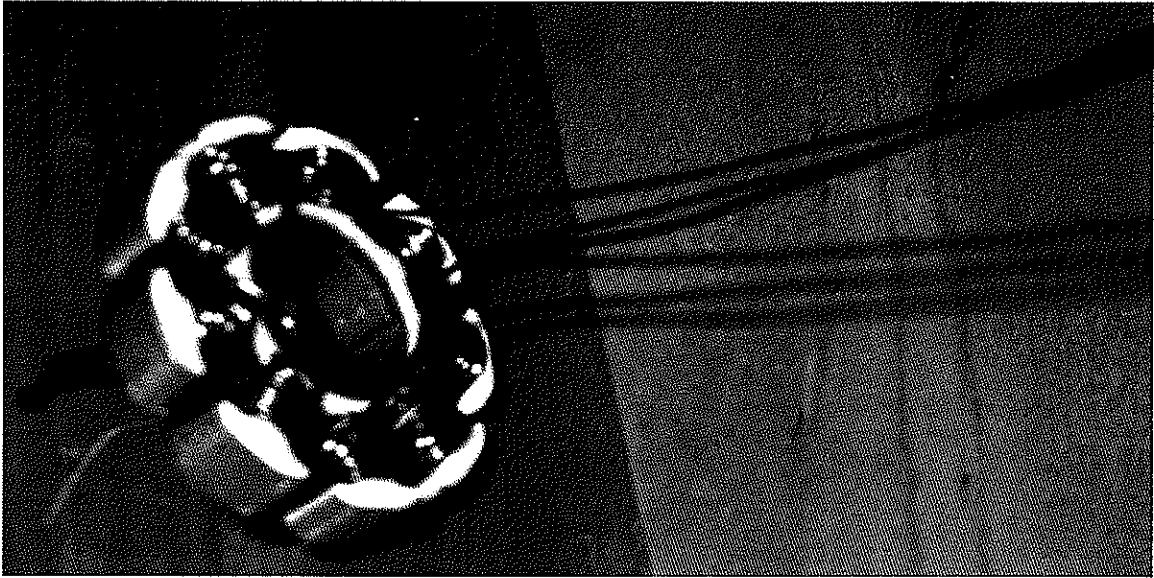
readouts as previously discussed and if they are reading p01, press the green button to begin winding.

To change the number of turns the machine will wind onto the stator change the k value in counter zero in state 31 line 73 in the plc logic. However it is highly recommended that this value not be increased over the initial value. The number of turns may be decreased with out causing issues, but attempting to wind more turns is likely to cause problems.

When a stator has been completely wound, a hard restart must be completed before the next stator is placed into the machine for winding. This restart must be done to reset the homing feature on the smart motor, if the homing feature is not reset the stator will not be placed in the proper position when winding starts. Improper stator positioning is likely to lead to parts breakage. Also care should be taken to keep all body parts clear of the pneumatic wire cutter; if it gets the chance it will bite you.

## **Results**

We were able to successfully wind one stator. The wiring looks fairly clean but some of the insulation on the wire was damaged. As can be seen in the picture of the completed stator the machine does leave plenty of wire for connecting to a speed controller in an assembled motor. At this point the machine only winds ten turns on each tooth, the ideal number of turns is between seventeen and twenty one turns. Overall the main issue we have had in fine tuning this machine is getting the computer to successfully connect to the smart motor. Without a successful connection the rotation increment cannot be adjusted to achieve good performance.



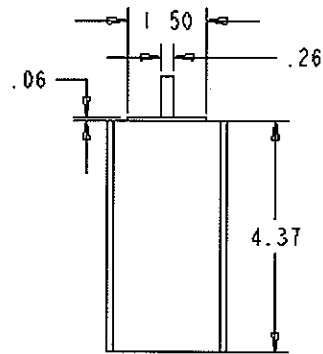
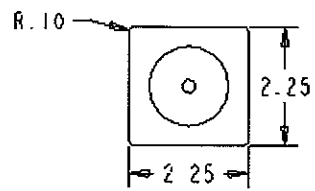
Picture of complete stator

### **Future work**

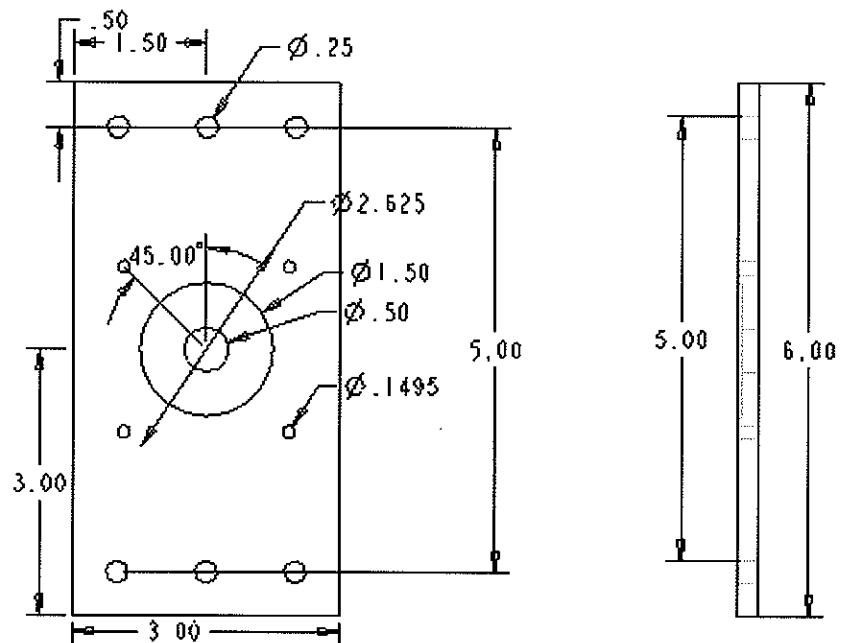
One feature that would be useful in future machines is a gripper to move in and hold the end of the wire while the cutter moves in and cuts the wire to its initial length. The gripper could then move back and drop the scrap wire into a trash box. Another area that needs to be improved in future machines is a method of automatically loading the stators into the machine, at this point the stators are being loaded into the winder by hand. Also another improvement that could be made is finding a better way to protect the insulation on the wire, since this machine has had some trouble with scraping off the

insulation sometimes. Any reduction in this machines temperamental behavior would also be a big improvement, up to this point a mostly functional machine has been arrived at by many hours of progressive tweaking, even with functional logic and programming many of the position tables require frequent tweaking to achieve error free winding. Overall this machine has been a good first attempt at winding stators, as a group we would definitely like to see what future labs design, and how they are able to improve our initial design.

## Appendix 1

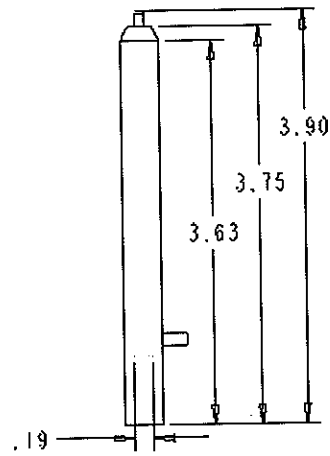
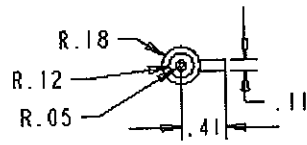


Smart motor.

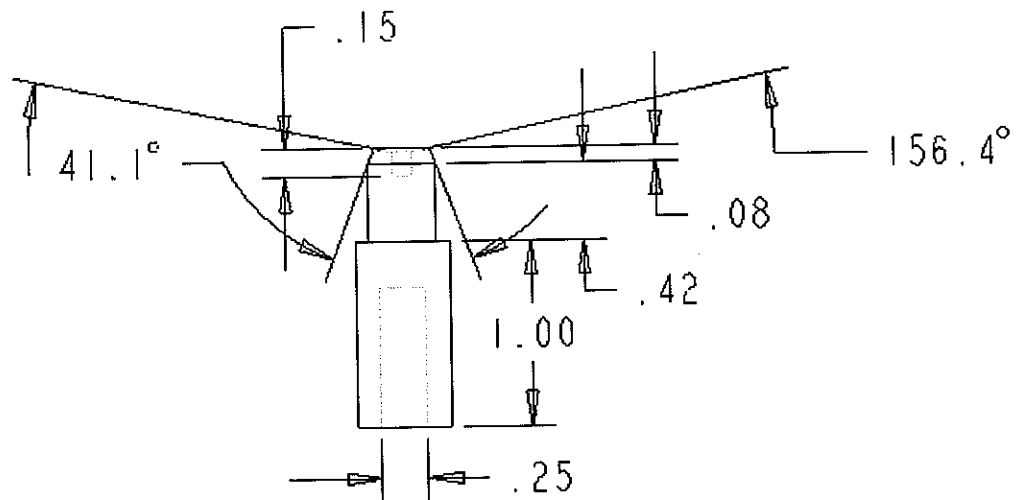
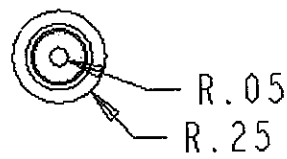


Smart motor mounting plate.

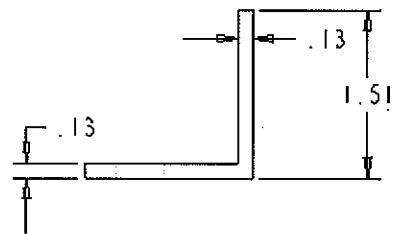
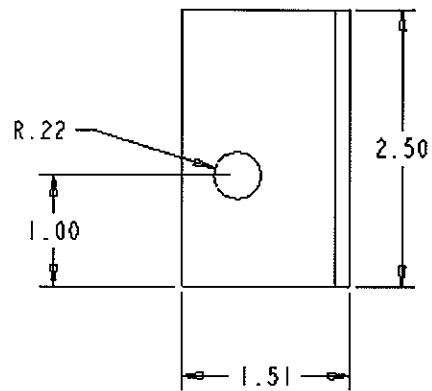




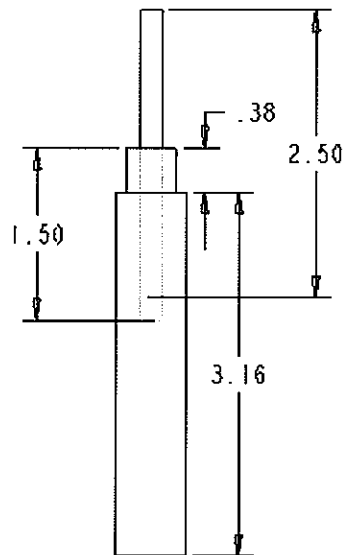
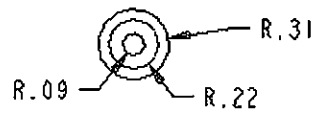
Upper stator holder.



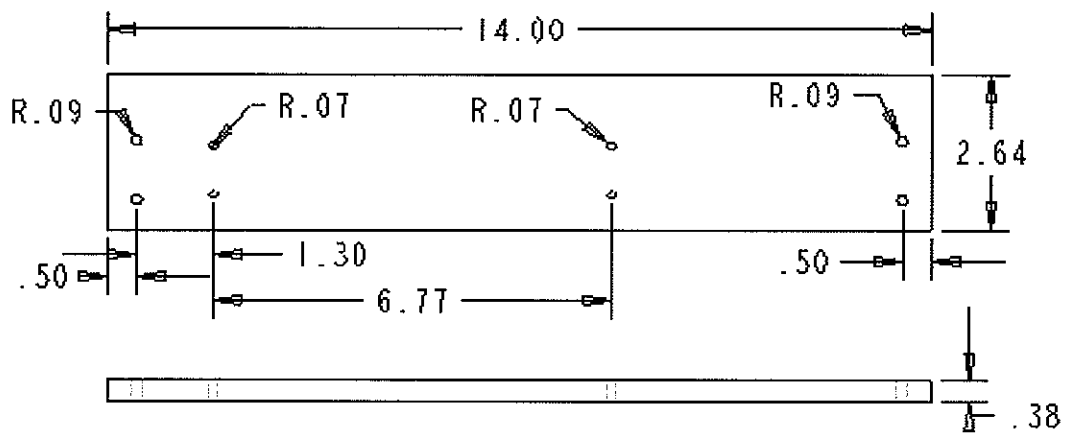
Lower stator holder.



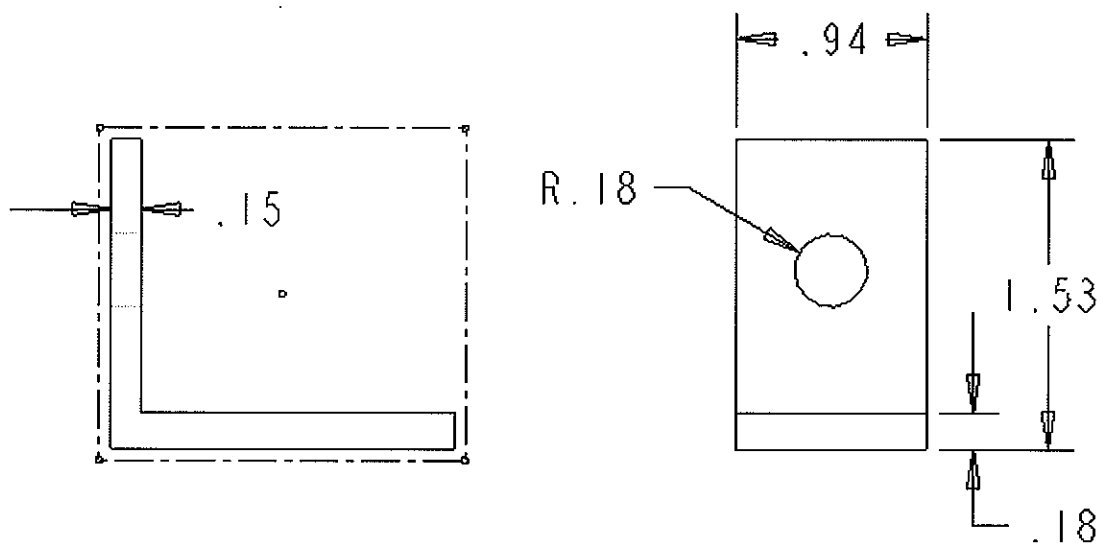
Stator holder cylinder bracket.



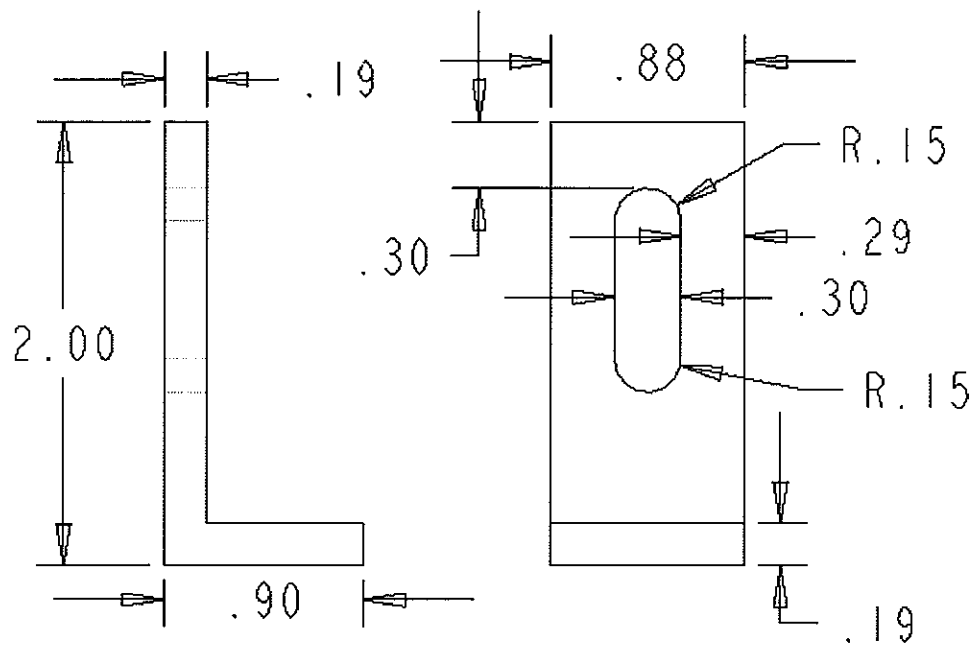
Stator holder cylinder.



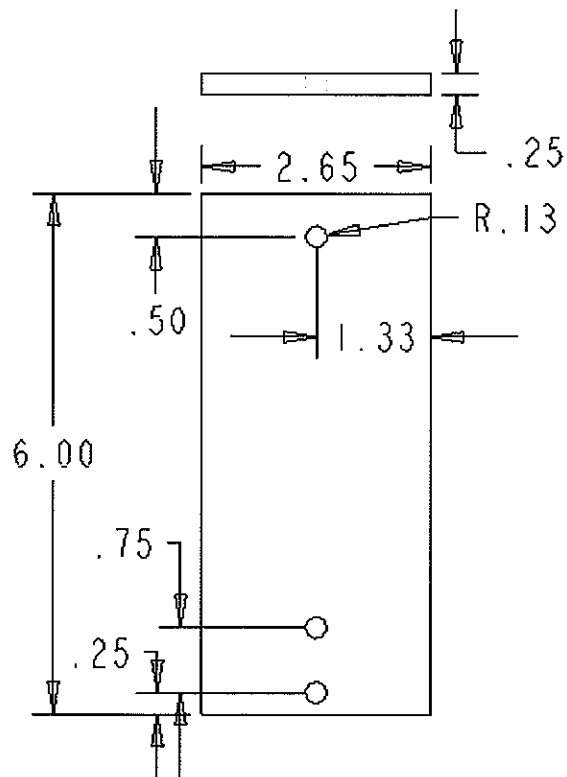
Linear actuator assembly bracket.



