

TechUpdate

Hardware-Insertion Machine Increases Production, Reduces Labor

To increase its hardware-insertion effectiveness, Will-Mann, Inc., Fullerton, CA, a precision sheetmetal job shop serving the electronic and aerospace industry, purchased a WindowTouch hardware-insertion machine manufactured by Haeger Inc., Oakdale, CA. The machine, equipped with Haeger's Turret Insertion System and Quality Assurance Package, has allowed Will-Mann to insert multiple types of fasteners with single-part handling. This has enabled the shop to optimize labor, improve quality and increase productivity.

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

Prior to purchasing the machine, Will-Mann employed two Haeger standard machines and two operators to manually insert different types and sizes of fasteners. That took a significant amount of time, and parts were stacked in queue waiting for insertion. This bottleneck in the insertion area was a source of late deliveries, and the shop had to pay expediting costs to try to catch up with production. Will-Mann's parts are highly technical and require significant attention to detail. This caused the typical problems of rejected parts due to missing hardware and fasteners inserted in the incorrect location.

"By using the WindowTouch, we run 75-percent faster (with fastener insertion) and have reduced labor by 70 percent," says Reinhardt. "Before, our process took three days with two operators; now we turn parts around in hours with one



operator in one day. The machine saves time with the improved feed system and multi-station bottom, and the programmable tonnage allows flexibility on parts."

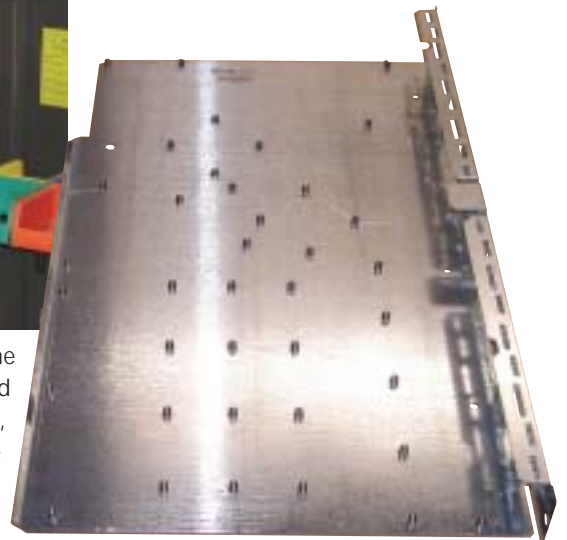
SingleTouch part-handling technology enables as many as four different fasteners to be inserted in a single handling of the part. Most of Will-Mann's parts have several types and sizes of fasteners—the operator handles each part once and sets it down complete. This eliminates as much as 75 percent of part-handling time usually required for parts with four different fasteners.

Haeger's InsertionLogic software allows writing and storage of programs for each part. All important machine parameters for each fastener store and are easily recalled each time a part runs, according to Haeger officials. The operator calls up the program, sets up the tooling, and no longer has to adjust the force manually.

"Before," says Reinhardt, "we had large quantities of parts waiting for

insertion; now we are completing three-days worth of hardware in one day."

InsertionLogic software, employed via a PC-based touchscreen interface, keeps track of fasteners inserted and parts completed. The Quality Assurance package, utilizing fastener presence and length detection, ensures that the correct fastener is installed. And the Insertion-Graphics feature 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.

"The WindowTouch has increased our product flow and improved our quoting process," says Reinhardt. "Now I can estimate more accurately. We now are able to schedule more efficiently and improve our delivery times."



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