

**NEW!
Revised &
Updated!**

BURR BLOCKS FOR DUMMIES

A Reference for the Rest of Us!

*by Tim Nennich,
David Calvert,
John Cornell,
& Jonny Ostojic*

*The Fun and Easy Way to
Create You Own Burr Blocks
From Any Type of Wood!*

*No Previous Wood-working
Experience Required!*

*Make a Variety of
Six Block Puzzles!*



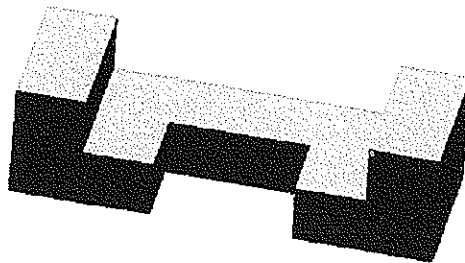
Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Parts List.....	3
Wiring Diagram.....	4
State Diagram.....	5
Ladder Diagram.....	6
Startup Procedure.....	12
Block Cycle Order.....	13
Changing Puzzle Types.....	14
Troubleshooting.....	15

Introduction

This is a user's manual detailing the proper use of our burr puzzle machine. Here is a brief overview of what the machine does.

The machine will cut wood blocks of sized 0.75 X 0.75 X 2.25 inches, +/- 0.003 (95%). It will cut one up to four 0.375 inch notches on one face, and up to two of the same sized notches on a second face as shown.