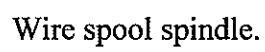
Bracket for air cylinder that acts as a finger.

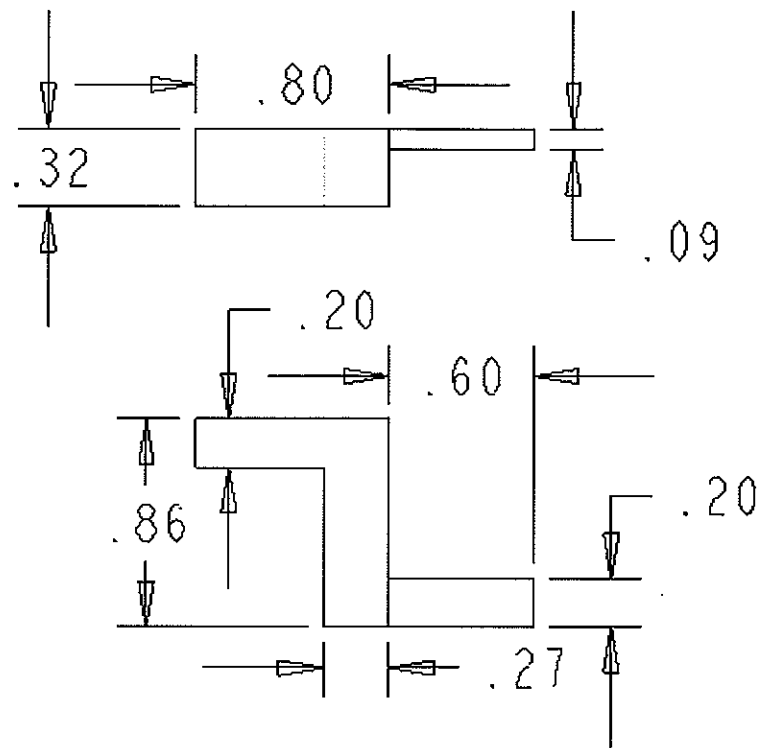


Inductive sensor bracket.

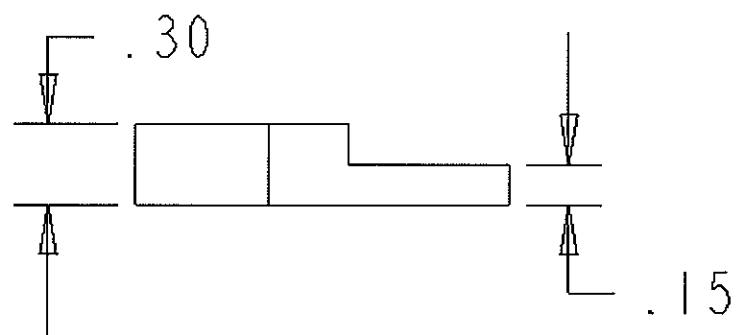
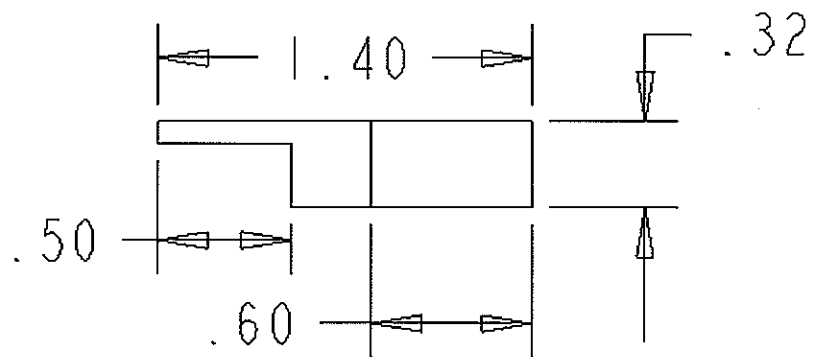


Wire spool bracket.





Top gripper jaw



Lower gripper jaw

<u>Linear Actuator</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Table</u>
Bob	Home	0	HOME
	Initial position	10	1
	Ready to clip	430	2
Henry	Home (back)	0	HOME
	Wire tip ready to be pinched	96.25	1
	Wire ready to be cut	18.78	2
	Backed up a little	93	3
	In all the way for the wire wrap	100	4 Change in program too!
Victor	Home (up)	0	HOME
	Wire pinched	96	1
	up past peg	70.5	2
	just below peg	84	3
	Pull back height for cutting	34	4
Alec	Initial rotation	45	
	+ 1 peg	265	
	- 1 peg	-265	
	+ 2 pegs	668	

Ns	Step	A/O	Cond	Cmnd	Operand 1	Operand 2	Pst	Comment
1	1			BTOF	302			PLC not ready
1	2			SVON	1			Servo on
1	3			ACC	2			Set accel
1	4			VEL	500			Set Velocity
1	5			HOME	1			Go Home
1	6			MOVP	1			Initial position
1	7			BTON	302			Signal PLC ready
1	8	-----		TAG	1			Return for loop
1	9			WTON	011			Wait for PLC Go
1	10			BTOF	302			Signal PLC moving
1	11			MOVP	2			Go to pos 2
1	12			BTON	302			Tell plc ready
1	13			WTOF	011			
1	14			WTON	011			Wait for plc on
1	15			BTOF	302			Signal PLC moving
1	16			MOVP	1			Go to pos 1
1	17			BTON	302			Tell plc ready
1	18			WTOF	011			Wait for plc off
1	19			GOTO	1			Repeat to tag 1



No.	Acc	Vel	Axis(1)
1	x.xx	x	10.000
2	x.xx	x	430.000

Ns	Step	A/O	Cond	Cmdnd	Operand 1	Operand 2	Pst	Comment
1	1			BTOF	302			Not ready
1	2			SVON	1			Servo on
1	3			HOME	1			go home
1	4			ACC	0.3			
1	5			VEL	50			
1	6			BTON	302			Ready
1	7	-----		TAG	1			Begin loop
1	8			WTON	011			Wait for PLC
1	9			BTOF	302			I'm busy
1	10			IN	014	015		In inc adjs
1	11			TRAN	299	99		copy 99 to 299
2	12			IFEQ	99	0.01		If 1, +0.01
2	13			PGET	1	4		
2	14			TRAN	399	199		copy 199 to 399
2	15			ADD	199	1.5		
2	16			PPUT	1	4		
1	17			EDIF				
2	18			IFEQ	99	0.01		If 2, -0.01
2	19			PGET	1	4		
2	20			ADD	199	-1.5		
2	21			PPUT	1	4		
1	22			EDIF				
2	23			IFEQ	99	3		If 3, reset
2	24			LET	199	100		
2	25			PPUT	1	4		
1	26			EDIF				
1	27			IN	012	013		In pos code
1	28			ADD	99	1		incr for pos table
1	29			MOVP	*99			move
1	30			BTON	302			I'm ready
1	31			WTOF	011			Be sure plc knows
1	32			GOTO	1			Loop around

No.	Acc	Vel	Axis(1)
1	x.xx	x	96.250
2	x.xx	x	18.000
3	x.xx	x	93.000
4	x.xx	x	100.000

Ns	Step	A/O	Cond	Cmnd	Operand 1	Operand 2	Pst	Comment
1	1			BTOF	302			I'm not ready
1	2			SVON	1			Servo on
1	3			HOME	1			Go home
1	4			ACC	0.3			
1	5			VEL	15			
1	6			MOVD	34			move to pos4
1	7			BTON	302			I'm ready
1	8	-----		TAG	1			Loop beginning
1	9			WTON	11			Wait for PLC
1	10			BTOF	302			
1	11			IN	12	13		Read binary pos
1	12			ADD	99	1		
1	13			MOVP	*99			move to pos
1	14			BTON	302			
1	15			GOTO	1			

No.	Acc	Vel	Axis(1)
1	x.xx	x	96.000
2	x.xx	x	70.500
3	x.xx	x	84.000
4	x.xx	x	34.000

# SMART MOTOR PROGRAM

```
UAI
UBO
UCI
UDI
MP
RP
A=1000
V=10000
P=0
G
TWAIT
WAIT=10
a=UAI
WHILE a==1
WAIT=1
a=UAI
PRINT(#13,"Waiting for PLC")
UB=1
LOOP
UB=0
WAIT=500
c=UCI
WHILE c==1
UB=1
D=1
G
TWAIT
WAIT=200
c=UCI
LOOP
PRINT(#13,"I see the stator peg")
c=UCI
WHILE c==0
UB=1
D=1
G
TWAIT
WAIT=200
c=UCI
LOOP
PRINT(#13,"I see the stator gap")
A=10
V=1000
D=37
G
TWAIT
WAIT=20
PRINT(#13,"Needle centered with gap")
UB=0
O=0
WHILE 1
A=500
V=5000
a=UAI
d=UDI
IF d==1
IF a==0
UB=1
D=-265
G
TWAIT
WAIT=5
PRINT(#13,"Rotated -1 peg")
UB=0
ENDIF
ENDIF
IF d==0
IF a==1
```

```
UB=1
D=265
G
TWAIT
WAIT=5
PRINT(#13,"Rotated +1 peg")
UB=0
ENDIF
ENDIF
IF d==0
IF a==0
UB=1
D=662
G
TWAIT
WAIT=5
PRINT(#13,"Rotated to next wrapping position")
UB=0
ENDIF
ENDIF
PRINT(#13,"Finished, Waiting for PLC")
LOOP
END
```

[illegible]

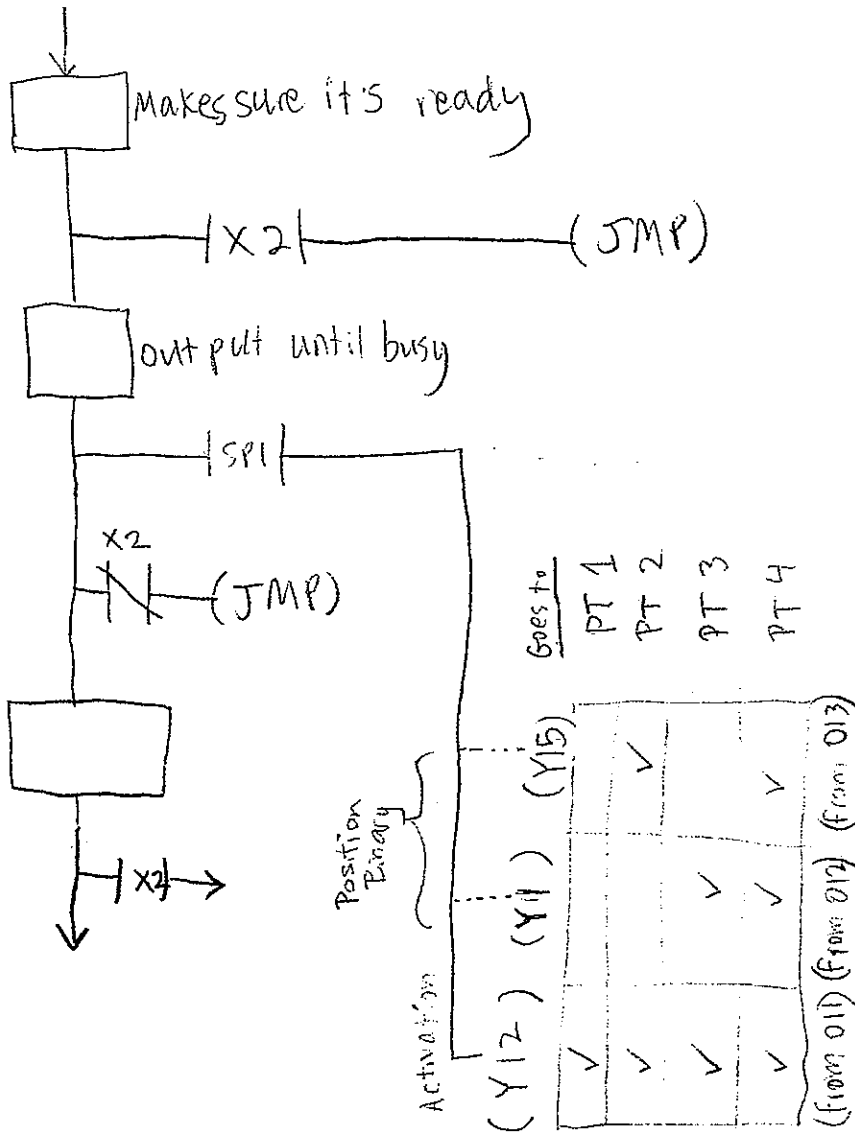


[illegible]

# PLC: VICTOR

# VICTOR

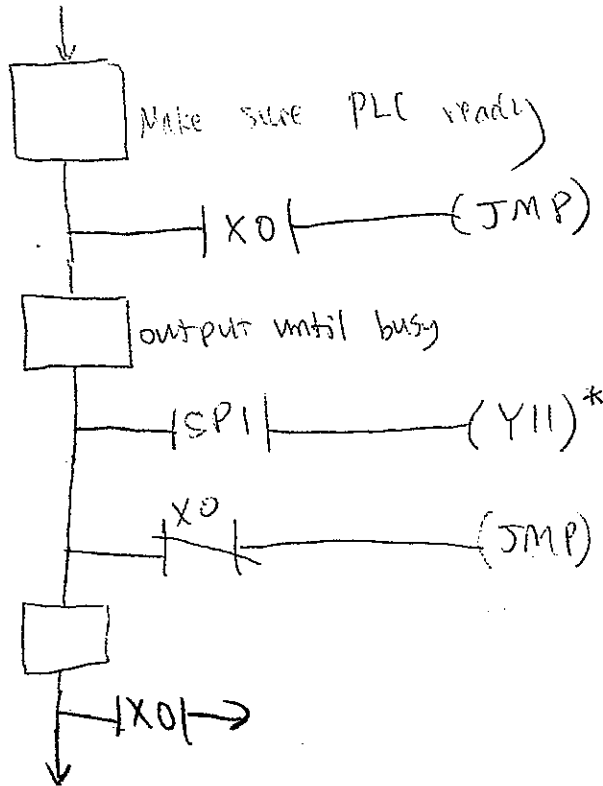
To move Victor: Takes 2 states



PLC : Bob

BOB

To move Bob takes 2 states



\* Bob starts at PT 1 (back)

Every time he receives a Y11 command and starts moving, he goes to the "other" position. In this way Y11 is a toggle.

---

# SMI information

# ALEC

	<u>Light</u>	<u>means</u>	<u>SMI</u>	<u>PLC</u>
UAI:	on	↙	0	Y17 on
	off		1	Y17 off
UDI:	on		0	Y16 on
	off		1	Y16 off

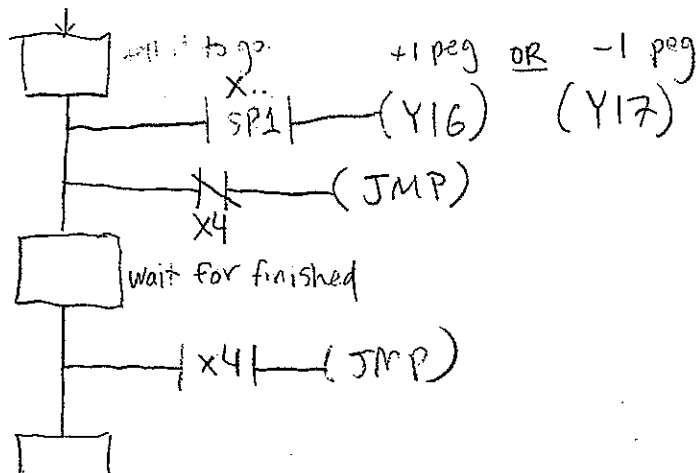
<u>D</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Y16</u>	<u>Y17</u>	<u>means</u>
0	0	on	on	skip 2 states
0	1	on	off	rotate +1 peg
1	0	off	on	rotate -1 peg
1	1	off	off	nothing

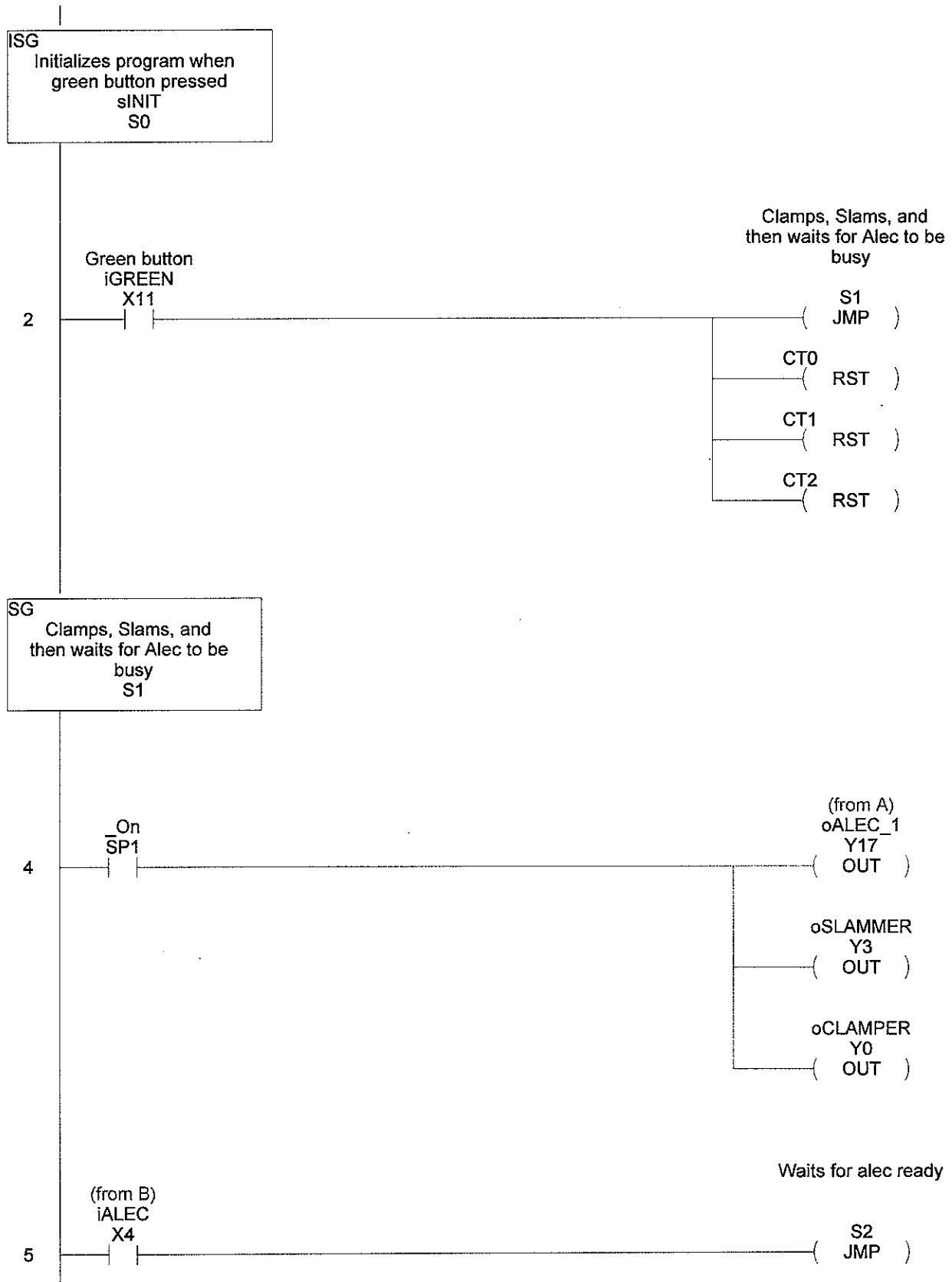
So, Y16 makes it rotate +1 peg, Y17 rotates -1 peg:

