

USING THE BAGGER

1. Lower the bagger bottom plate, supported by the chains. Place the bag on the tunnel in between the pipes. Make sure the direction is correct: the folded bag will unfold from the bottom. The correct bag size is Ø2.0–2.2m
2. Lift the bottom plate as high as possible, supported by the adjustment chains. The bag must be behind the pipes of the front edge of the bottom plate. Place a rubber band on the front edge of the folded bag.



3. Pull the bag out 2–3cm holding on to the lowest fold. Make sure that the bag also unfolds evenly on top of the bottom plate and that only one layer is unfolded at a time.

4. Close the end of the bag carefully by tying it with a piece of string. Tuck the end of the bag under the bottom plate of the tunnel.



5. The tube should be made on an even and compact surface. Start making the tube against a wall, round bale or similar support. After filling about 1–2 metres, the weight of the bag is enough to keep it from sliding backwards.



6. Lock the tyres pumping maximum pressure to the hydraulic brakes (150–170 bar).



7. Ensure that the brakes of the tractor are off and the tractor is out of gear. The grain pushed into the tube by the bagger screw will push the tractor and bagger forward. The tractor drive is running the mill and the bagger at 540/min. The tractor must be in line with the bagger in order to make the tube straight. The tractor may need steering during bagging.

8. Close the mill feeder hatches and fill the container with grain.

9. Start the mill and crimping as normal. Open the feeder gradually, monitor the crimping result, adjust the preservative application, etc.



10. Now the bagger screw will start pushing crimped and acidified grain into the tube.

Note! The bagger screw will grind the crimped grain for a second time, so the roller clearance can be kept bigger than normally.

11. When the end of the bag is starting to be full and the bag starts stretching, release the brake valve carefully (to around 70–100 bar) so that the machine will start slowly moving forward. Select the suitable brake pressure and speed of travel by monitoring the stretching of the bag. The bag must stretch approximately 5–10% to make the bagging sufficiently tight.

The weight of the machine, evenness of the surface, etc. have an effect on the tightness of the bagging but usually there is no need to adjust the brake during bagging if the appropriate speed is found at the beginning.

Check the stretch of the bag regularly (e.g. every metre).



For example: Ø1.5m of bag will hold c. 1.7 tonnes of grain per meter. If the crimping rate is 30 tonnes/hour, the bagger must move c. $30/1.7\text{m/h} = 17\text{m/h} = 30\text{cm/min}$.



12. If you need to stop bagging/crimping for some reason, you can just stop the crimper. There is no need to adjust the brakes. When you continue bagging, you will have a uniform and even tube without any loose or stretched bits.

13. When bagging is finished, close the feeder to rollers first and then continue crimping until the rollers are empty and stop the mill. Release the brake pressure and drive the tractor slowly forward 2–3 meters so that an empty stretch of bag will be unfolded.

14. Cut the bag and roll the empty section of the bag tightly around e.g. a board and against the bag. If there is air left at the end of the tube, you can make a small cut and squeeze the air out. Close the cut with the tape provided.



15. Clean the area surrounding the tube carefully of any grain that fell on the ground during crimping. Mice, rats or birds attracted by the grain can break the bag.

16. Monitor the condition of the bag daily. Repair any holes made by birds or rodents as quickly as possible using the tape provided. There is also a protective net available which keeps birds away from the tube.

17. Open the tube no earlier than 3–4 weeks from storing. By this time, the natural lactic acid fermentation of crimped grain will have stopped and the acidity of the grain is low enough (pH 4–5).

Once the tube has been opened, take at least 15–20cm of grain from it daily to make sure that the surface that comes into contact with air is changed at a sufficient rate. Always close the tube after taking grain.