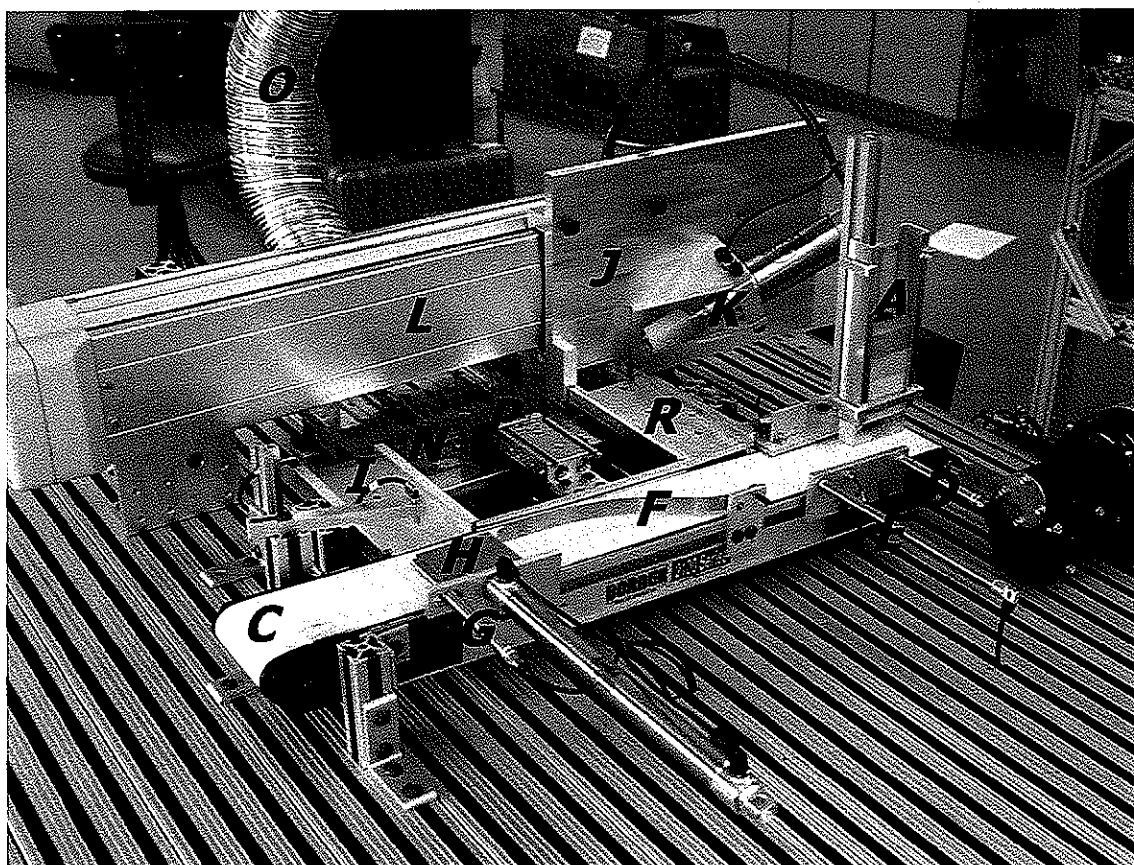


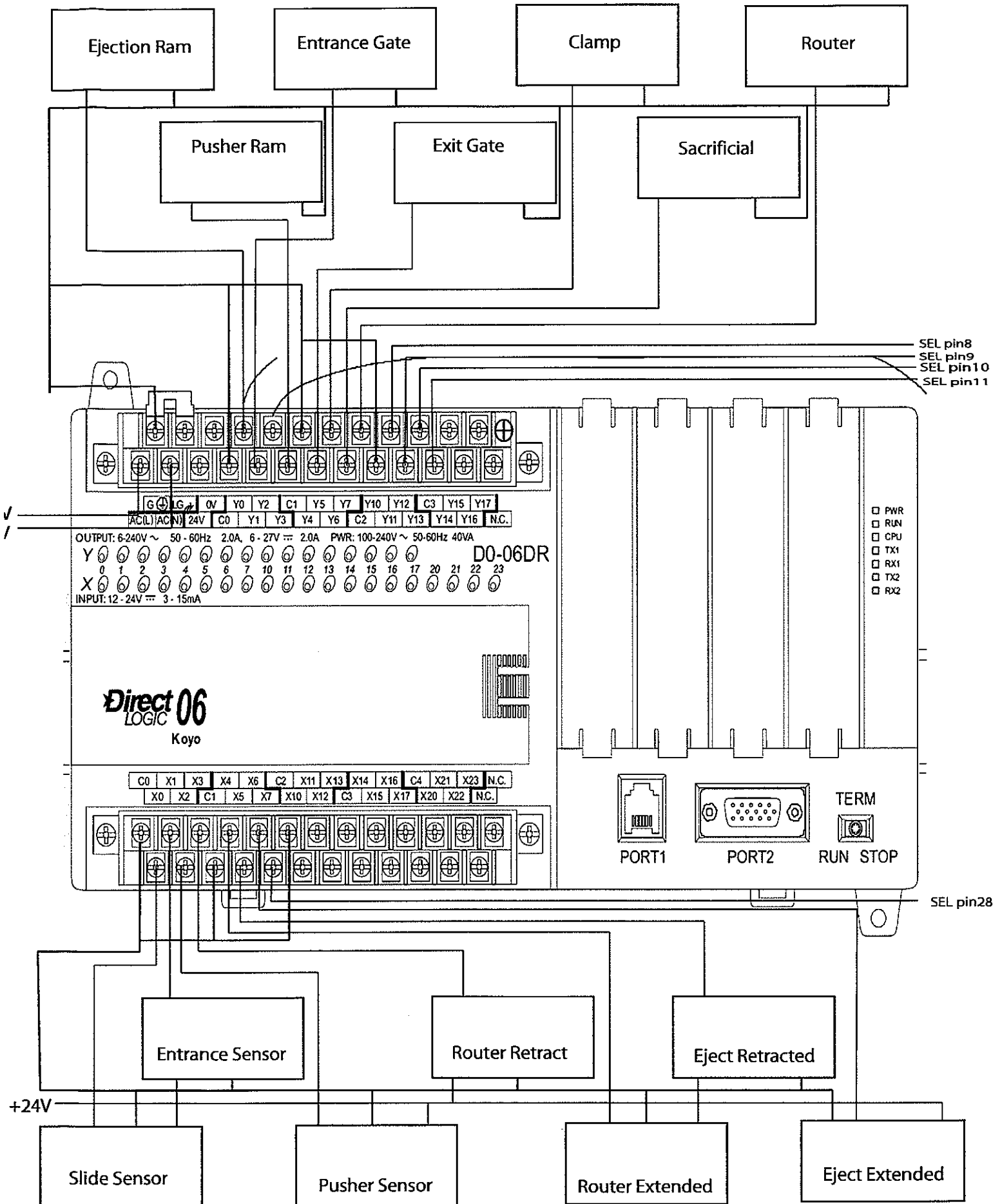
The blocks enter and leave via a conveyer belt. The machine is fitted with a dust collection system as well as an emergency shut-off switch