	<u>Light</u>	<u>means</u>	<u>SMI</u>	<u>PLC</u>
UBO:	on	I'm ready	0	—x4—
	off	I'm busy	1	—x4—
UCI:	on	I see stator	0	not connected to PLC
	off	I don't see stator	1	not connected to PLC

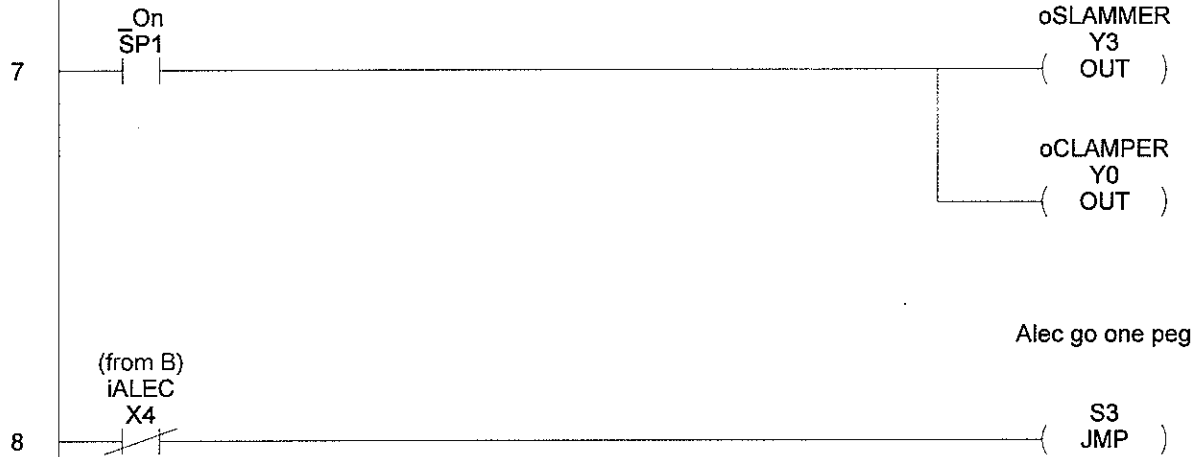
## PLC: Alec:

To move Alec takes 2 states:

