

Sheet Metal Shop Improves Production, and Quality with Hardware Insertion Machine

Oakdale, CA—Will-Mann, Inc., a precision sheet metal job shop that services the electronics and aerospace industries, was looking to increase the effectiveness of its hardware insertion operations when it purchased the WindowTouch® Hardware Insertion Machine, manufactured by Haeger®, Inc., of Oakdale, California. Before purchasing the WindowTouch system, the Fullerton, Calif., shop was using two Haeger standard machines and two operators to manually insert different types and sizes of fasteners—a process that required a significant amount of time and caused parts to be stacked in queue prior to insertion. However, by enabling the shop to insert multiple types of fasteners with single-part handling, the WindowTouch system has reportedly allowed Will-Mann to optimize labor, improve quality, and increase productivity. The WindowTouch is equipped with a Turret Insertion System and Quality Assurance Package.

“The WindowTouch has proved to be a perfect fit for our fastener insertion department, and it has exceeded expectations,” said Jeff Reinhardt, operations manager at Will-Mann. “Our production has increased, and now jobs are being done in half the time it took before.”

Bottlenecks in the insertion area, resulting from the previous insertion process, had been causing late deliveries and requiring the shop to pay expediting costs to catch up with production. Also, the highly technical nature of Will-Mann’s parts, which require significant attention to detail, led to typical problems of missing hardware and fasteners inserted in incorrect locations, causing a number of parts to be rejected. But the addition of the WindowTouch has reportedly gone a long way toward streamlining Will-Mann’s processes, decreasing delivery times, and reducing damaged and scrapped parts.

“The WindowTouch has greatly improved throughput, eliminated costly errors, and missing hardware,” said Reinhardt. “It has drastically decreased incorrectly inserted fasteners.”

Haeger’s InsertionLogic® software keeps track of fasteners inserted and parts completed. A Quality Assurance Package utilizes fastener presence and length detection to ensure that the correct fastener is installed. In addition, InsertionGraphics™ shows the operator where fasteners are inserted and provides a visual guide for fastener position, using color-coded locators on a

displayed image of the part. Insertion Graphics™ greatly reduces the likelihood of a missing or incorrectly placed fastener.

When the previous manual insertion methods were used, parts had to be handled—picked up and put down—several times before they were completed. Haeger’s SingleTouch Part Handling technology, however, ensures that parts are handled only once, dramatically reducing the potential for part damage.

Will-Mann’s use of the WindowTouch has enabled the shop to shave delivery times by 75% and reduce labor by 70%, according to Reinhardt. Before Will-Mann purchased the WindowTouch, the company’s insertion process took three days with two operators; now, the company is turning parts around in hours, with one operator. The machine saves time with an improved feed system and multi-station bottom, “and the programmable tonnage allows flexibility on parts,” said Reinhardt.

Most of Will-Mann’s parts have several types and sizes of fasteners. SingleTouch part handling technology permits up to four different fasteners to be inserted in a single handling of the part: The operator handles each part once and sets it down complete. As a result, up to 75% of the part-handling time usually required for parts with four different fasteners is eliminated.

InsertionLogic software permits the writing and storage of programs for each part. Reportedly, all important machine parameters for each fastener are stored and easily recalled each time a part is run. The operator calls up the program, sets up the tooling, and no longer has to adjust the force manually.



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