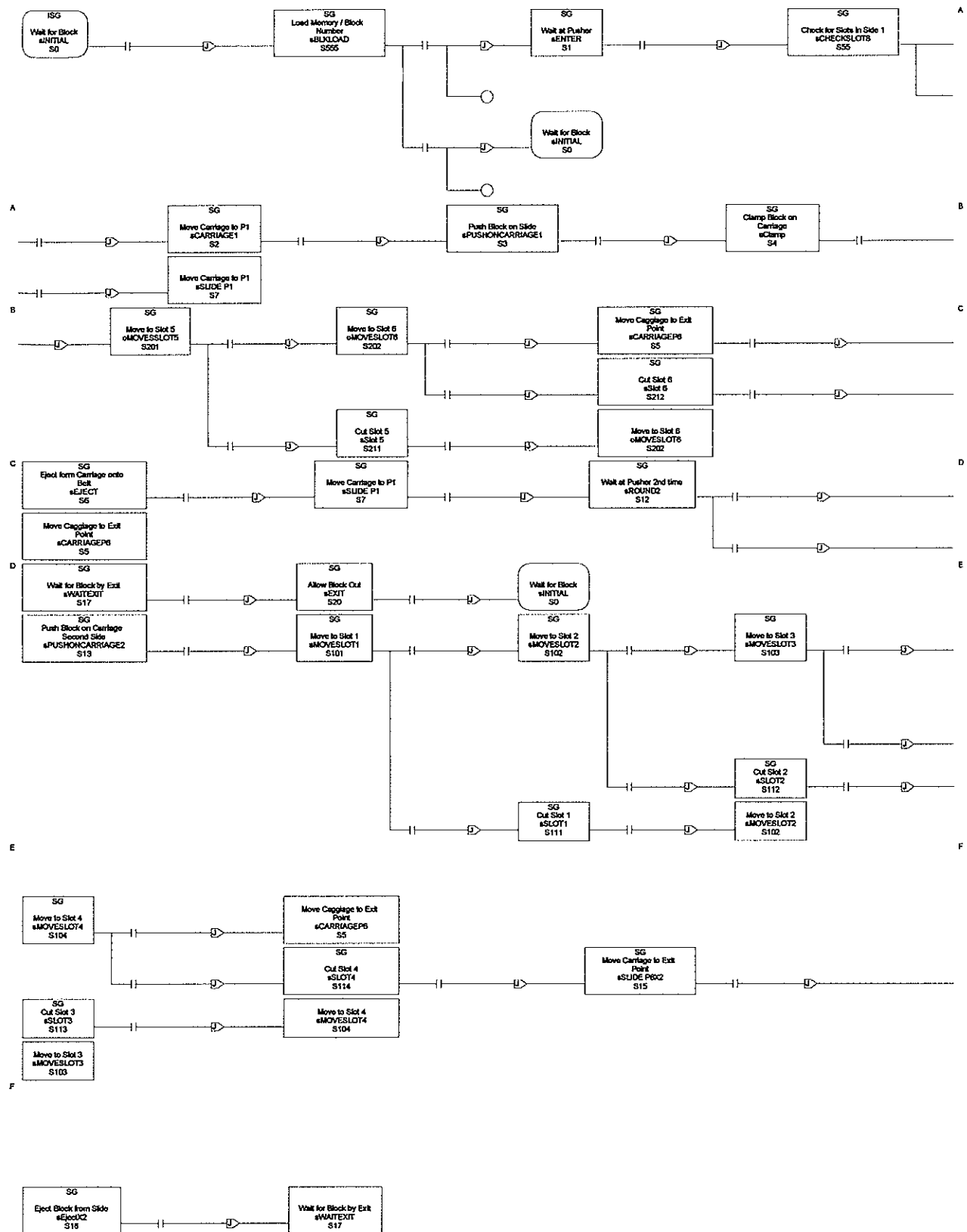
Parts List

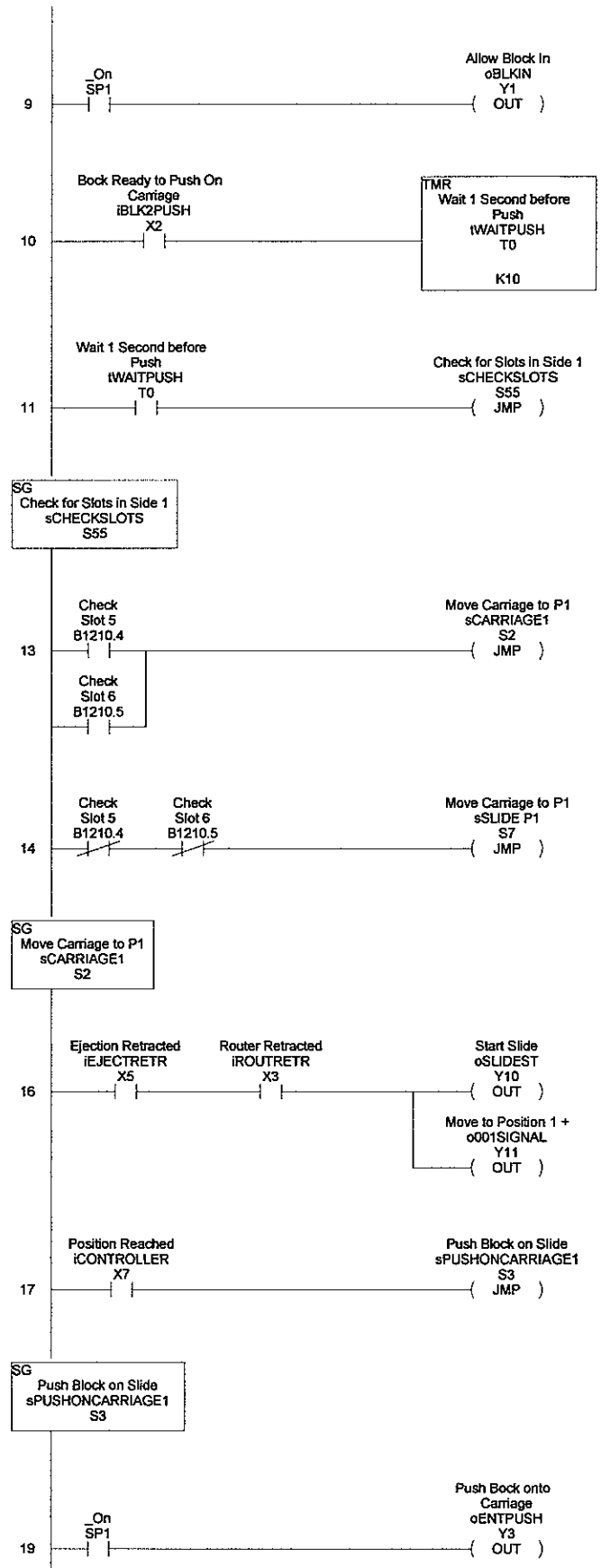
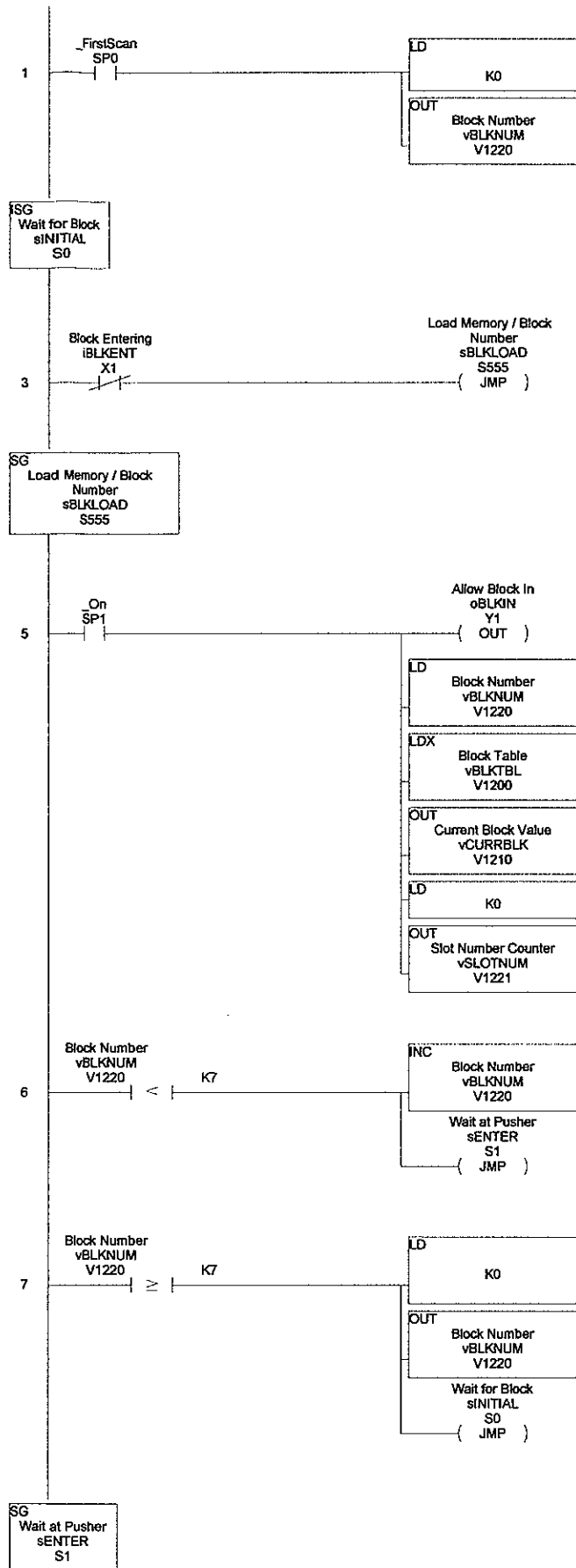
A – Block Loader
B – Motor
C – Belt
D – Entrance Stop
E – Entrance Gate
F – Fence
G – Exit Gate
H – Entrance Pusher
I – Entrance Slide