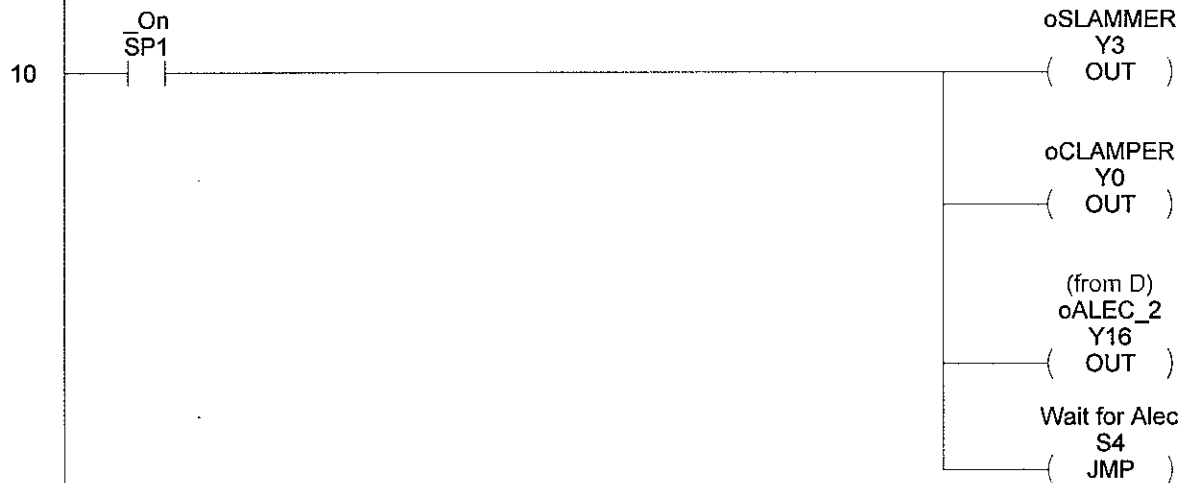


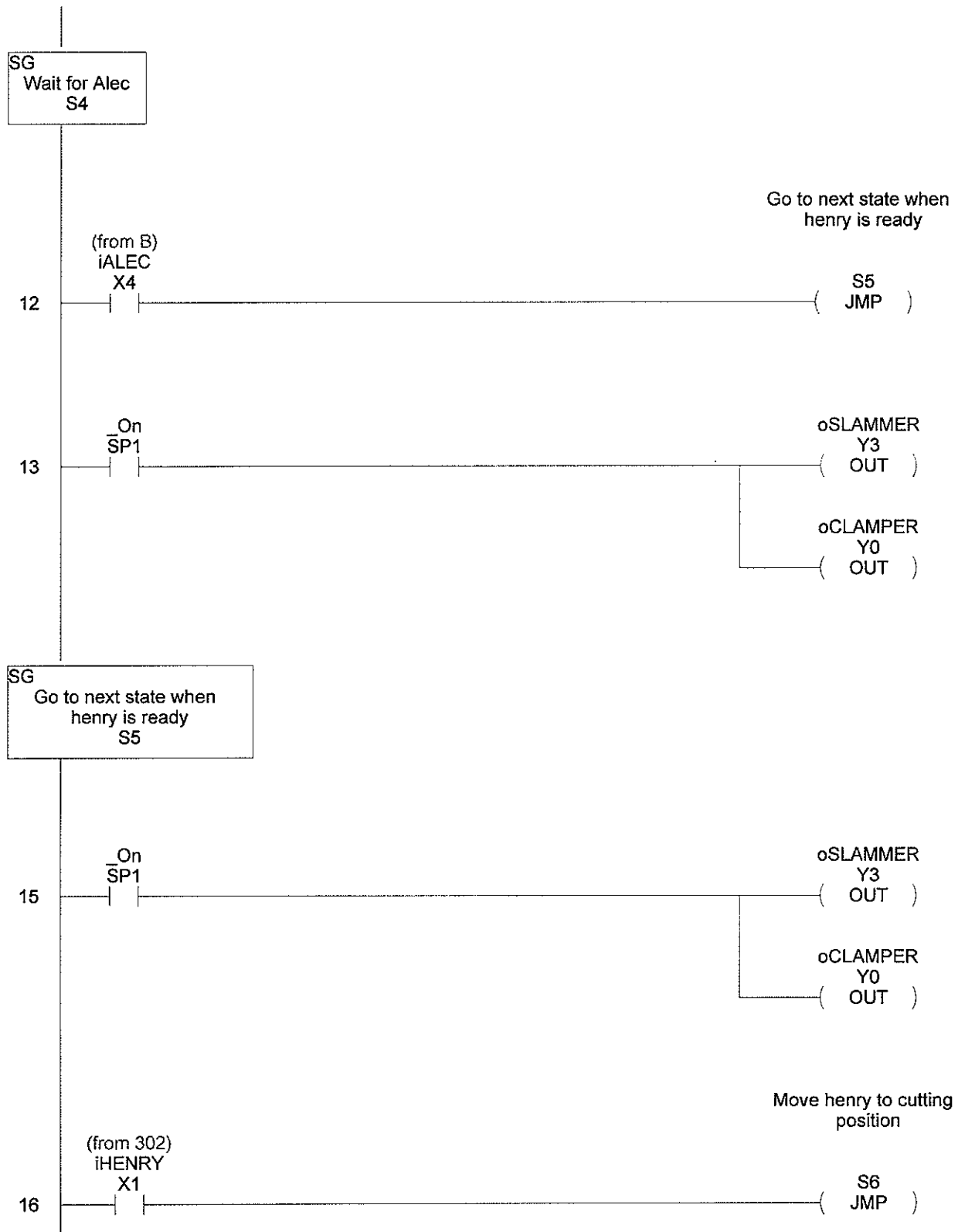


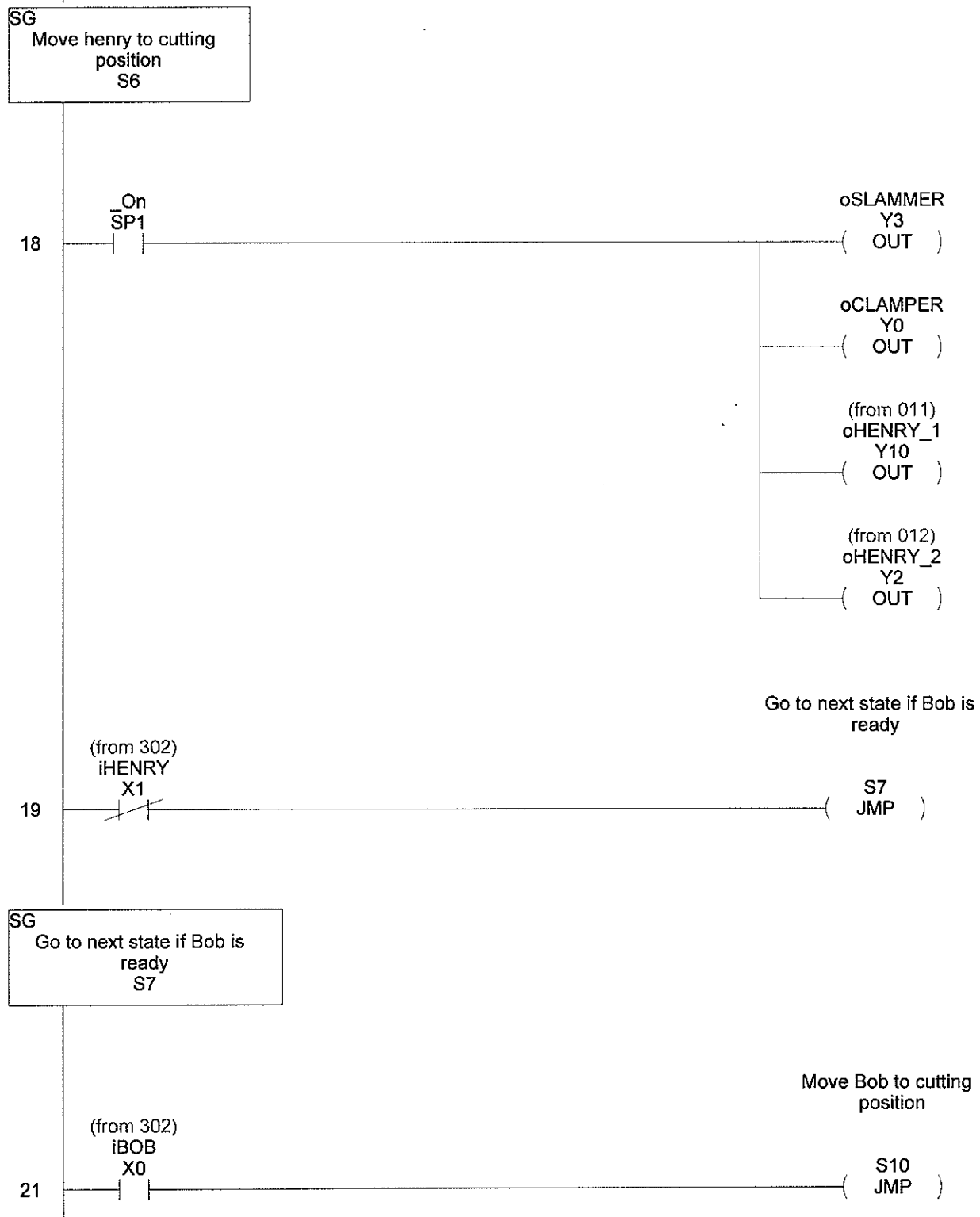
SG  
Waits for alec ready  
S2



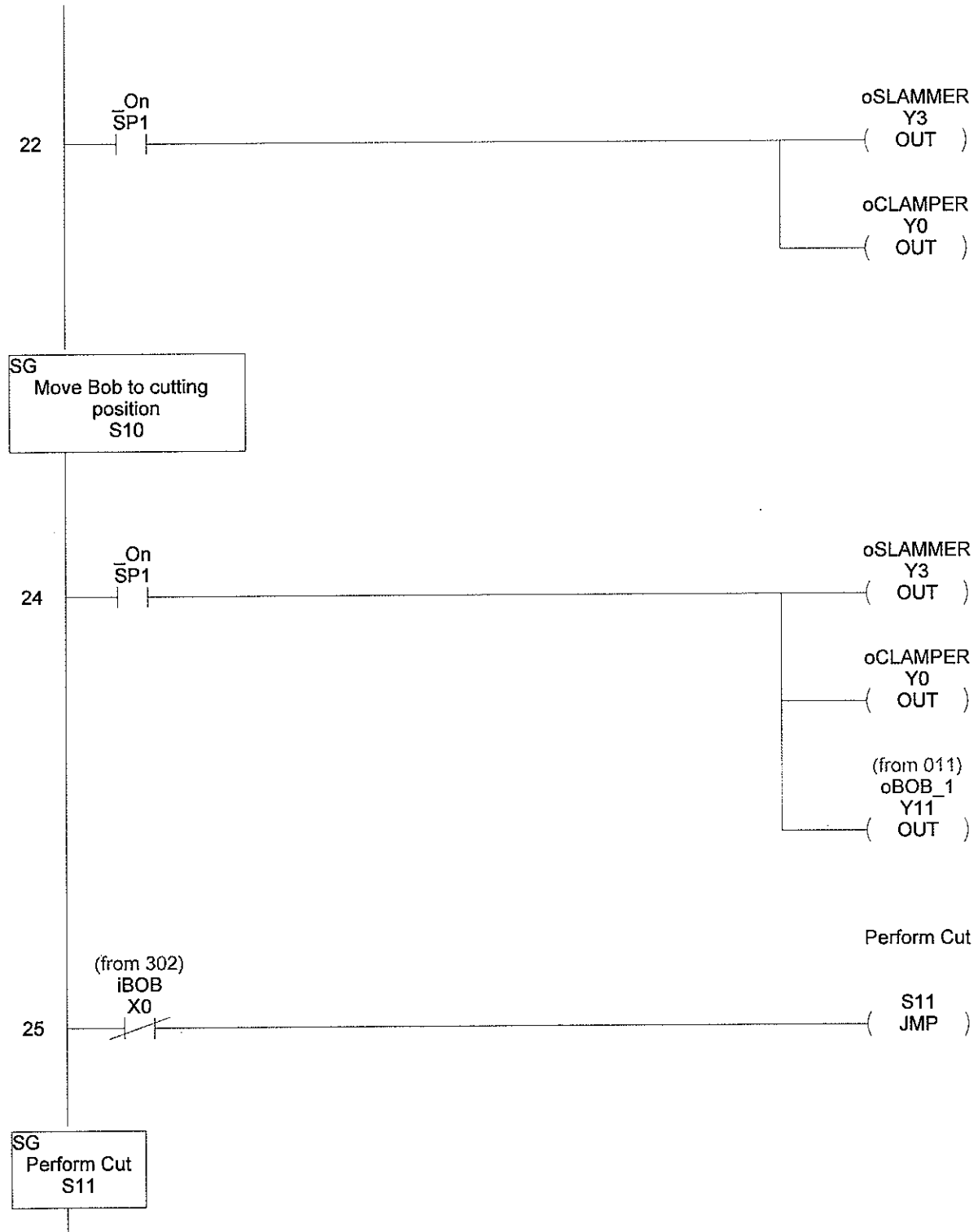
SG  
Alec go one peg  
S3

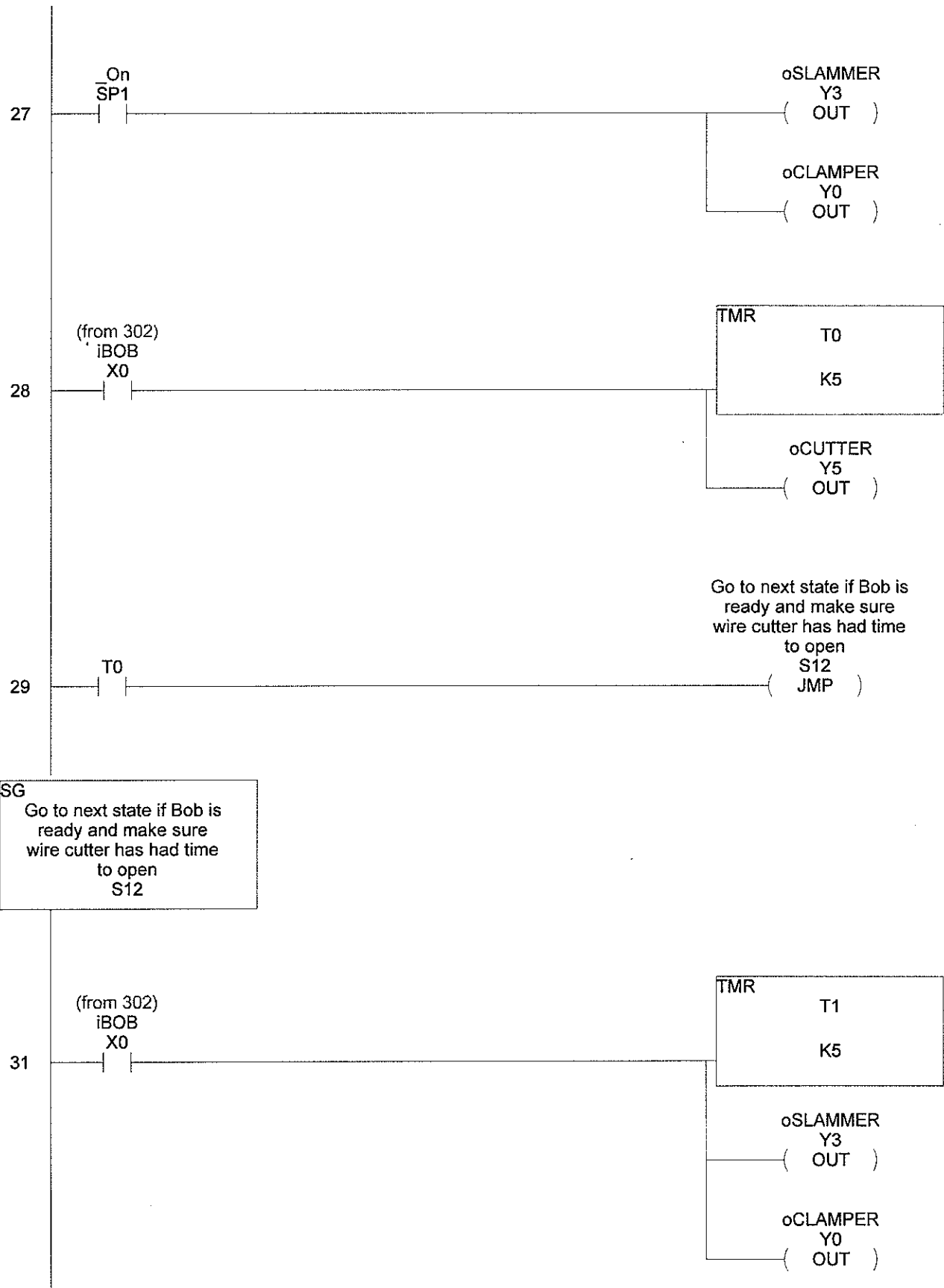


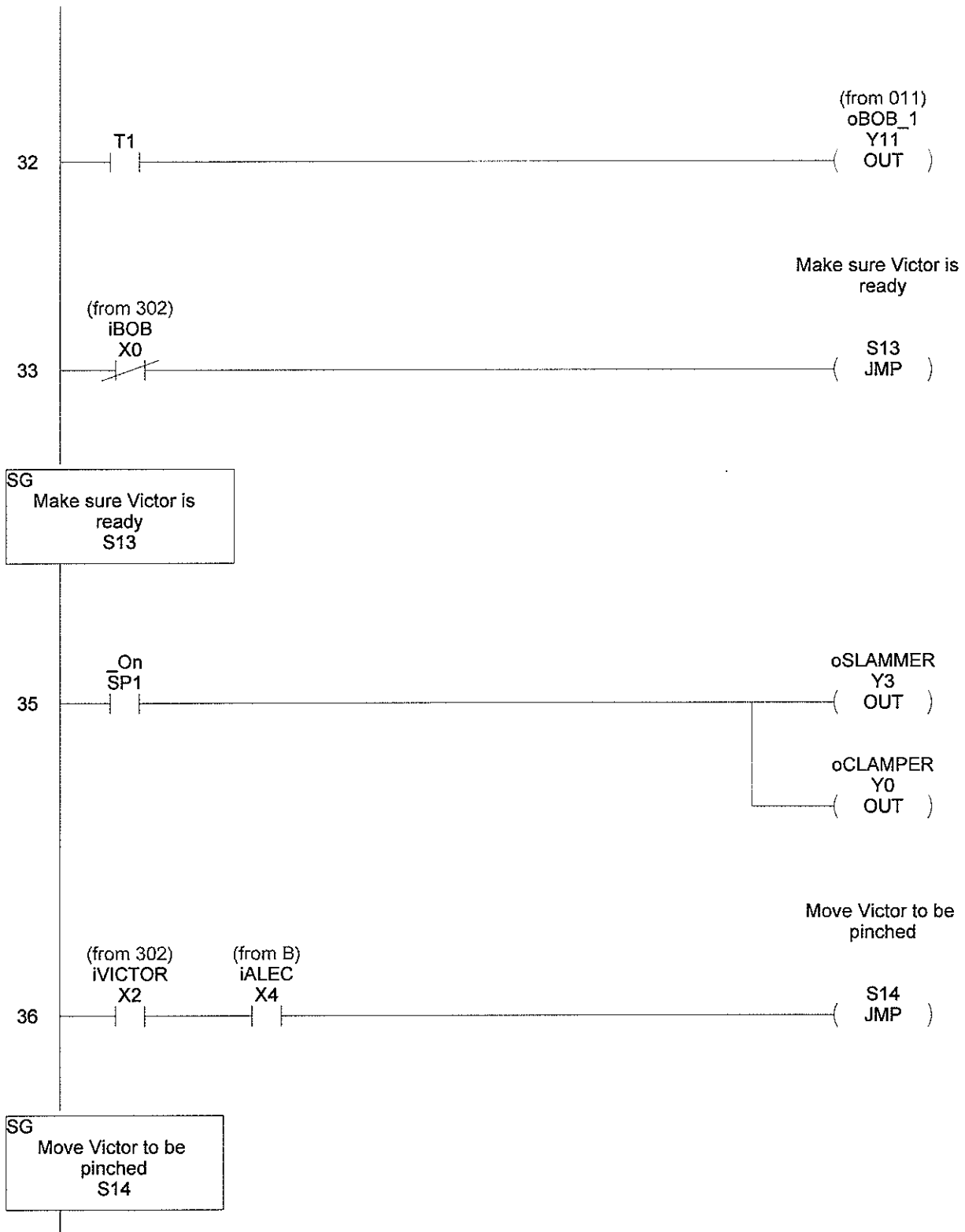


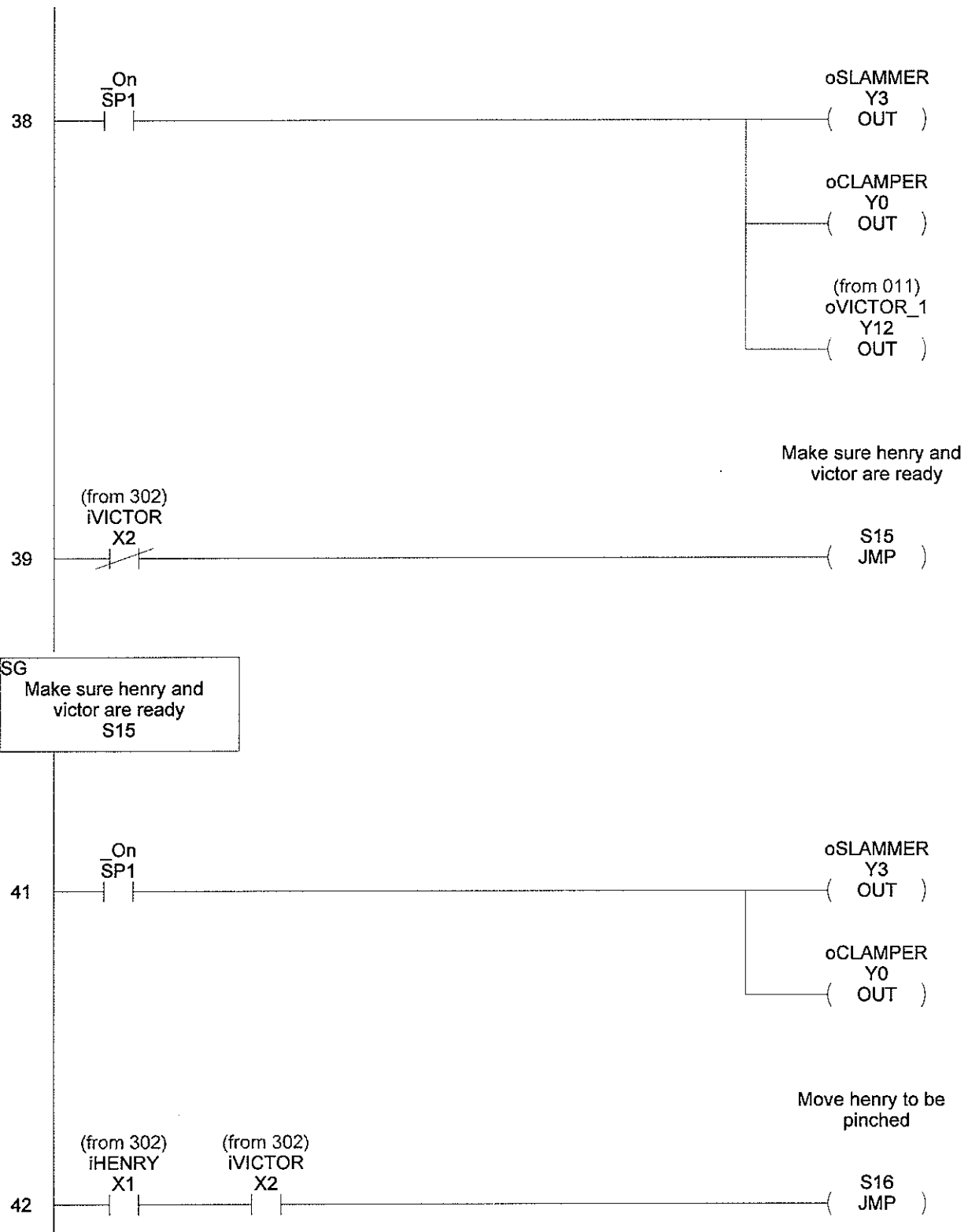




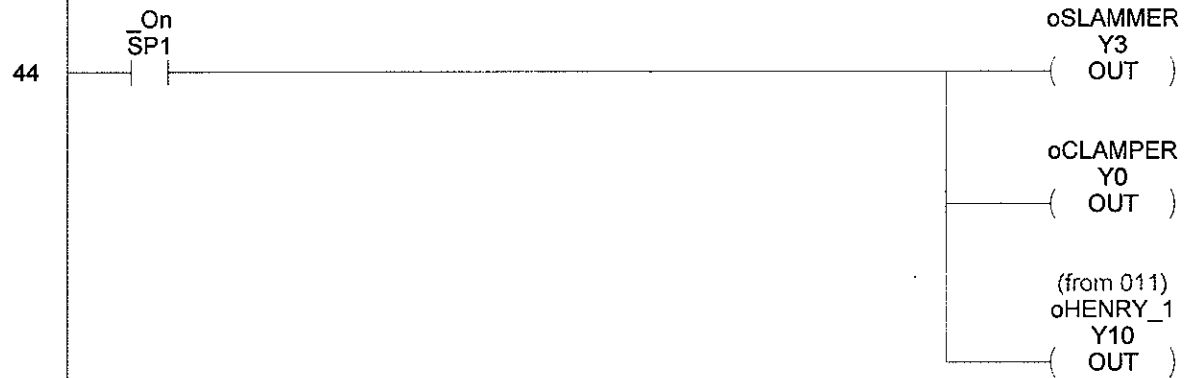




