

## QUALITY CONTROL

# Improving Abrasion And Pilling Testing

*James H. Heal continues to develop new and improved abrasion and pilling testers, such as the Nu-Martindale 864.*

## TW Special Report

James H. Heal and Co. Ltd., England, has been in the textile business since 1872. For roughly the last 50 years, the company has been totally dedicated to the supply of testing instruments, quality consumables, and global maintenance and calibration services. During that period, Heal has contributed to the science of testing by introducing many product and service innovations.

### Product Development

Every manufacturer knows a continuous stream of new and enhanced products is vital for its future success. However, getting the product right the first time,

within budget and to the agreed time scale represents a massive challenge.

Over the years, Heal has perfected a method of product development that invariably produces what it describes as outstanding results. Simultaneous involvement of every part of the business, as well as agents, distributors and, most importantly, users, is fundamental to the company's approach.

Recent notable testing instrument successes include the Apollo for light-fastness and weathering, Thermaplate

for colorfastness and stability, TruBurst for bursting strength, SnagPod for snagging and Heal's own brand of Quality Assured Consumables.

### Abrasion Testing

Heal has led the way in the important field of Martindale testing, which tests a fabric's ability to resist wear and pilling. The company initiated many firsts in the field of Martindale testers. It was the first to:

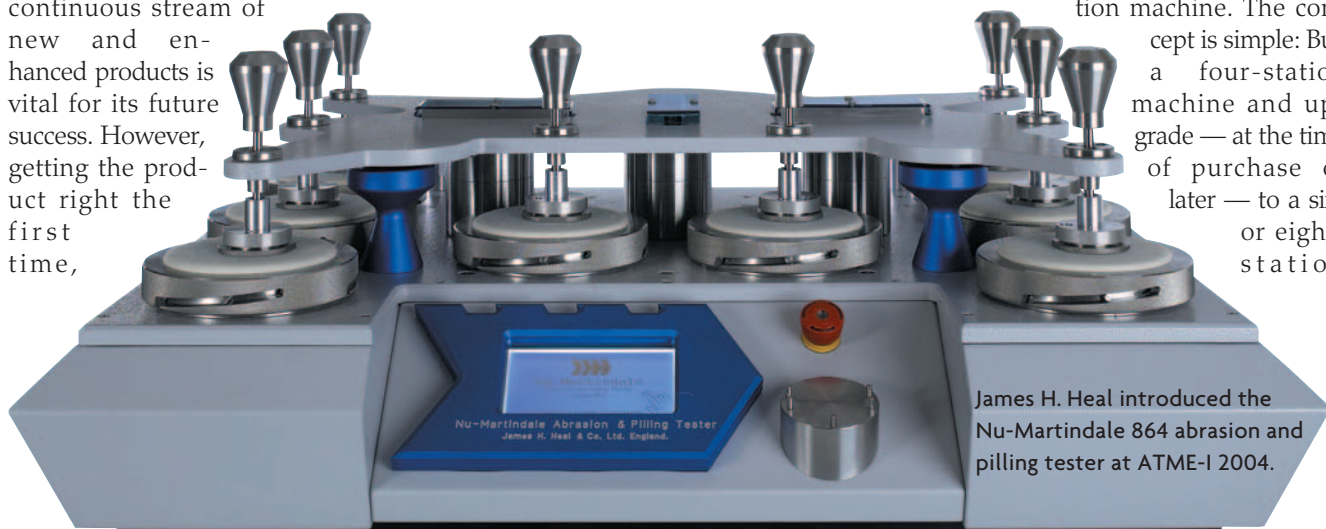
- offer a six-station machine;
- include individual station counters;
- incorporate a hinged top plate;
- use quick-lock, clamping rings;
- achieve United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)-accredited calibration;
- introduce a single-station machine; and
- introduce higher speeds for accelerated testing.

### Nu-Martindale 864 Abrasion And Pilling Tester

The ergonomically designed Nu-Martindale 864 abrasion and pilling tester, launched last year at the American Textile Machinery Exhibition-International (ATME-I), is one example of the company's expert approach to product development.

Although it has been manufacturing and designing Martindale instruments since the early 1940s, Heal still has been able to make substantial improvements to the efficiency and performance of its latest machine.

The 864 is a four-, six-, or eight-station machine. The concept is simple: Buy a four-station machine and upgrade — at the time of purchase or later — to a six- or eight-station



James H. Heal introduced the Nu-Martindale 864 abrasion and pilling tester at ATME-I 2004.



HEAL offers an entry-model one-head Mini Martindale® tester suitable for use in small test laboratories.

machine. Upgrading is easy — no tools are required and anyone can do it.

The key issue on any eight-station machine is the accessibility of the abrading tables. How easy is it to change the felt and the abrasive cloth? After all, there's little point in having eight stations if you can't use them all comfortably, according to the company.

Unrestricted access is achieved by clever positioning of the abrading tables, the radical shape of the top plate and three primary parking positions for the top plate.

The plate can be parked at the rear, on the right or on the left, leaving the tables fully exposed. The top plate does not need to be lifted to access any of the eight tables.

The 864 offers versatile, easy-to-use software. It

also features different operating modes, an averaging feature and the possibility of grouping stations to create two machines in one.

There also is a facility for altering the test speed. The machine can be set to run at half the normal or 1.5 times the normal speed.

As abrasion testing is a slow process, this unique feature opens up

possibilities for developing new test methods or for accelerating tests.

### Value For Money

Behind the scenes, Heal invests in state-of-the-art production machinery, which substantially improves the company's ability to reduce manufacturing costs. These investments have significantly impacted the pricing of the new 864, making the machine extremely price-competitive, according to Heal.

### Quality Assured Consumables

The 864 is a machine of high quality. Good results are nevertheless dependent on the quality and reliability of the consumables required for the testing process.

Heal recommends its brand of Quality Assured Consumables. Abrasive cloth, felt and foam are now available as pre-cut discs for maximum convenience and minimum waste. **TW**

**8 station abrasion and pilling tester...**

- > With **unrestricted** and comfortable access to all **8 stations**

**...from the experts in fabric testing instruments**

**JAMES H. HEAL**  
A CO. LTD. HALIFAX ENGLAND

**www.james-heal.co.uk**

# Nu-Martindale 864

- > 8, 6 or 4 position machine
- > Comfortable access to all eight abrading tables
- > Easy change between abrasion, pilling and straight line motions
- > Innovative touch screen graphic LCD
- > Suitable for wet testing
- > UKAS calibration
- > 18 months warranty
- > **Quality Assured Consumables**

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