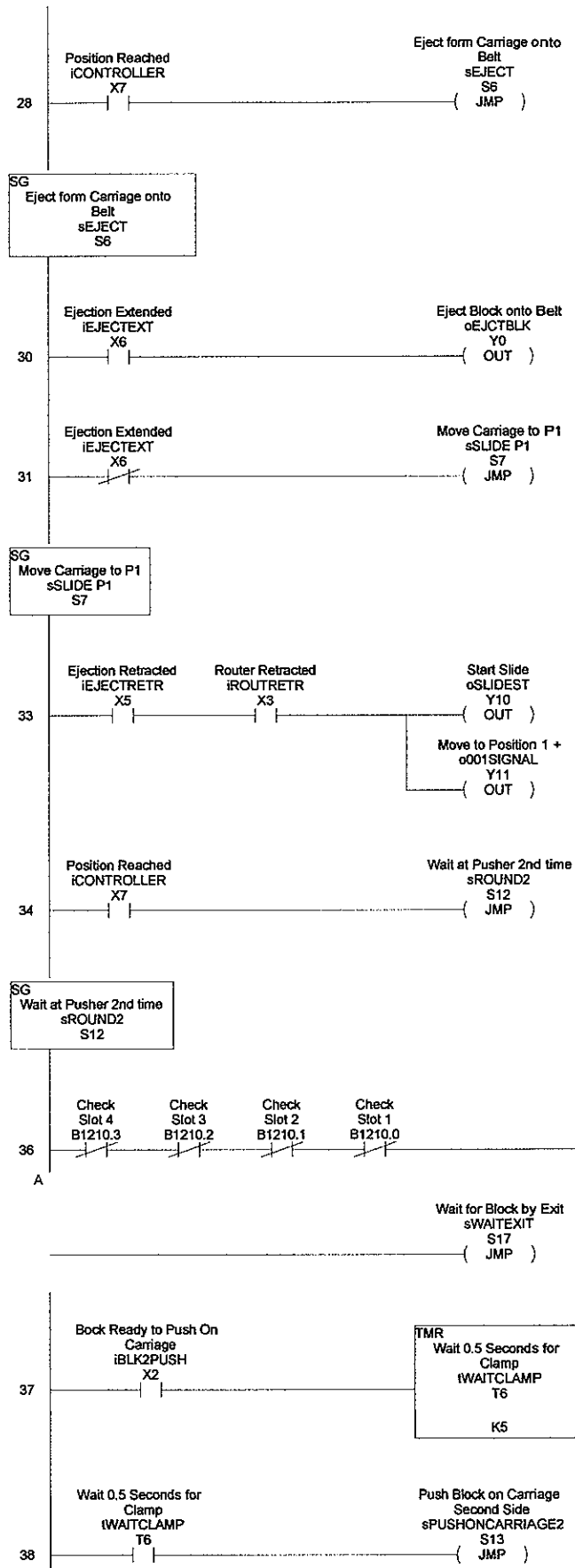
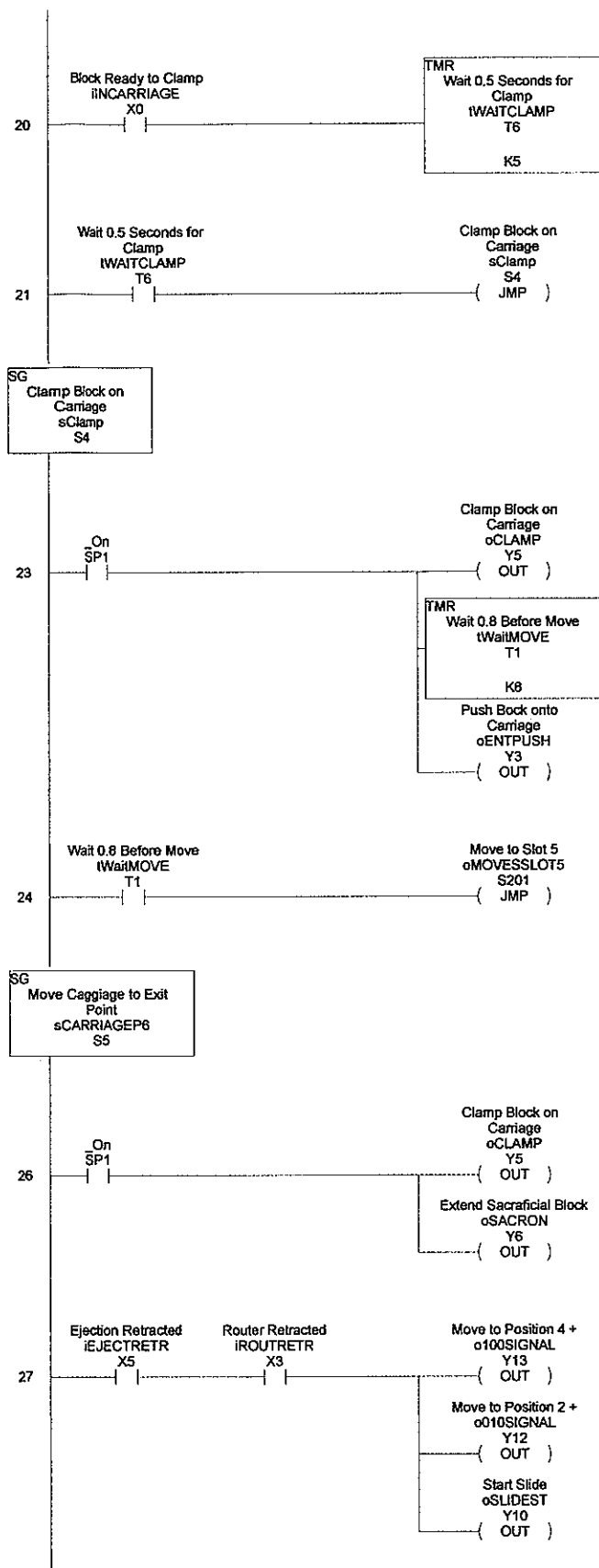
J – Carriage
K – Clamp
L – Linear Actuator
M – Router
N – Router Plate
O – Vacuum Hose
P – Sacrificial Block
Q – Ejection Pusher
R – Ejection slide