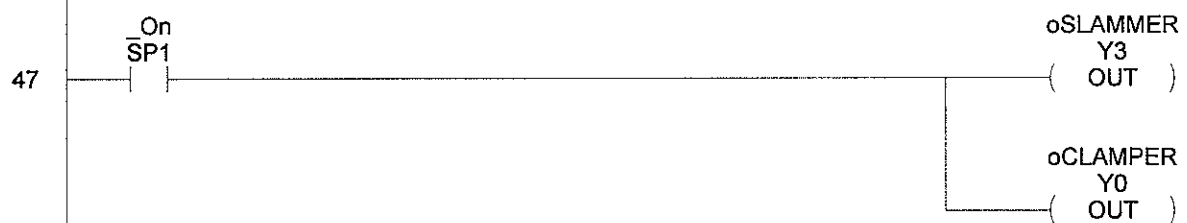


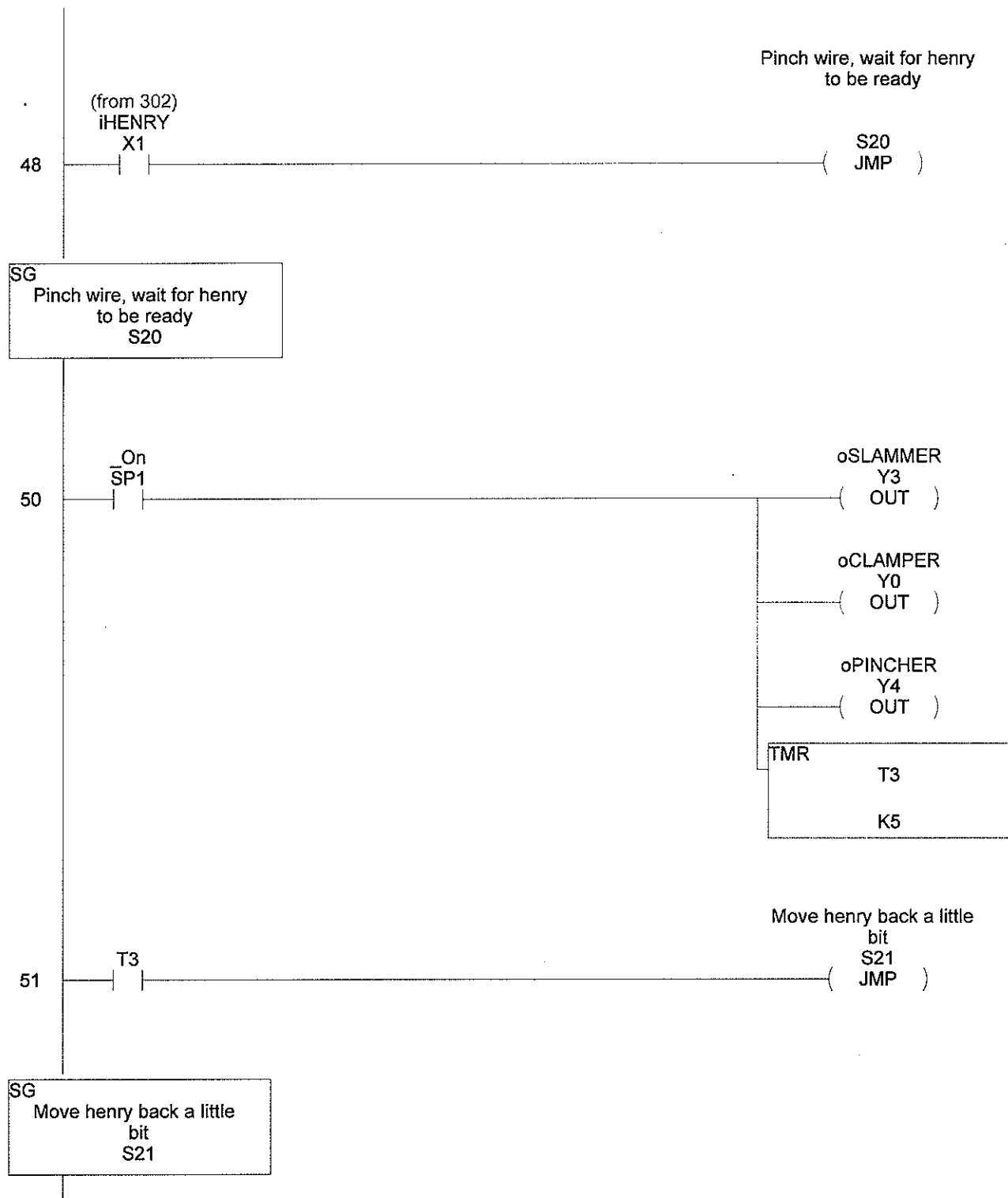


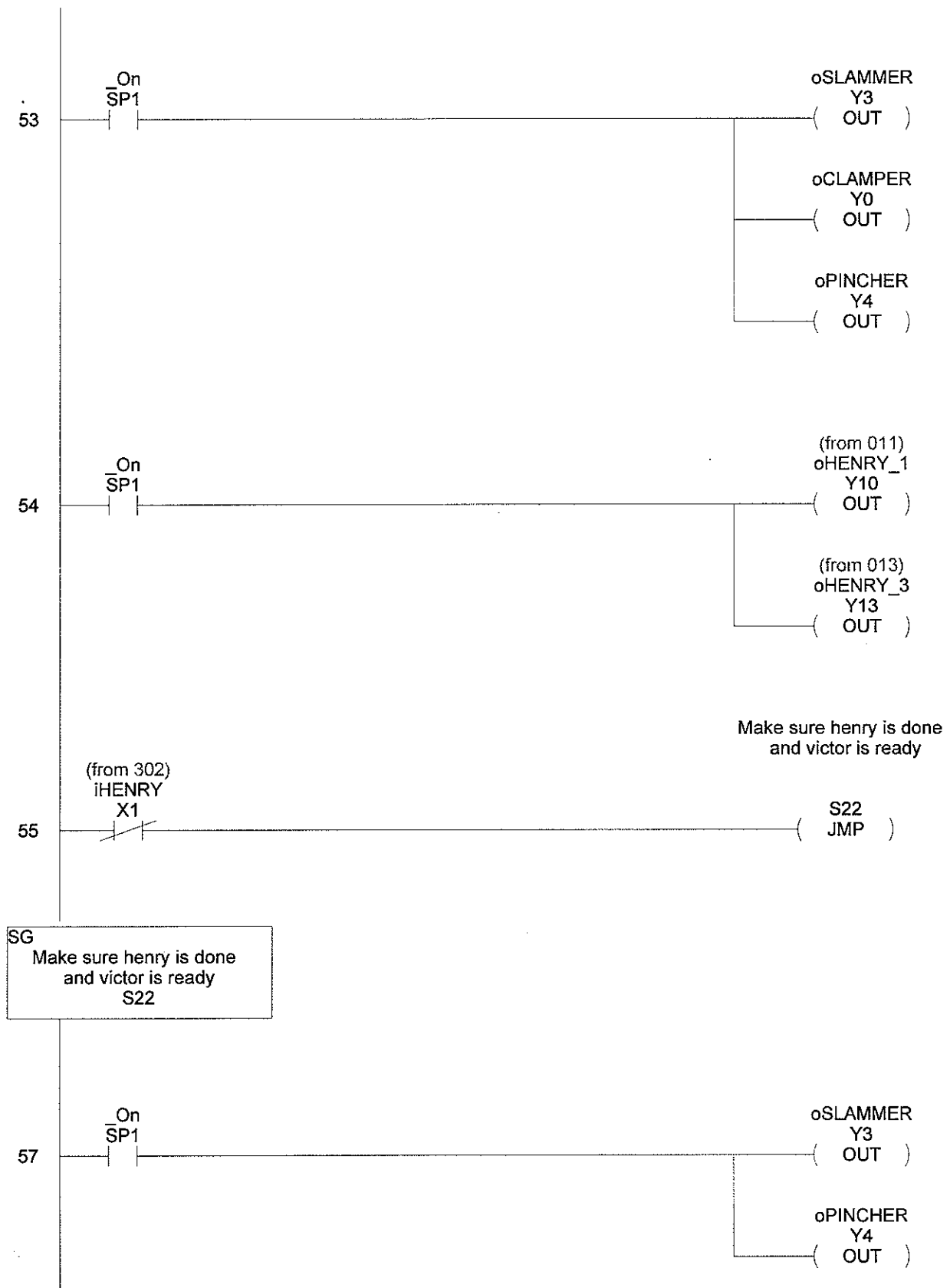
SG  
Move henry to be  
pinched  
S16

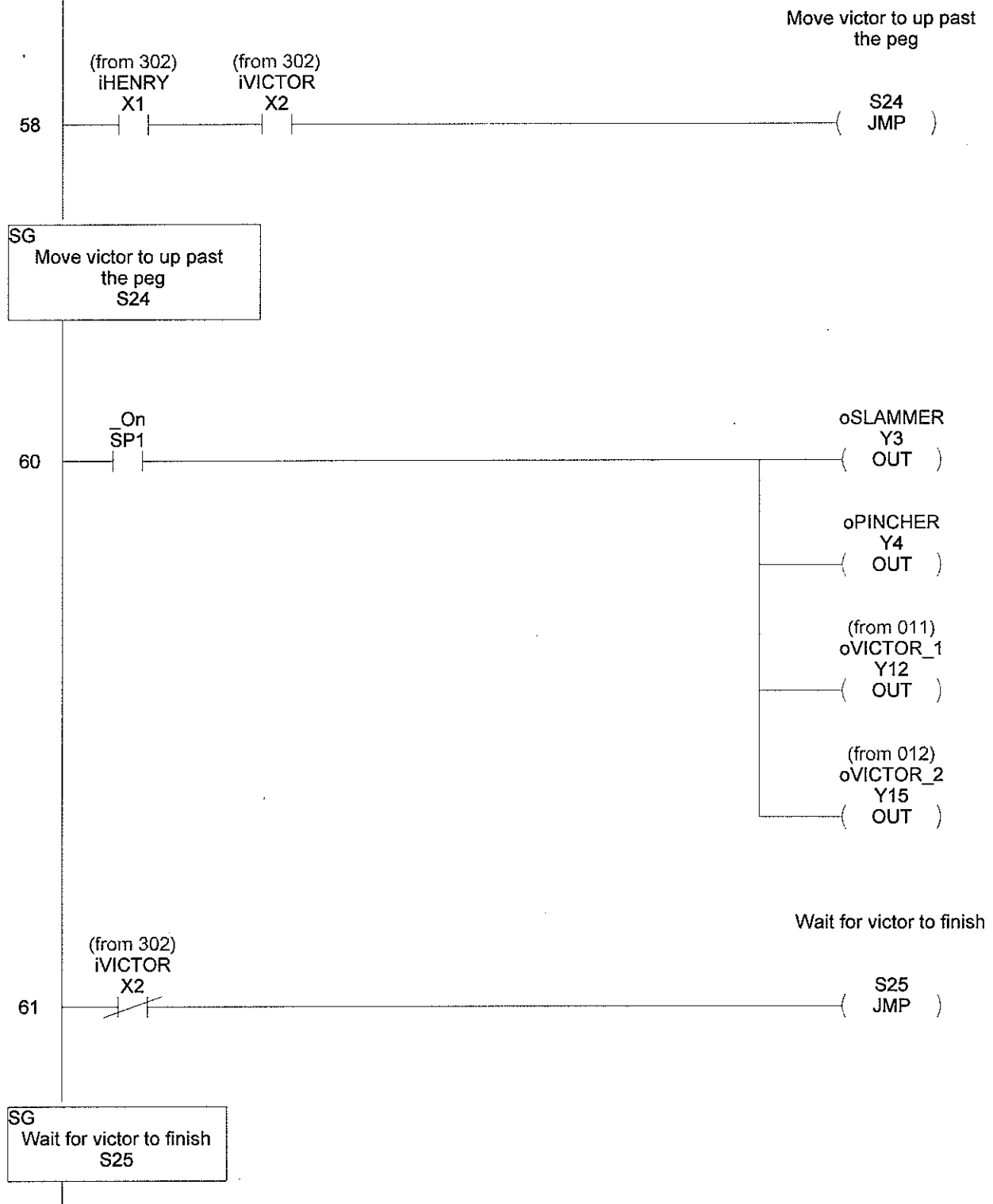


SG  
Make sure henry has  
arrived  
S17

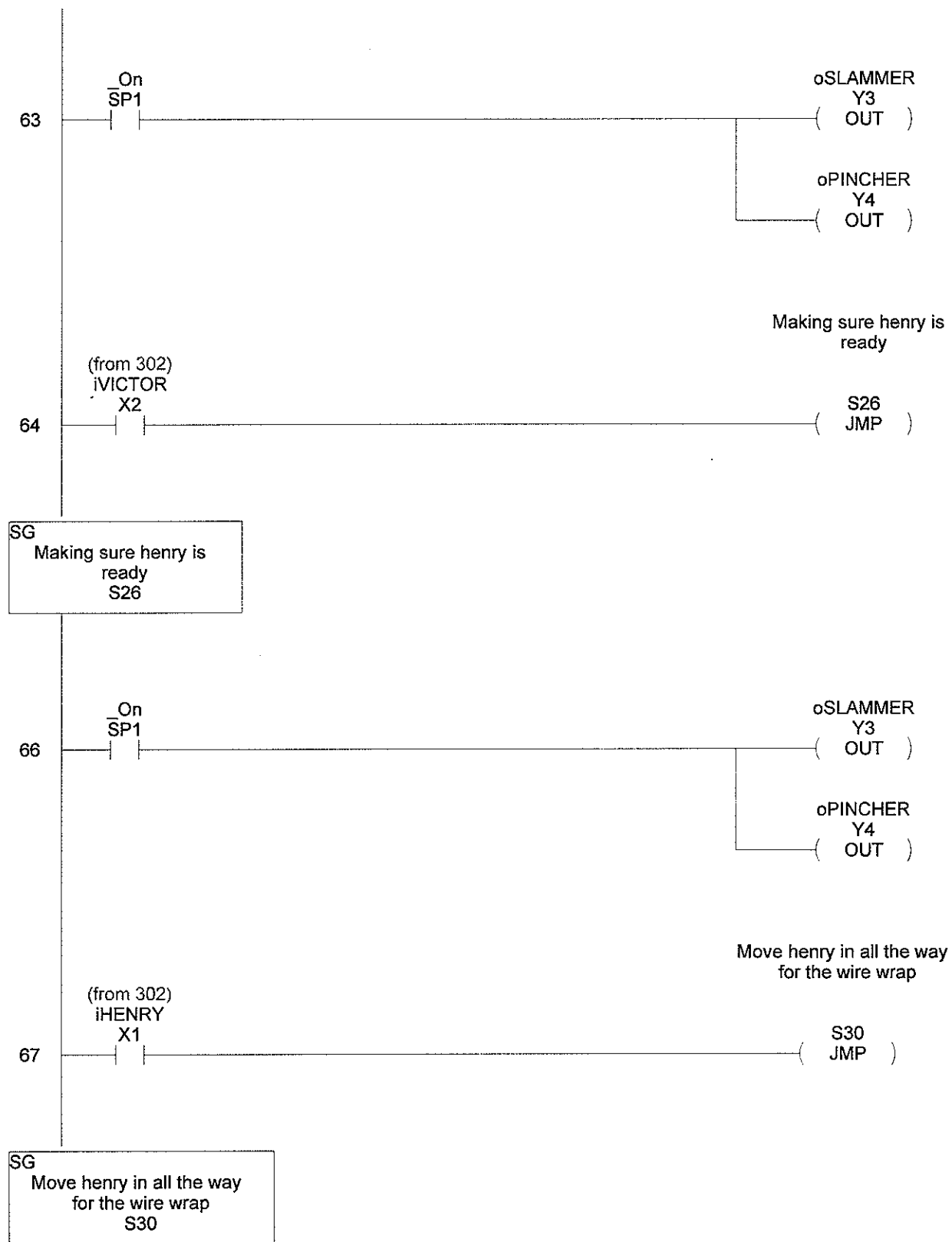


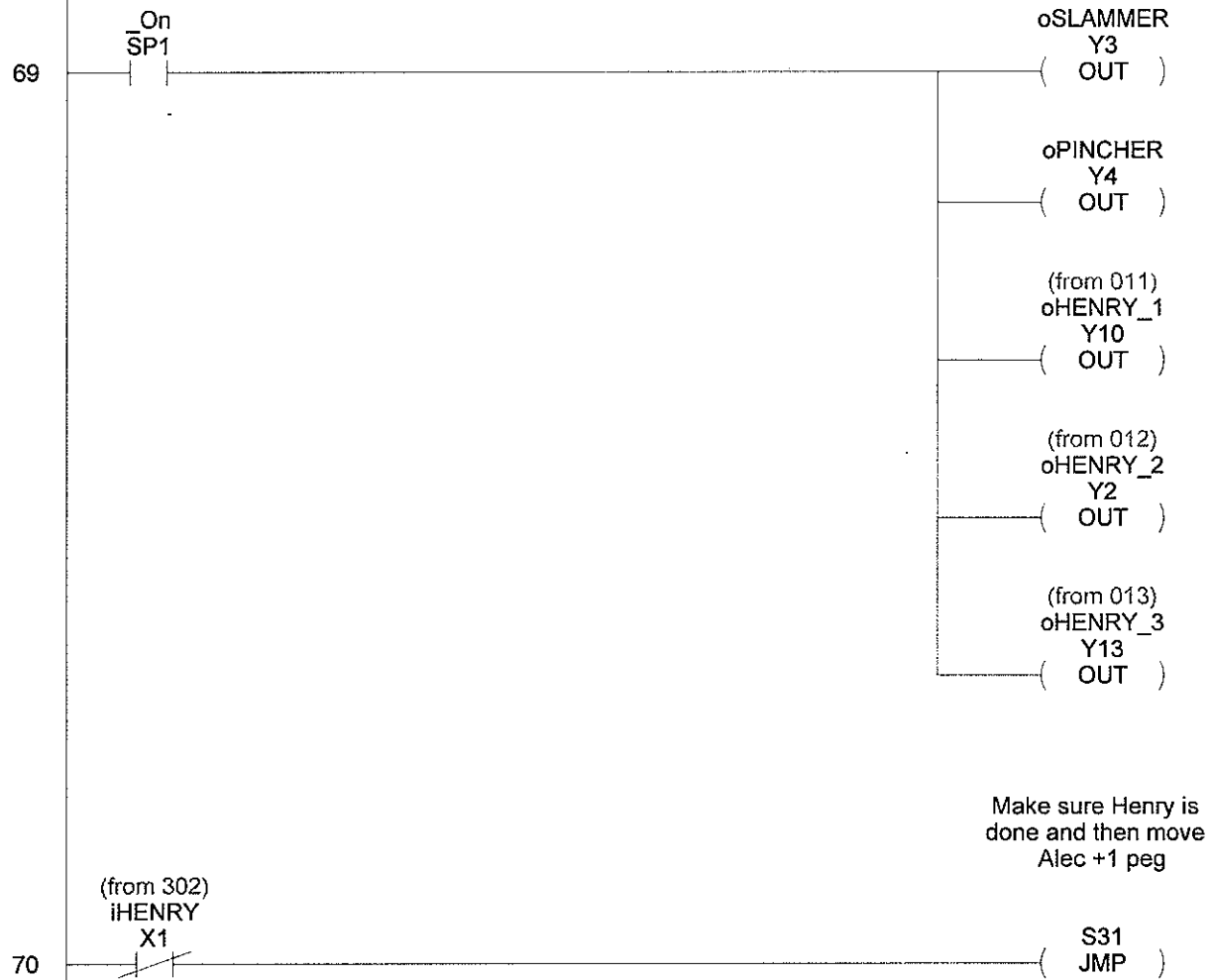




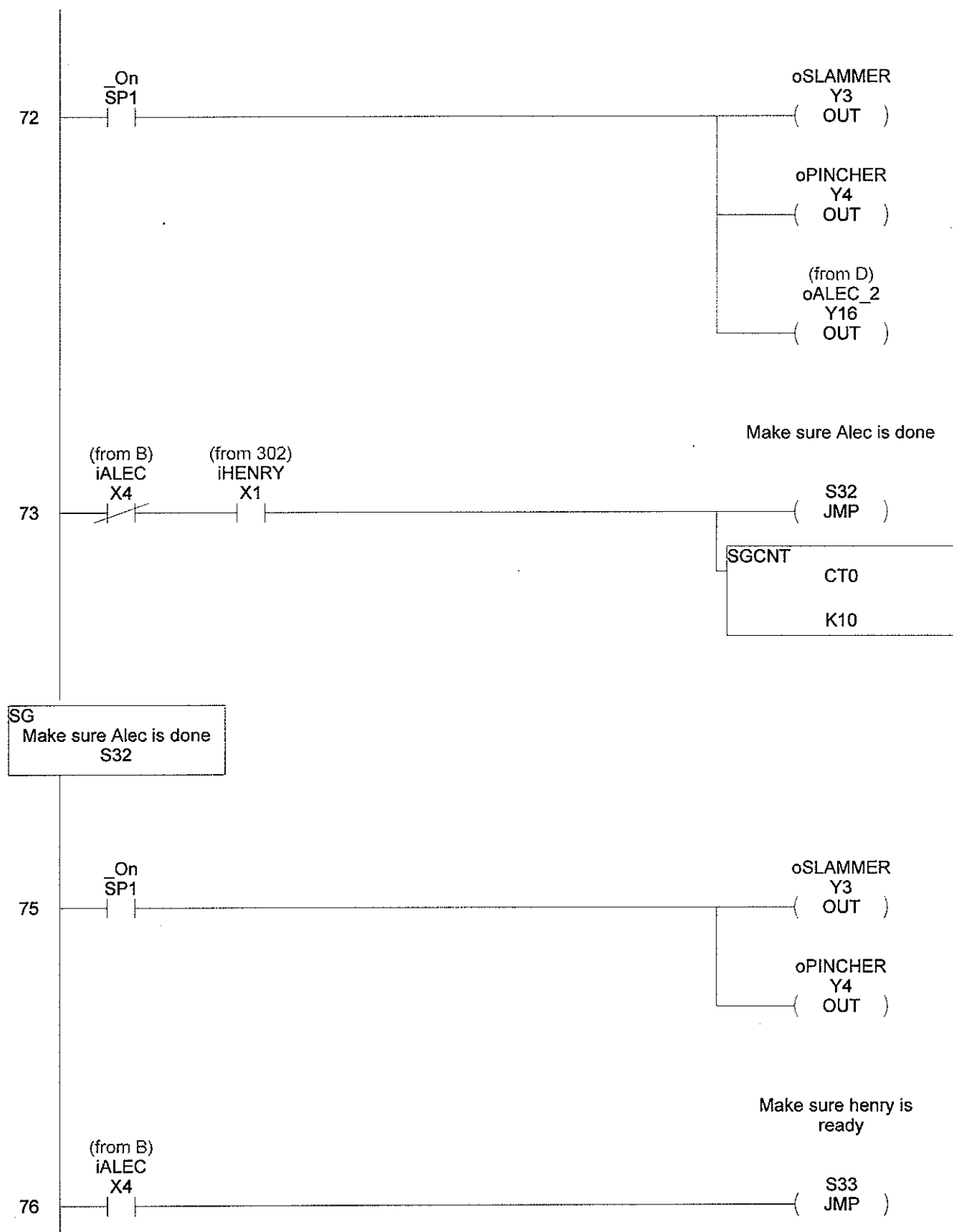




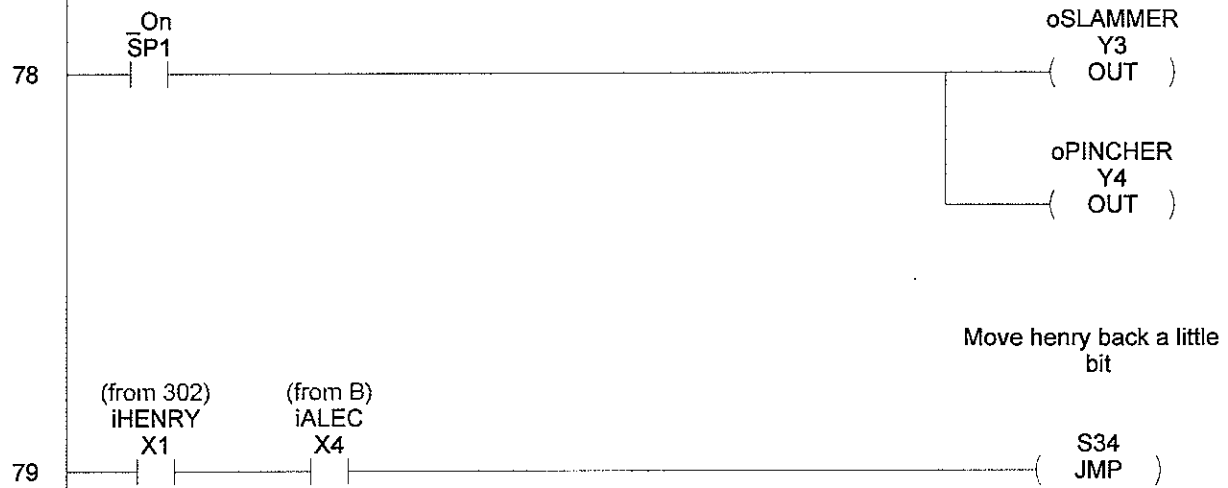




SG  
