



Fairbanks Scales and the Kansas City Irish Fest

What are the “Best” and the “Best Ethnic” festivals in Kansas City? One festival has that honor—the Kansas City Irish Fest, as voted by its visitors!

With fun, food and frivolity for all, there are many opportunities to sample unique and traditional goods from local vendors. Not only is the festival a social gathering, it is a marketplace as well. For several years, Kansas City's own Fairbanks Scales has been there to support the annual Irish Fest and make it even better. Fairbanks Scales donated several scales to help streamline behind the scenes marketplace transactions.



The Kansas City Irish Festival celebrates Kansas City's proud Irish heritage with fun and activities for all ages. Arts, crafts, Celt tattoos, children's face painting booths, Irish lore and Gaelic dance and language lessons were just a few of the activities. Festival goers are able to enjoy ale, wine, and whiskey tastings while sampling authentic Irish dishes including meat pies and Shepherd's pie.



With tens of thousands of attendees, event organizers continually look for better ways to make purchases safe and more efficient during the festival. To help manage the event, organizers and vendors agreed to establish token booths where patrons purchase tokens for beer and wine. Vendors accepted the tokens for their products instead of cash, making transactions faster and safer. At the event's conclusion, vendors turned in the tokens to the event organizers for payment.

Each token was counted, and payment was made based on the number of tokens submitted. While this process accomplished the task accurately, it took a great deal of time for event organizers to settle-up with every vendor. In years past, volunteers counted every token by hand for all vendors.

Irish Fest Treasurer Elect & Board member, Danny O'Boyle contacted Fairbanks Scales to find a better solution. What O'Boyle needed was a way to automate this counting process. Just before being approached by O'Boyle, Fairbanks Scales had launched a new counting scale that could produce a count based on piece weight. A good test case might be Irish Festival tokens!

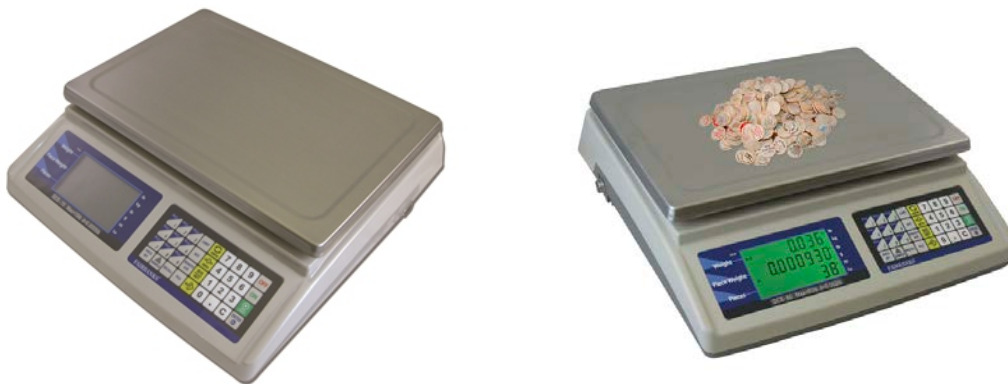


Fairbanks Scales and the Kansas City Irish Fest

Fairbanks' Omega counting scale takes like-products and captures a sample of the individual product or piece weight and stores it into memory. When a specific product is selected from memory, any number of these like-products can be placed on the weighing platform and the scale will automatically calculate the number of pieces quickly and accurately. This feature was exactly what O'Boyle needed. The process changed from manual counting to simply placing tokens on the scale platform to generate an accurate count. Then, event organizers could pay the vendor the correct sum quickly.



According to O'Boyle, "The Fairbanks Scales Omega counting scales were 10 times faster than previous years and we are very confident in the end results. We know that when 500 tokens are counted, there are exactly 500 tokens." This was especially efficient because after last year's Irish Fest, more than 100,000 tokens were counted.



Kansas City's Irish Festival is one of the largest festivals held in the city and is one of the largest Irish festivals in the U.S. It is held annually over the Labor Day Holiday weekend, so if you are looking for a great weekend, put on your Celtic garb and join us!

To learn more, contact Fairbanks Scales at 816-451-4107 or visit us on the Web at www.Fairbanks.com.