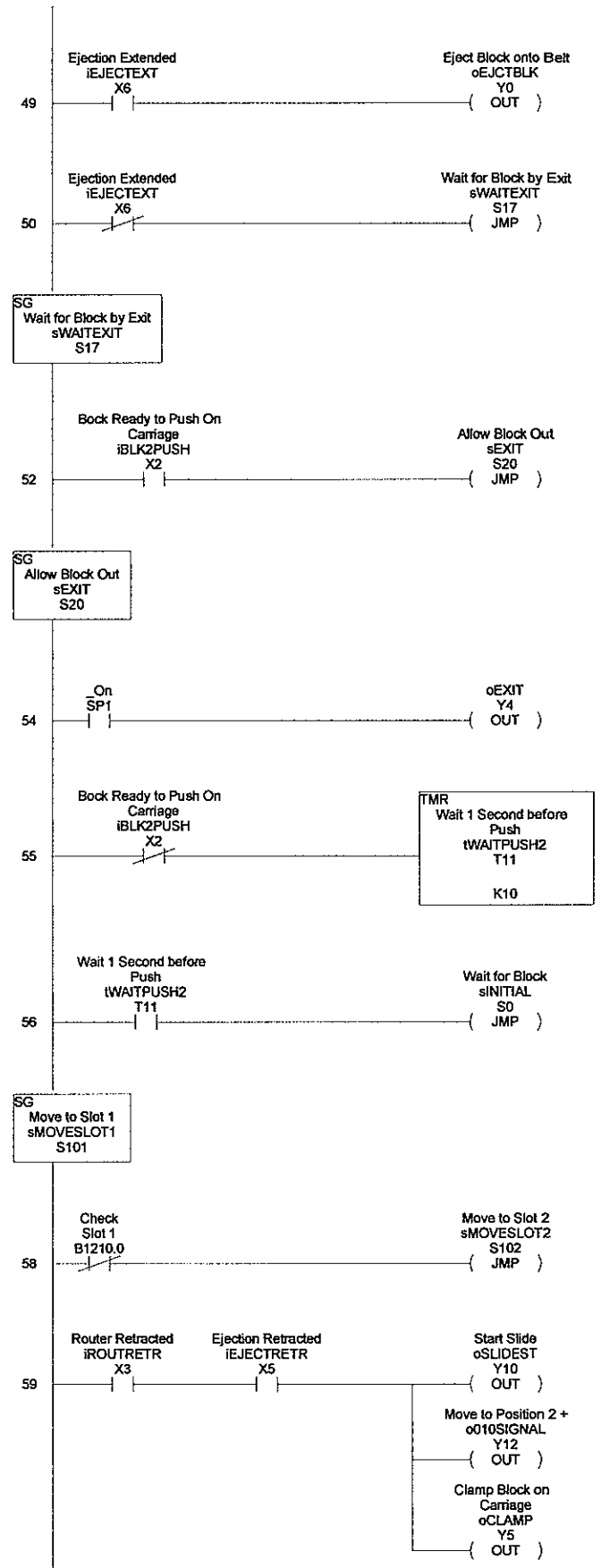
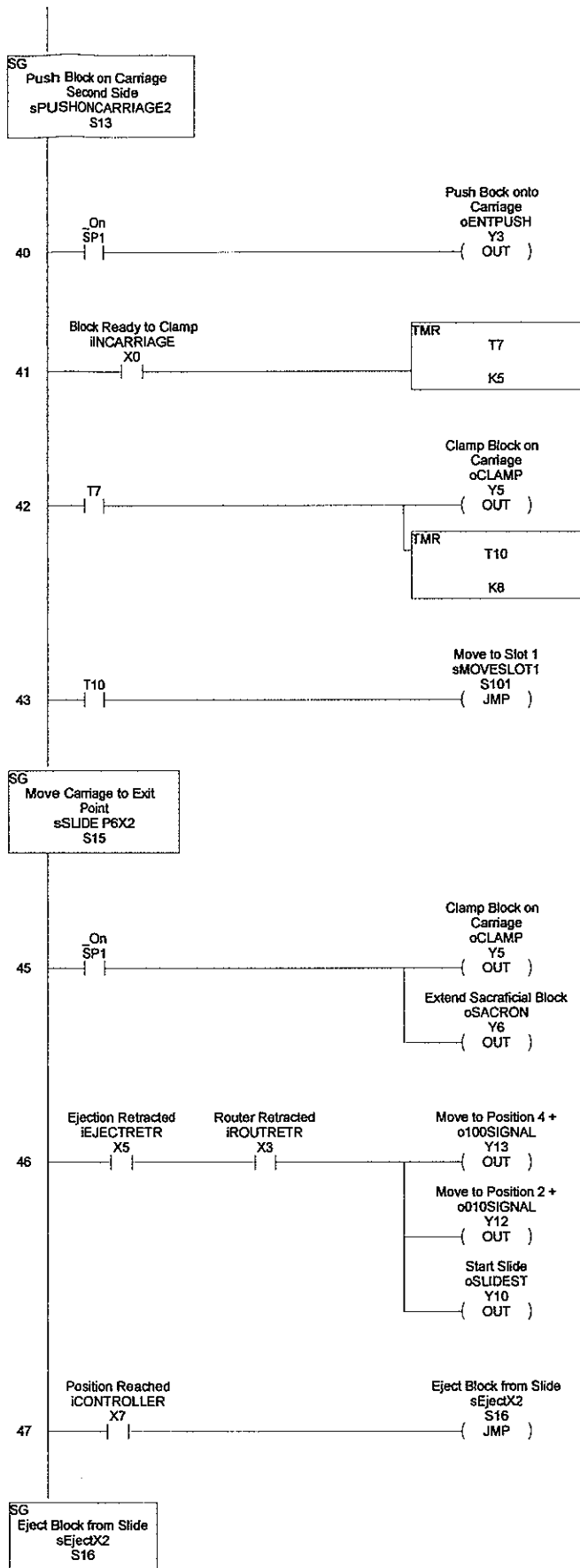