Make sure Henry is  
done and then move  
Alec +1 peg  
S31

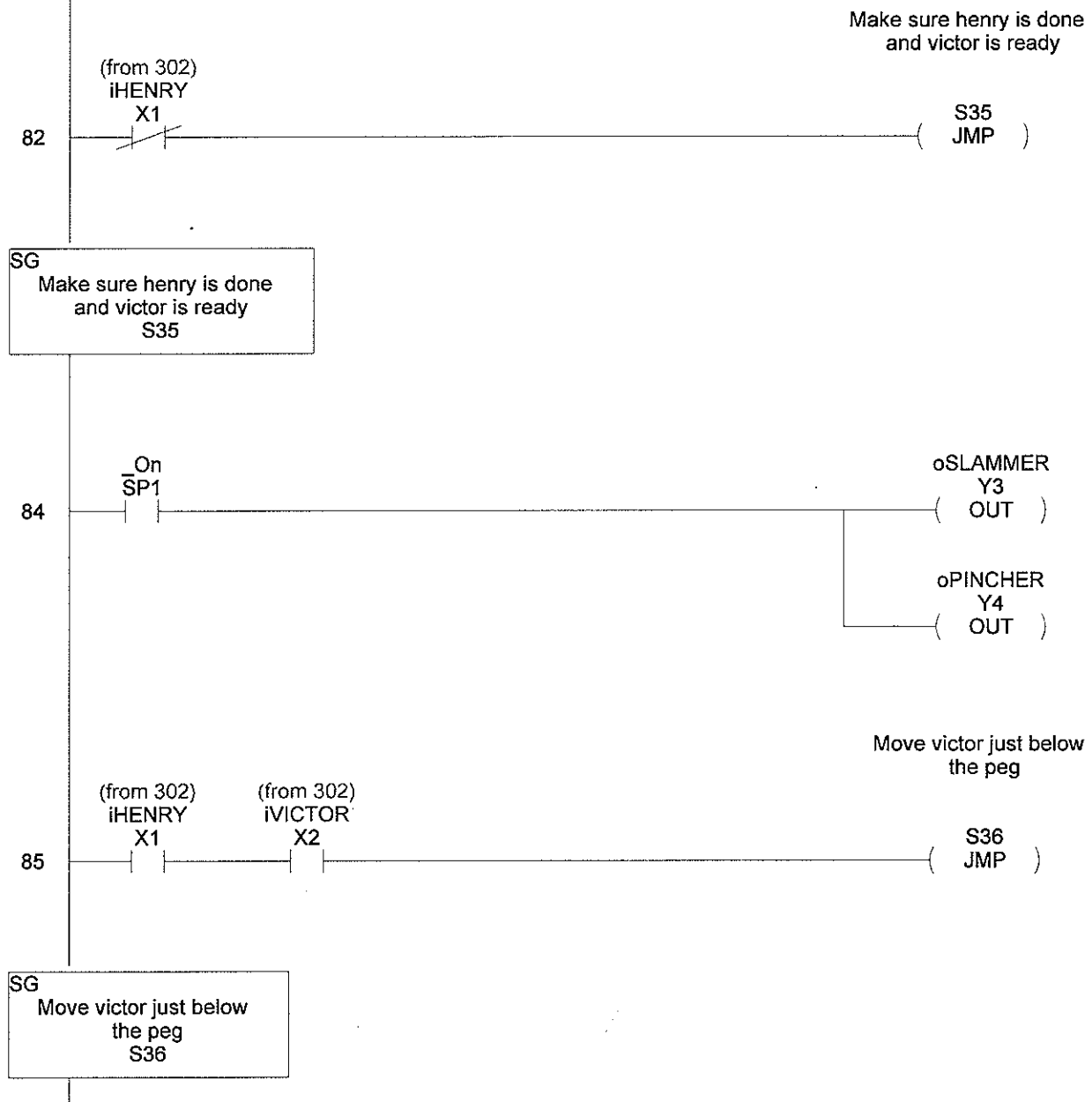


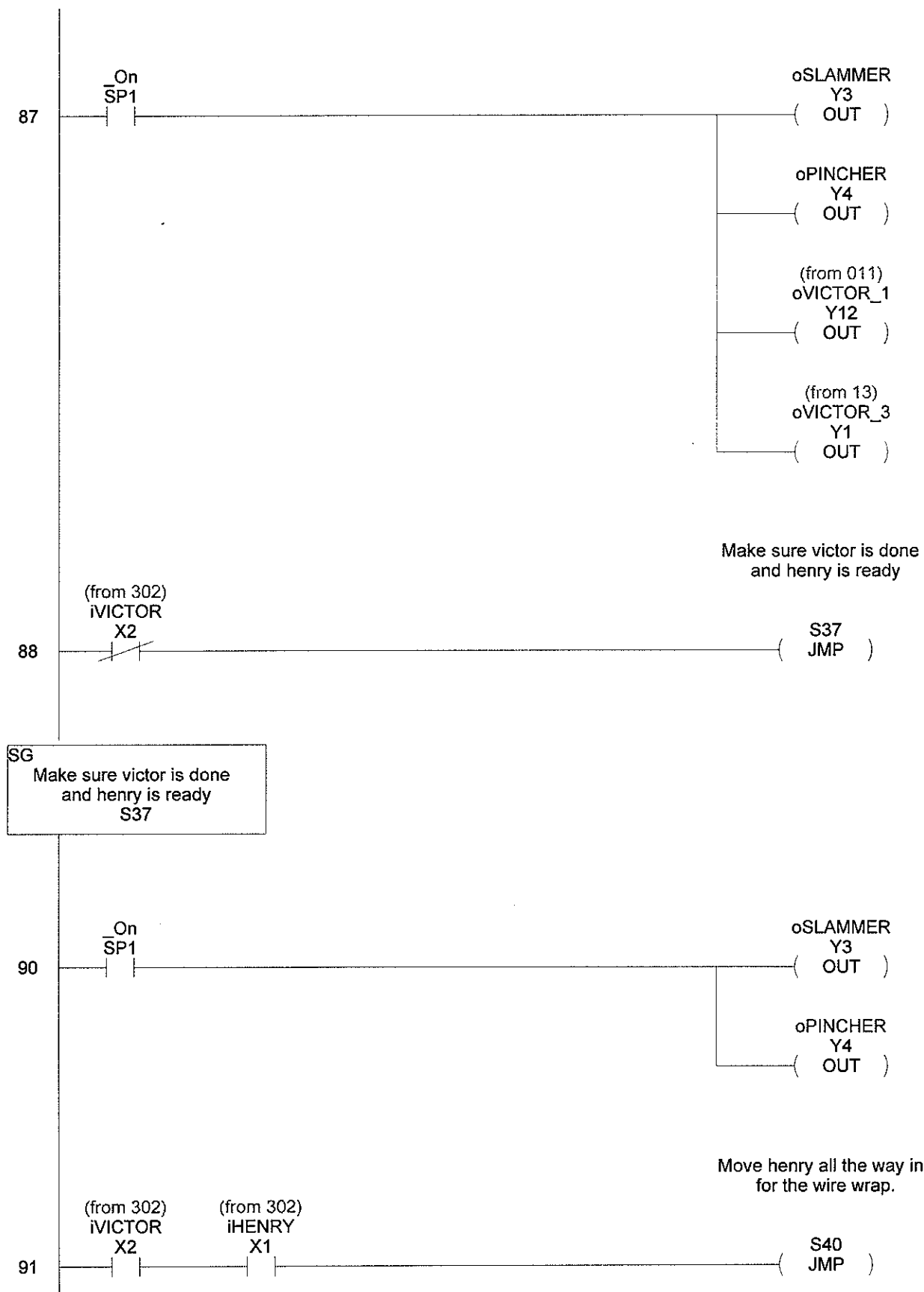
SG  
Make sure henry is  
ready  
S33



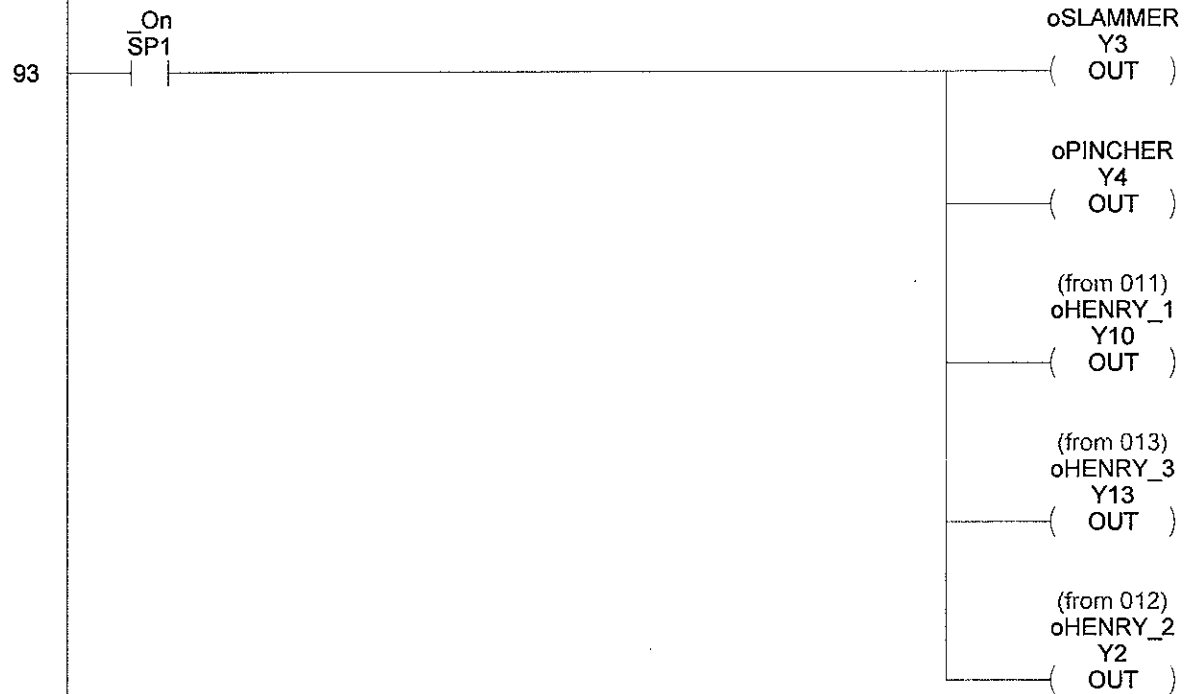
SG  
Move henry back a little  
bit  
S34



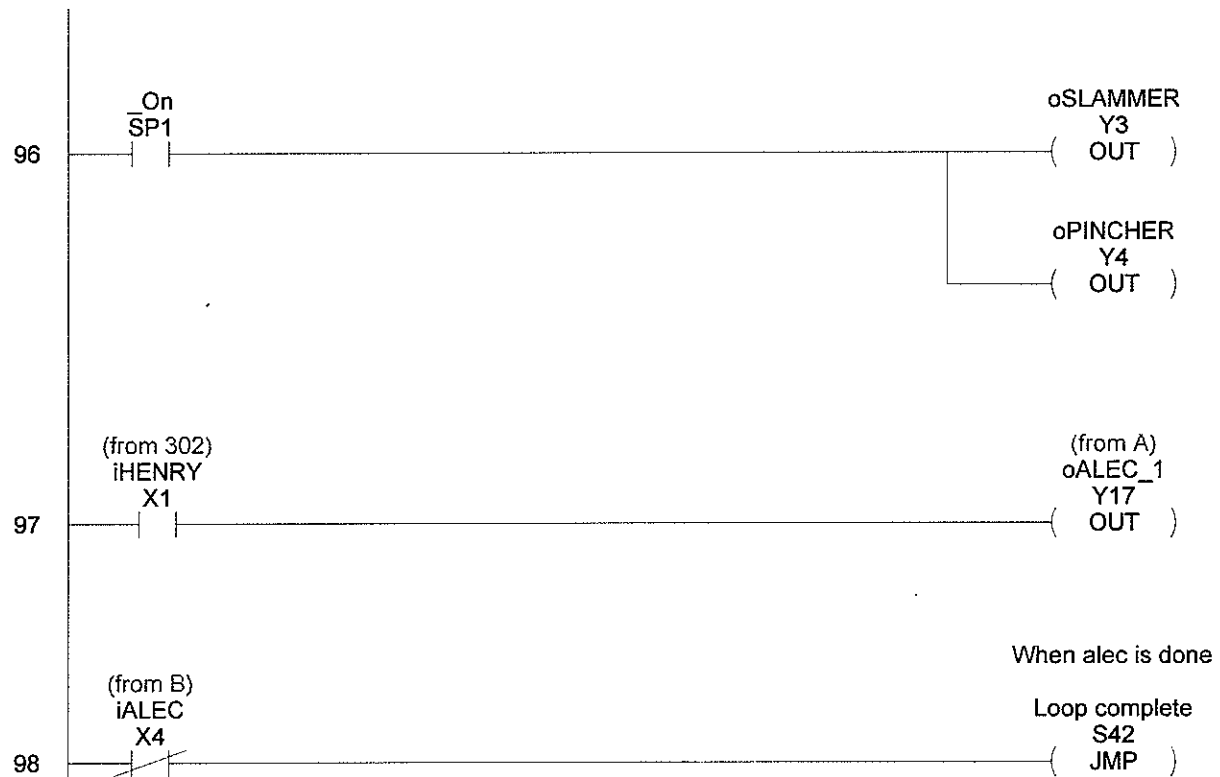




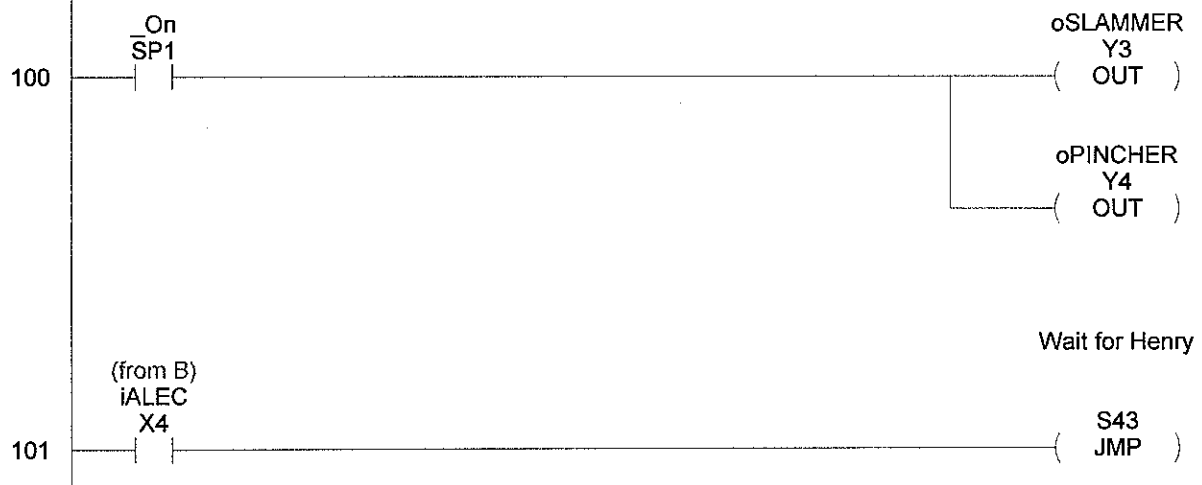
SG  
Move henry all the way in  
for the wire wrap.  
S40



