**Press release**

**June 2023**

**FEL: The flattest of the area grippers**

Schmalz has developed a new gripper for the vertical handling of screens. But the FEL can do much more: it is so flat that it also proves its strength in other automated handling tasks in confined spaces or with critical interfering contours.

A 1-cent coin measures 16.25 millimetres in diameter. The basic profile of the new area gripper from Schmalz is barely higher. Added to this is a ten millimeter thick sealing foam. The new FEL is more than just 26.5 millimetres high. The vacuum experts at Schmalz also focused on energy efficiency and operating costs during development: They segmented the area gripper into up to four zones, which can be individually controlled and switched off. To keep interfering contours to a minimum, the individual suction zones are supplied through channels integrated into the profile. The vacuum is generated via external vacuum generators.

The aluminum base body and the modular lightweight design keep the dead weight of the FEL below three kilograms and enable a high lift capacity of up to 1400 N in a vertical installation position. The new vacuum gripping system can therefore plunge deep into transport boxes or shelves and also dynamically remove and deposit workpieces such as screens in various dimensions and pick-up positions. The sealing foam, which is characterized by a long service life and is easy to replace thanks to the quick-change film, is particularly gentle on the workpiece surface.

(1,592 characters incl. spaces)

**Meta-Title:** Extra flat: New area gripper from Schmalz

**Meta description:** Not just for display handling: The new FEL area gripper from Schmalz is so flat that it also proves its strength in other automated handling tasks in confined spaces or with critical interfering contours.

**Keywords:** Schmalz; FEL; area gripper; automated handling; handling of screens; confined spaces

**Pictures:**

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|  | **Picture 1:**  The new area gripper from Schmalz has an extremely flat design and is gentle on any surface thanks to its sealing foam. |
|  | **Picture 2:**  With an installation height of just 26.5 millimeters, the FEL dives deep into transport boxes and shelving compartments. |

Pictures: J. Schmalz GmbH

**About the company**

Schmalz is one of the market leaders in Vacuum Automation and ergonomic handling systems. The internationally positioned company's products are used in logistics applications as well as in the automotive industry, the electronics sector and furniture production. The broad spectrum in the Vacuum Automation business segment includes individual components such as suction cup or vacuum generators, complete gripping systems and clamping solutions for holding workpieces, for example on CNC machining centers. In the Handling business unit, Schmalz offers innovative handling solutions for industry and trade with vacuum lifters and crane systems. With the Energy Storage business unit, the company is establishing a further mainstay in the area of stationary energy storage systems.

The combination of comprehensive advice, a strong focus on innovation and first-class quality ensures sustainable added value for customers. Intelligent solutions from Schmalz make production and logistics processes more flexible and efficient - and at the same time fit for the advancing digitalization.

#### Schmalz is represented in all major markets with its own locations and trading partners in around 70 countries. The family-owned company employs around 1,800 people at its German headquarters (Glatten, Black Forest) and in 28 other companies worldwide.

#### Contact for questions

J. Schmalz GmbH

Marketing Communication

Johannes-Schmalz-Str. 1

72293 Glatten, Germany

T: +49 7443 2403-506

[presse@schmalz.de](mailto:presse@schmalz.de)

[www.schmalz.com](http://www.schmalz.com/)

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