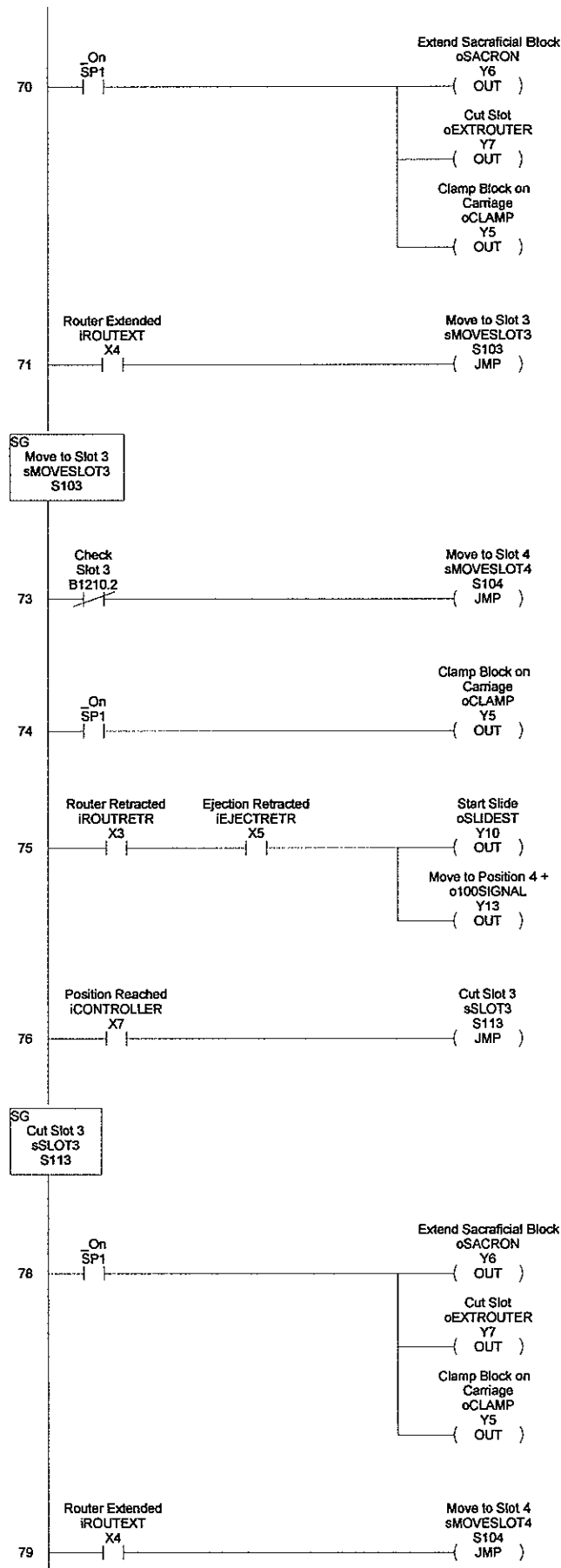
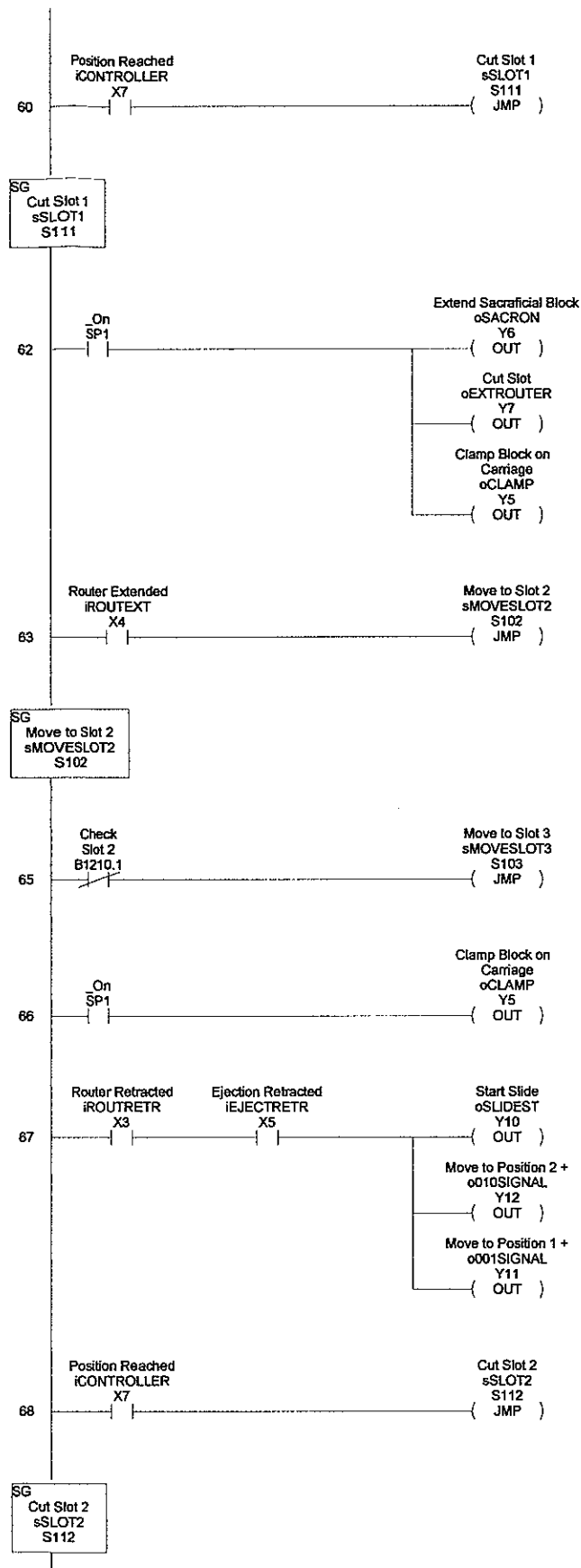