SG  
When henry is done  
move alec back  
S41

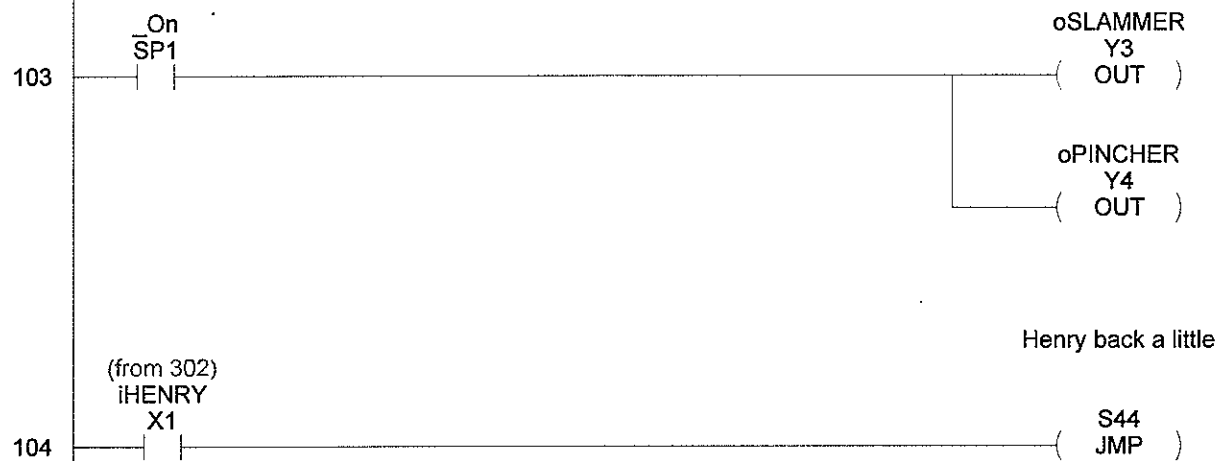


SG  
When alec is done  
Loop complete  
S42

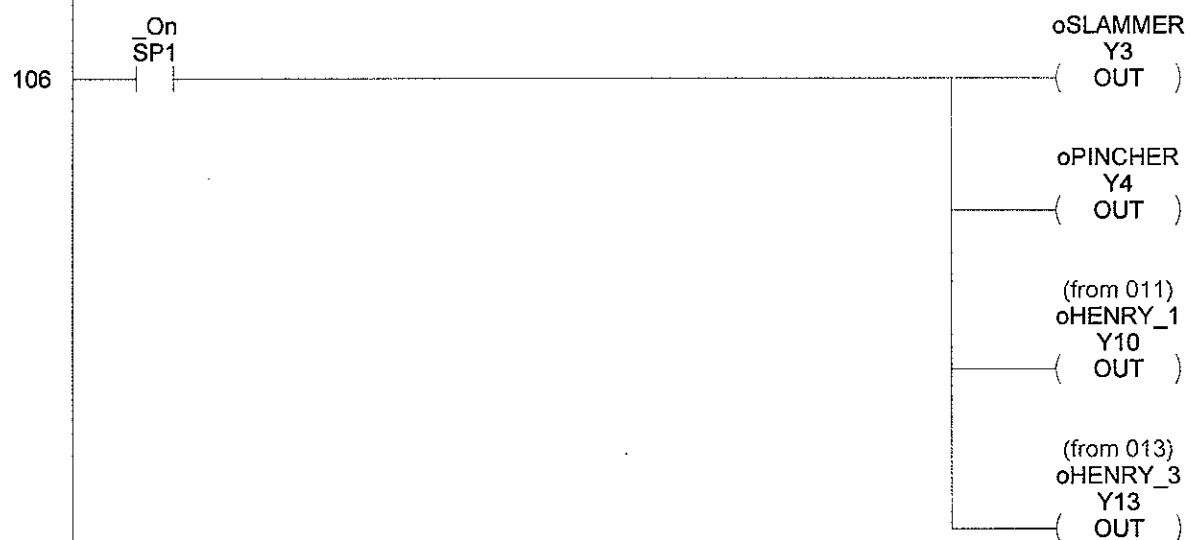


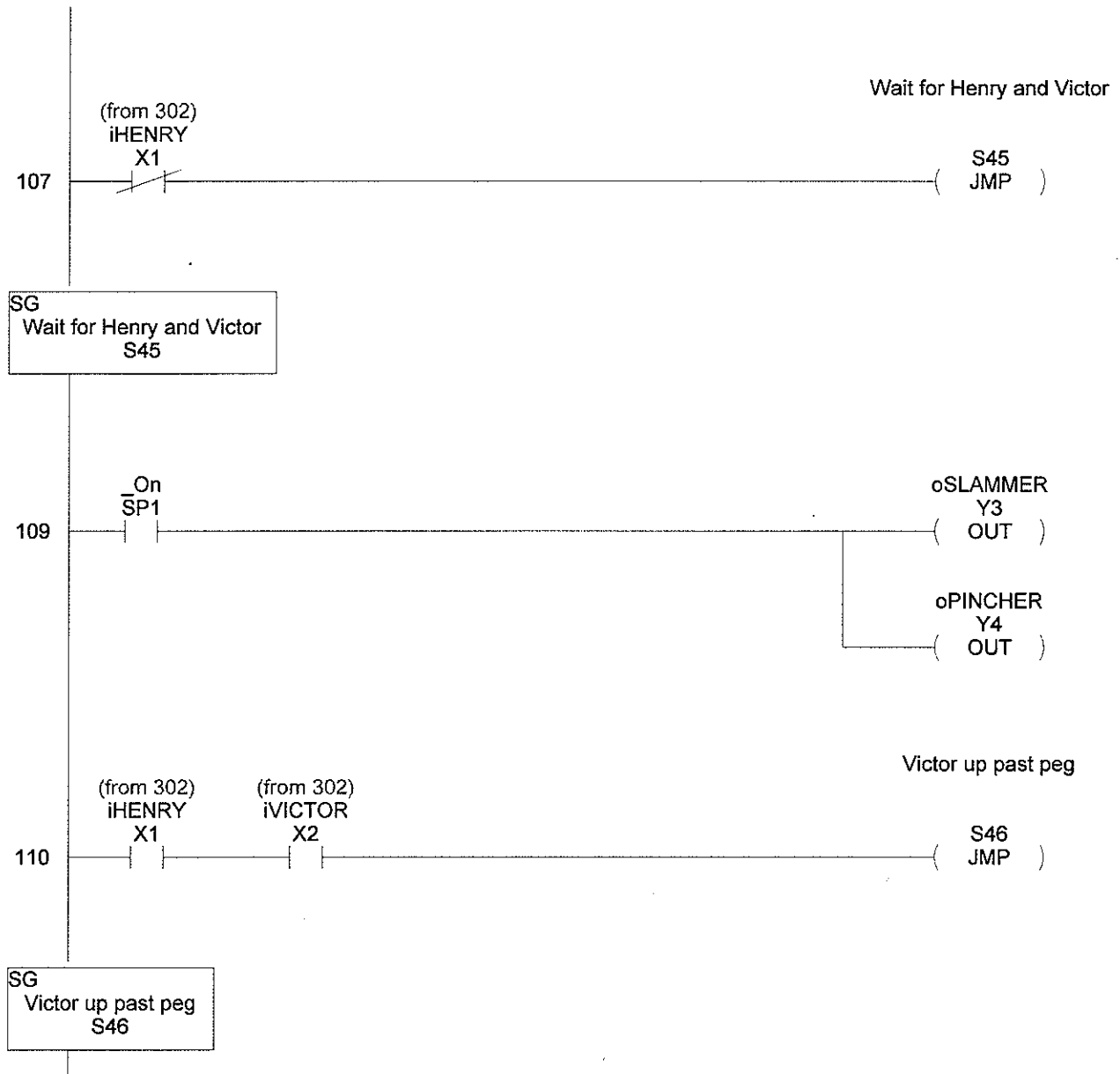


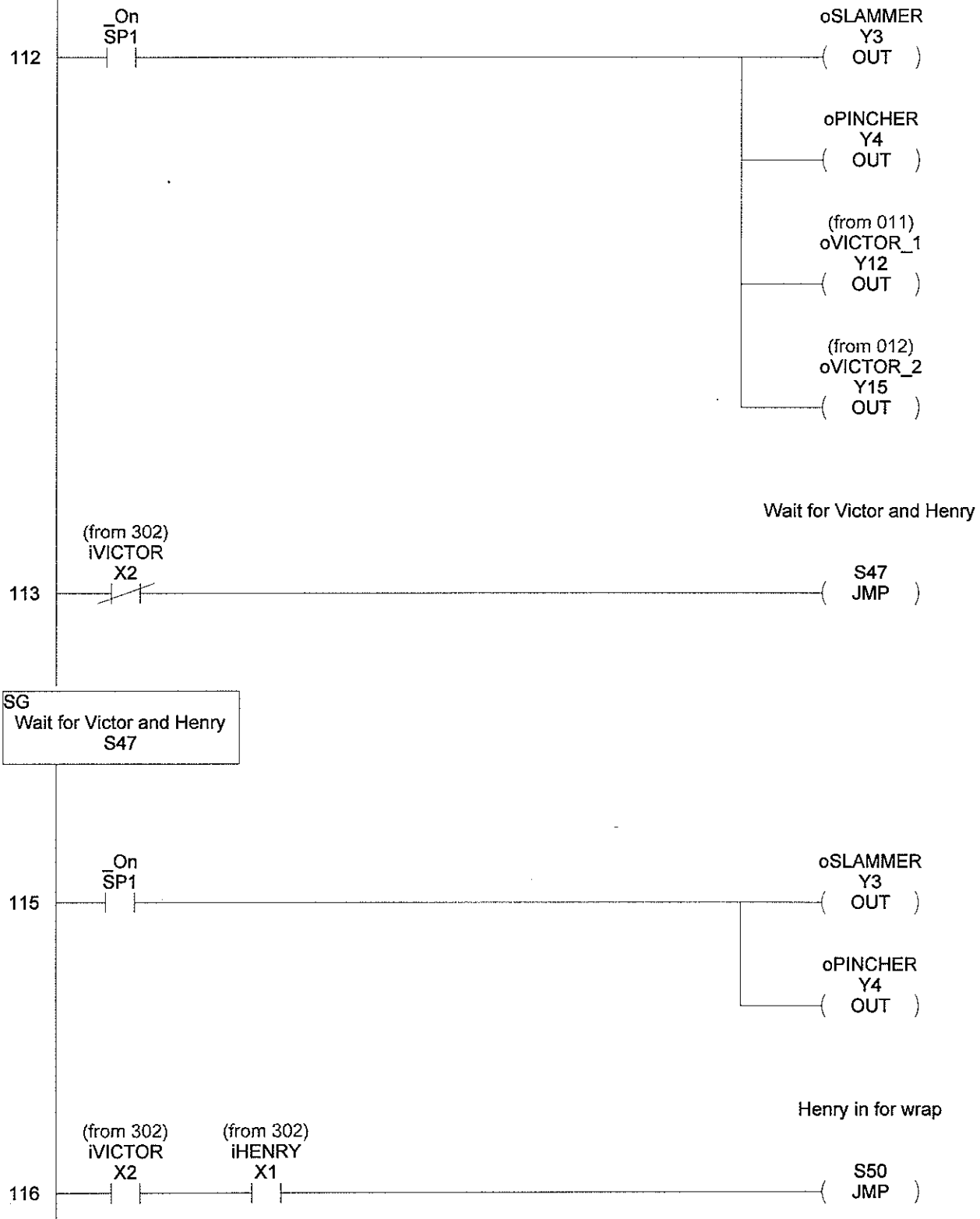
SG  
Wait for Henry  
S43



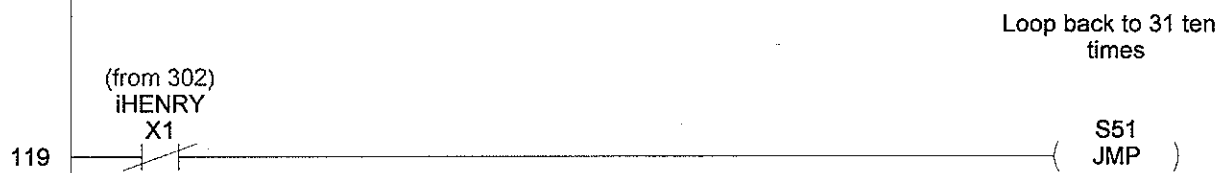
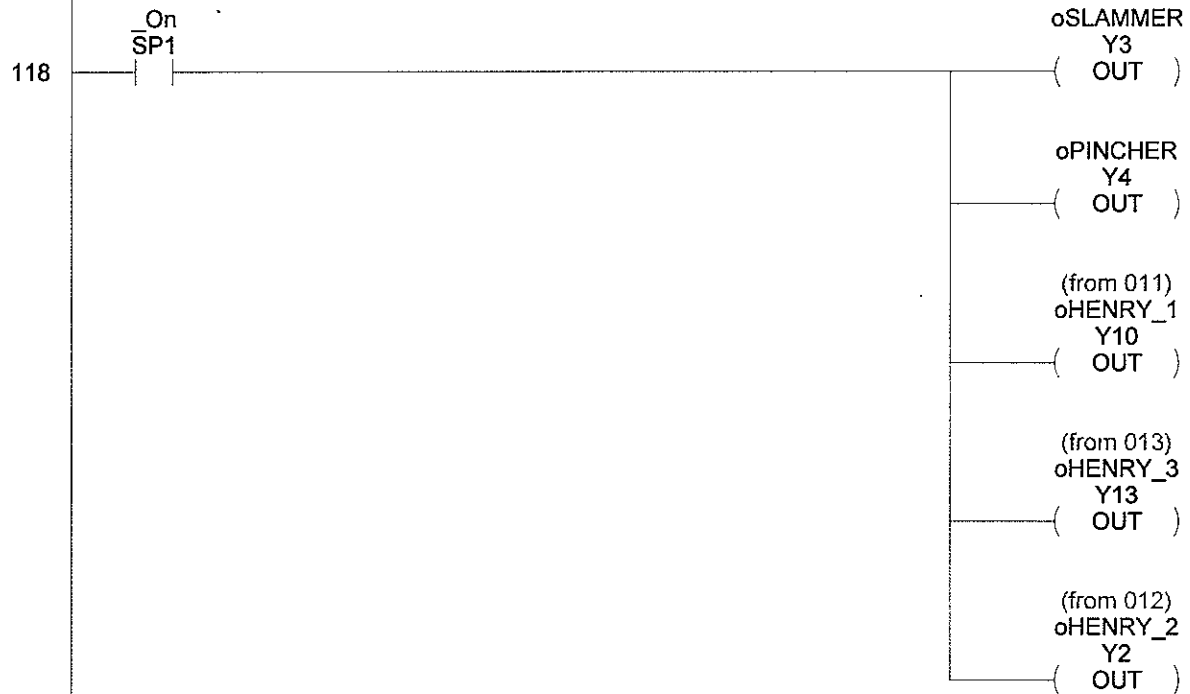
SG  
Henry back a little  
S44



