Electric power at an ultrasonic frequency drives 3-by-1.5-inch devices with liquid coming in one end and an atomizing surface at the other end. The nozzle vibrates at a high frequency as the liquid comes out and is literally broken apart in a spray of drops by ultrasonic energy.

Each spray assembly contains a pair of air jets that alternately pulse to drive the spray downward. The timing and force of the pulses produce a spray pattern that oscillates back and forth across the substrate, according to the product documentation. Ultrasonic sensors detect the presence of the float glass on the line. Spray heads turn on and off automatically as required for different glass width. Flow rates and ultrasonic nozzle power can be configured to automatically adjust for changing line speed.

“This is not a pressure spray,” explains Harvey L. Berger, Sono-Tek’s chief technology officer. The spray comes out at one-tenth of the velocity, thereby reducing overspray. He says other manufacturers experiment with the technology for anti-reflective coatings and those that go on self-cleaning glass.

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