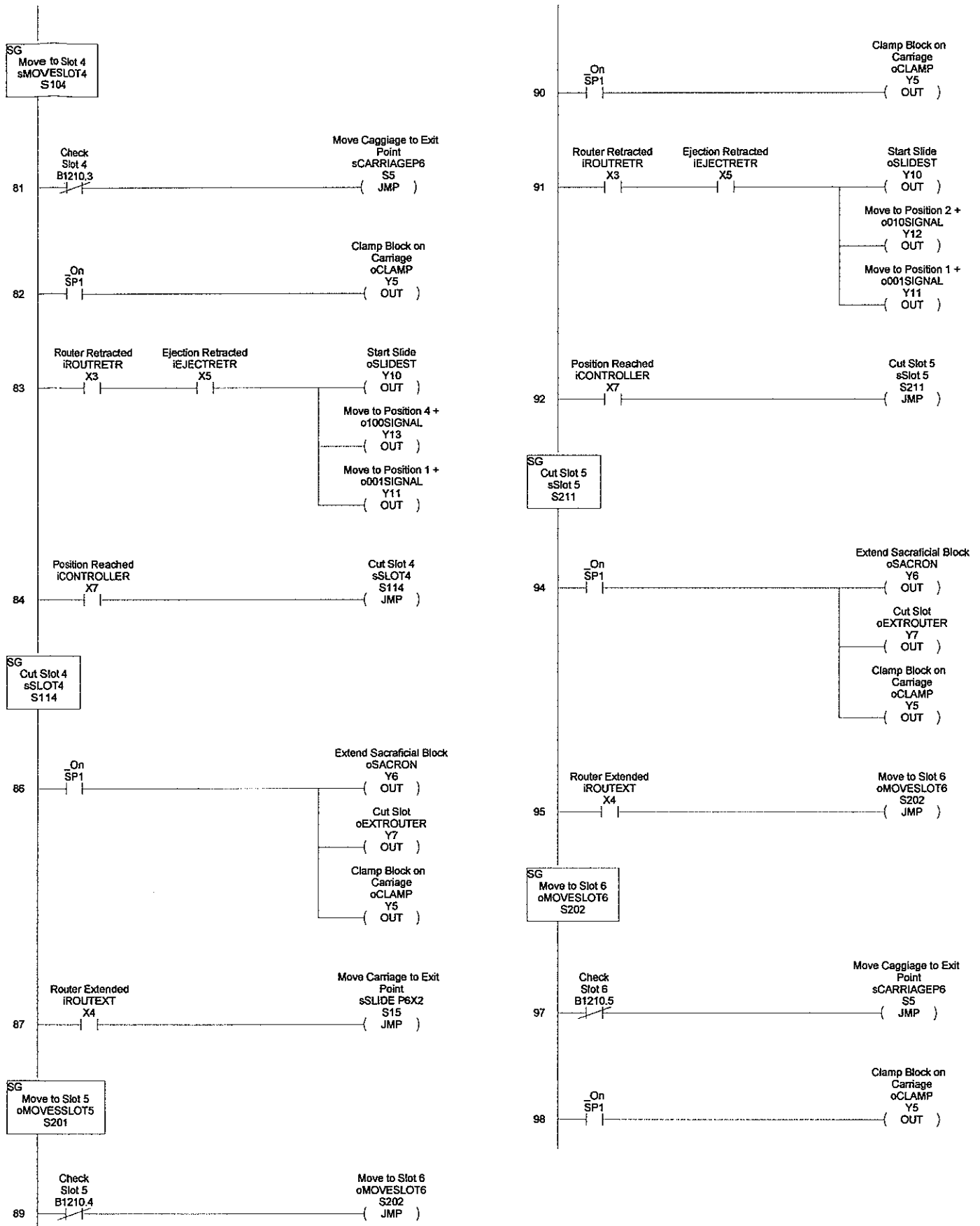


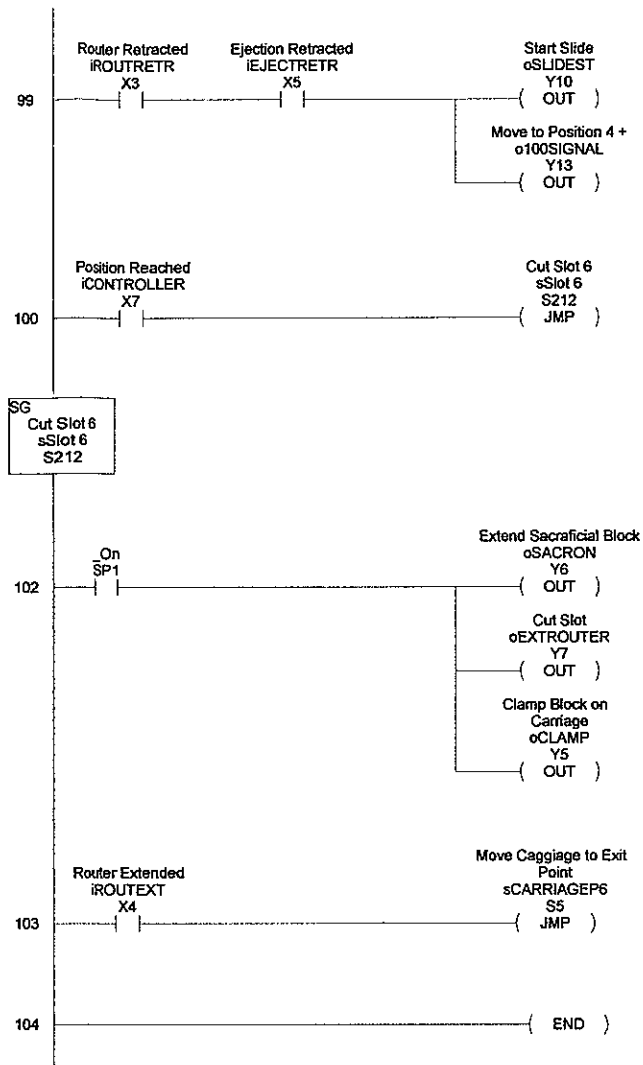












Startup Procedure

This startup procedure is assuming that the program is already loaded into the PLC