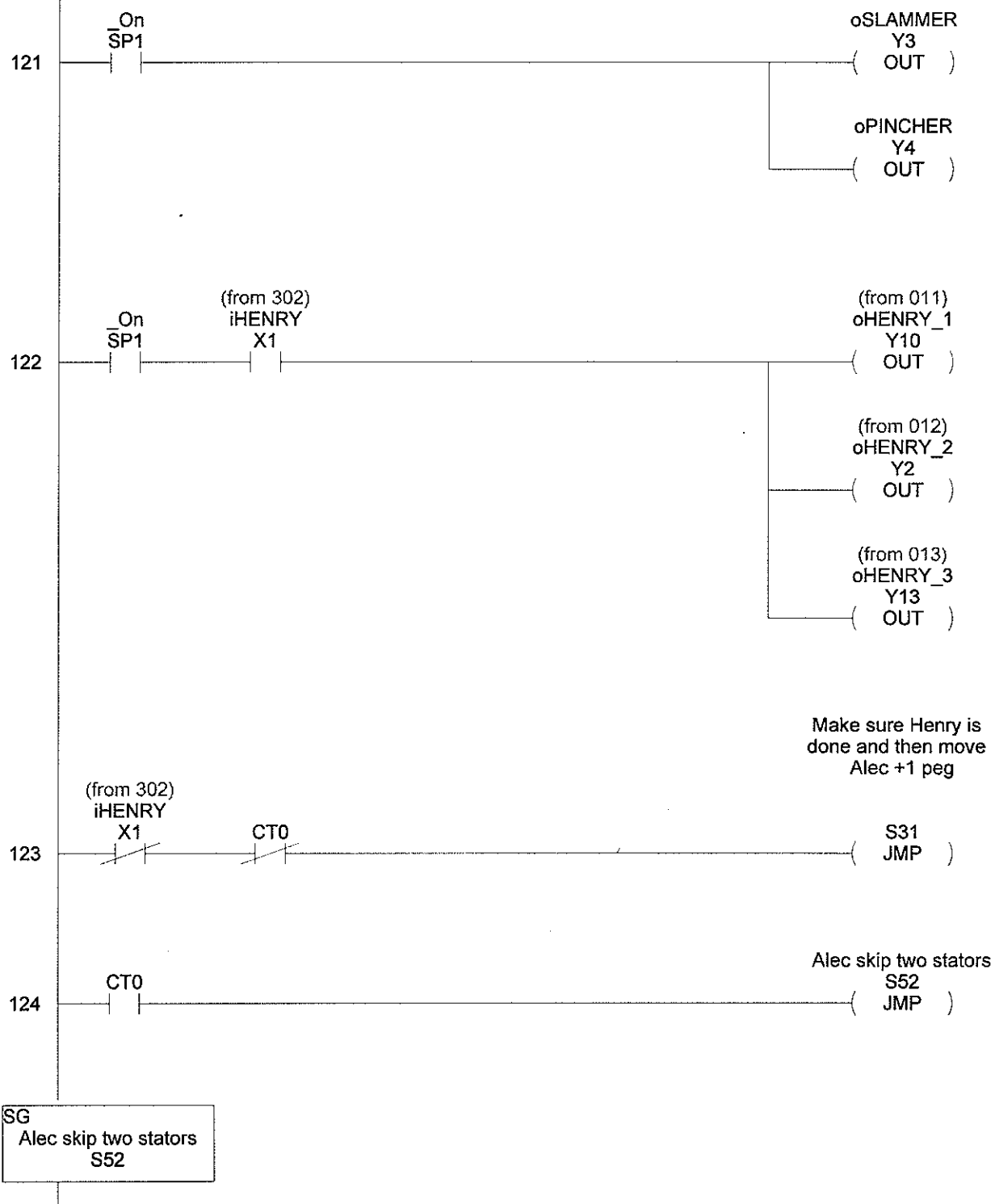


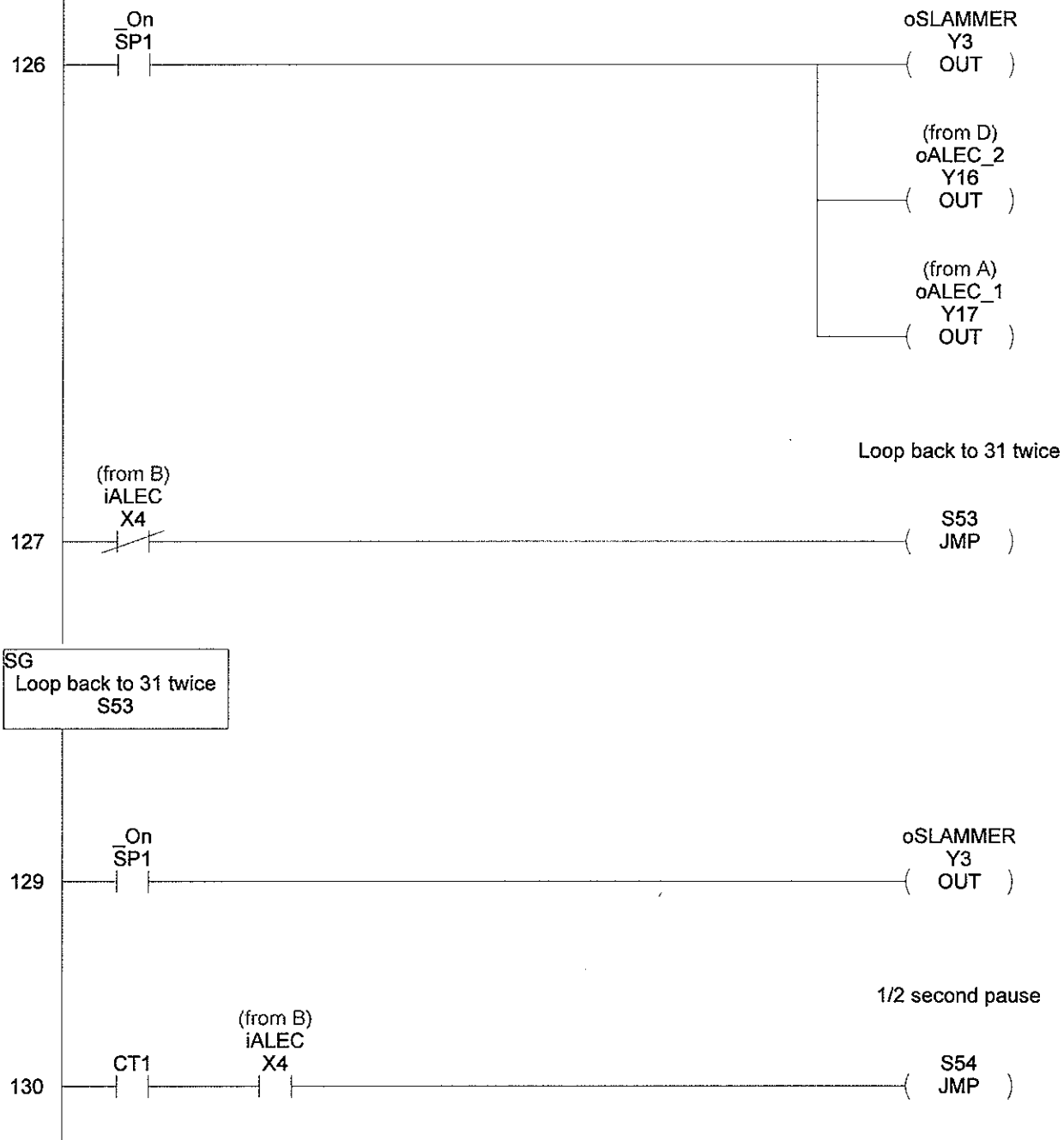


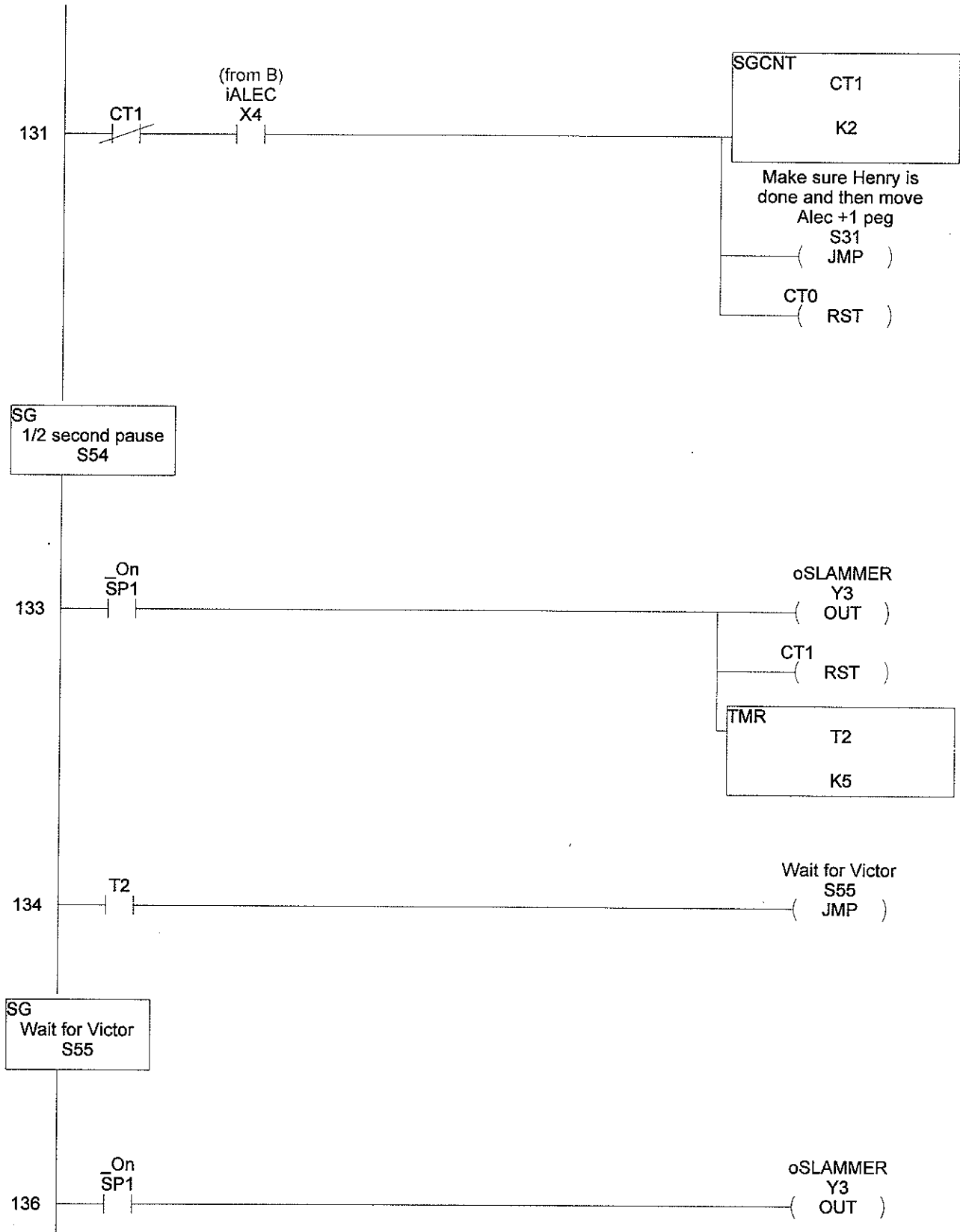
SG  
Henry in for wrap  
S50

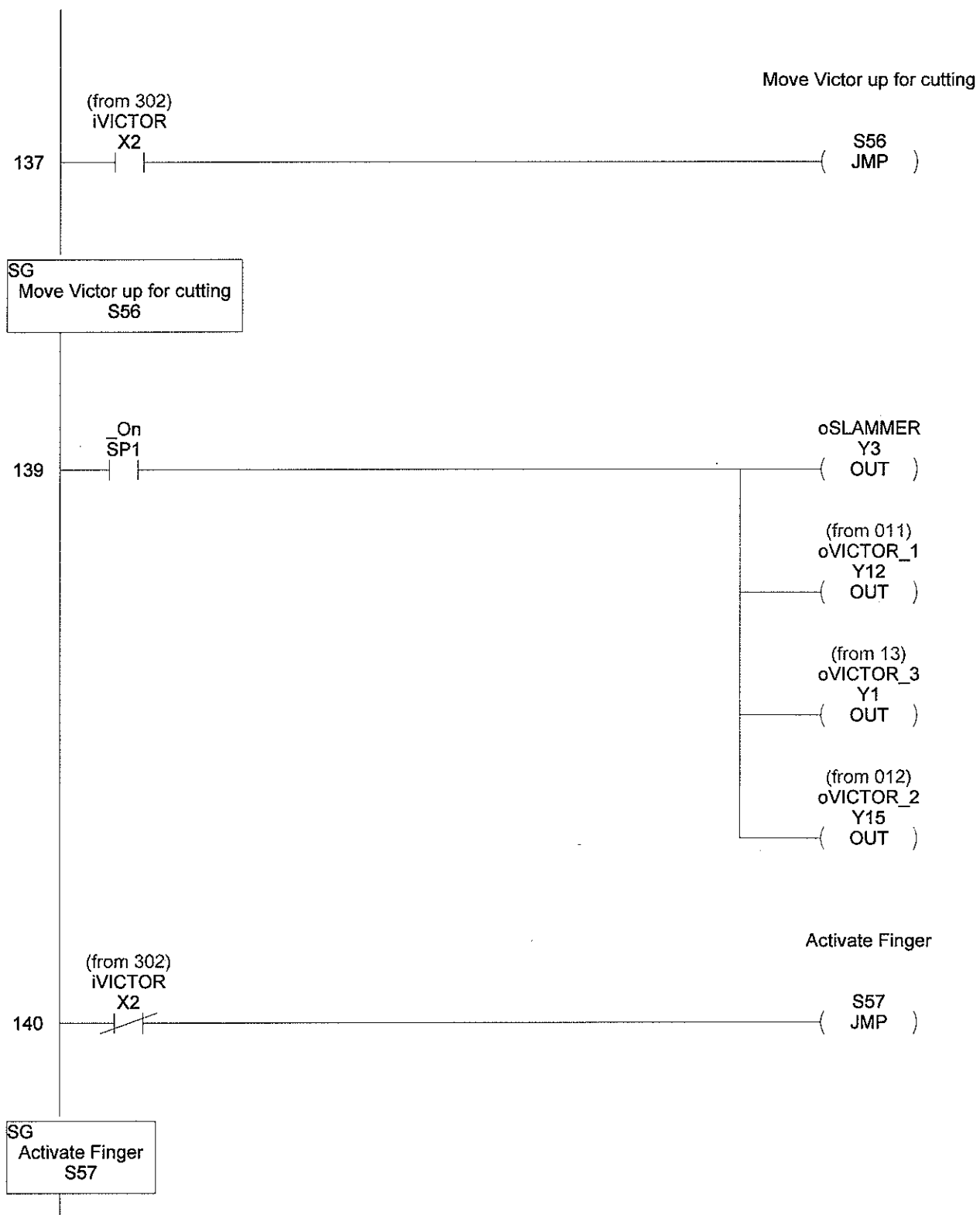


SG  
Loop back to 31 ten  
times  
S51

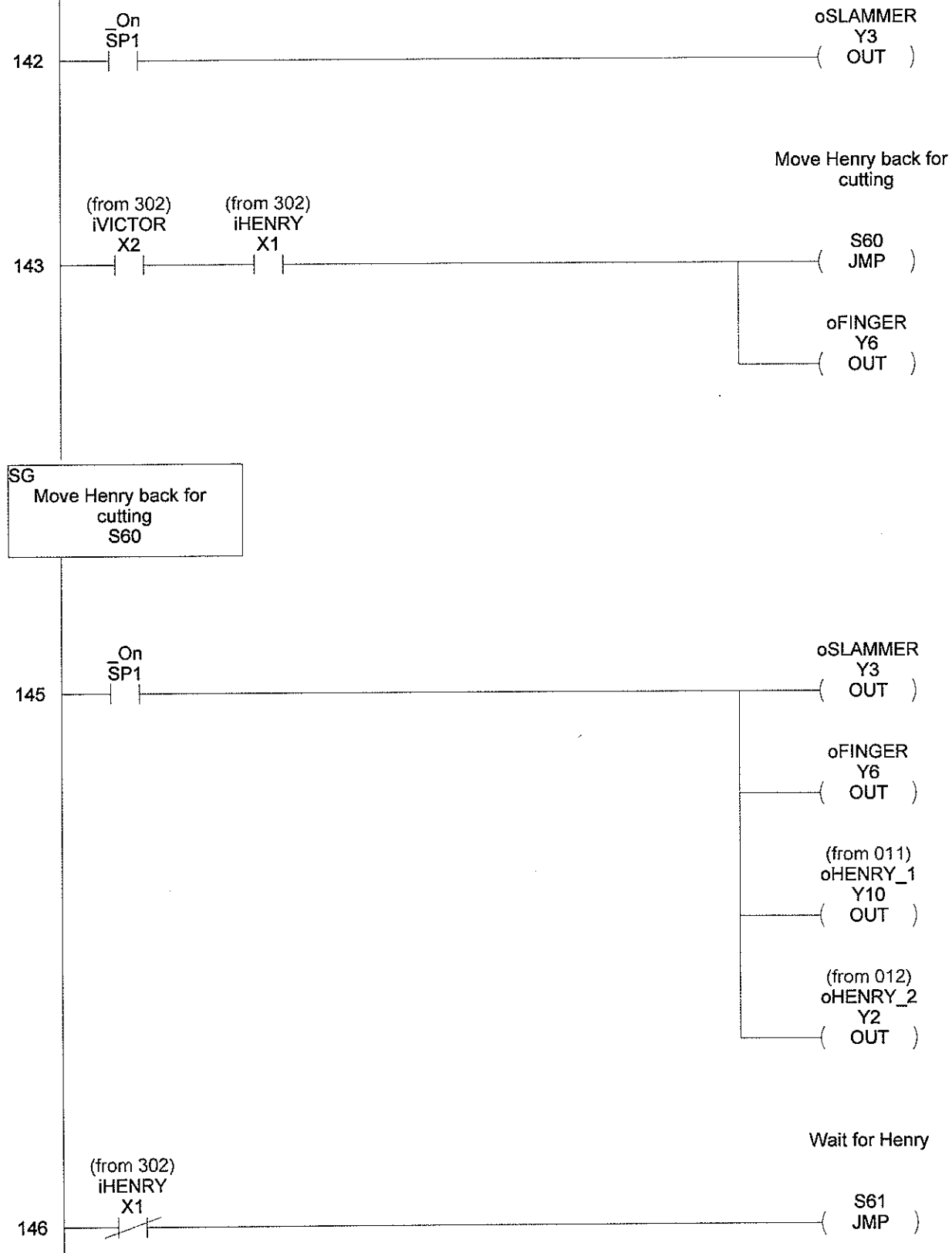




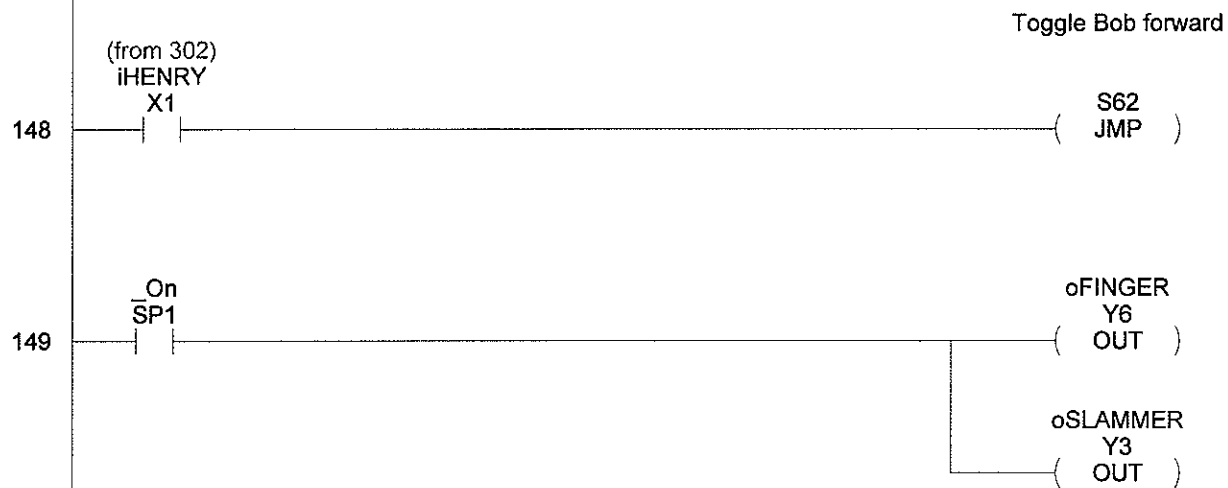








SG  
Wait for Henry  
S61



SG  
Toggle Bob forward  
S62