1. Load six blocks into the loader on the right end of the conveyor.
2. Flip the switch on the PLC to “Stop” mode. This will ensure that the PLC initializes back to its initial state when powered up. Make sure all people and items are away from moving parts.
3. Turn large red knob clockwise to pressurize the system. This will also power up the PLC and start the linear actuator initialization sequence. Affirm that the air pressure is approximately 60 psi.
4. Wait for the linear actuator to initialize. It will home on the right side. The slide will move rapidly to the right end and then slowly move to its “home” position. Once it stops moving, you are ready to go.
5. Plug in the router.
6. Turn on the central vacuum motor. There is a green “Start” button located on top of the motor of the central vacuum system. Make sure that the gate in the vacuum piping directly above the machine is open.
7. Flip the PLC switch to the “Run” position. This will initialize the PLC into the initial state.
8. Flip the switch on the motor speed control up to the “On” position. The switch has some sort of loose connection, and you sometimes have to wiggle it a bit in the up position to complete the circuit. This will complete the startup procedure.

Block Cycle Order

Six blocks are placed into the block loader to start with. The emergency shut-off button is released, the router is plugged in, and the conveyor belt is turned on. This causes the first block to move forward on the belt, breaking the beam of the through-beam sensor x1. As soon as the block breaks this beam, the entrance stop is pressurized and holds the next block so that only one block is in the system at one time. The first block then continues on down the belt being guided to the inside of the belt by the fence. At the end of the fence, the block is detected by sensor x2. The PLC uses this count to know whether to cut the block or let it continue past the exit gate.

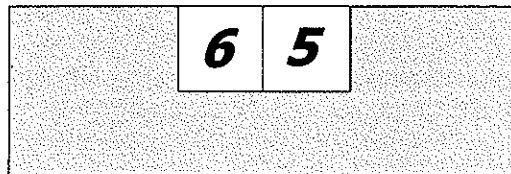
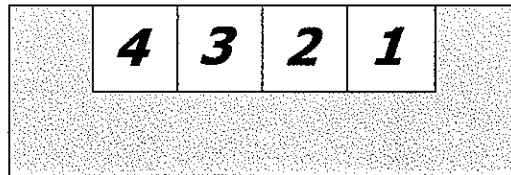
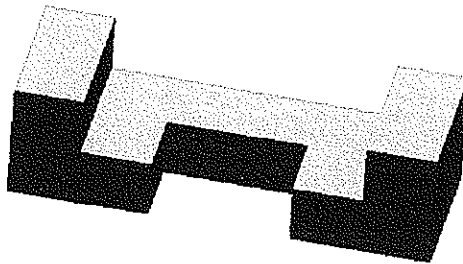
If the block is to be cut, the exit gate stays closed and stops the block. Also, the PLC uses this count to release the entrance stop and let the next block proceed to the entrance gate. While that block is waiting to go, the entrance fence keeps it from sliding around due to the belt moving beneath it. Next the entrance pusher pushes the first block off the belt, down the entrance slide, and into the carriage. Sensor x0 tells the PLC that the block is in place in the carriage and the clamp is ready to be activated. The entrance pusher holds the block secure while the clamp moves into place to hold the block tightly in the carriage. The entrance pusher then releases and the linear actuator moves the carriage with the block over the router plate where the router is mounted. Once the carriage is in the proper location, a sacrificial block is pressed against the block to be cut for support as the router cuts through. The router goes to the end of its stroke and triggers x4. The PLC tells the router to go back where it triggers x3 once it is fully retracted.

If more cuts are needed, the linear actuator moves the carriage a small amount, the sacrificial block is pressed against the puzzle block, and the router makes another cut. Once this is done, the linear actuator takes the block further to the ejection slide where the clamp will disengage and the ejection pusher pushes the block back onto the belt. The ejection slide is designed to be slightly higher than the belt so that when the block comes to the end of the slide, it rolls once onto the belt. The block then goes down the belt, past the fence, and to the exit gate. If the block is to be cut on the next side, the whole process repeats. If not, the exit gate retracts and the block rolls off the end of the belt allowing the next block in line to be released into the system. This process is repeated for all six blocks.

Changing Puzzle Types

Here is the procedure for changing out the puzzle types.

1. Make sure that the PLC is turned on and in terminal mode.
2. Open the DirectSOFT32 software.
3. Open the memory editor (shortcut is CTRL+Y).
4. Memory locations V1200 through V1205 correspond to the six blocks. Within each memory slot will be a binary number series where a 1 represents a cut. Digits 0-5 correspond to the six notches, 6 5 4 3 2 1. If you wanted to cut slots 3, 5 and 6, the binary sequence would look like "0000000000110100". The order and slot numbers are shown below.



Troubleshooting

Being that this is a prototype machine, there are still a few kinks that need to be smoothed out. Here are some things to look out for.

1. The cuts that the router makes sometimes leave a thin overhang of wood that is attached to one side of the notch. This can sometimes cause the burr blocks to do a double rotation as it slides off the exit slide. This can be minimized by adjusting the router extension speed, and keeping the router bit sharp.
2. The sensor bracket for the sensor that senses when the router is extended will sometimes get misaligned. This is easy to spot because the router will fail to retract. A simple adjustment re-aligns the sensor.
3. Make sure that if for any reason you have to shut down the machine in mid-cycle, that when you restart the machine you first put the PLC back into stop mode, otherwise the linear actuator might home in the wrong location.
4. The power switch on the conveyor belt has a loose connection and sometimes needs to be nudged down slightly once it is in the “up” position.