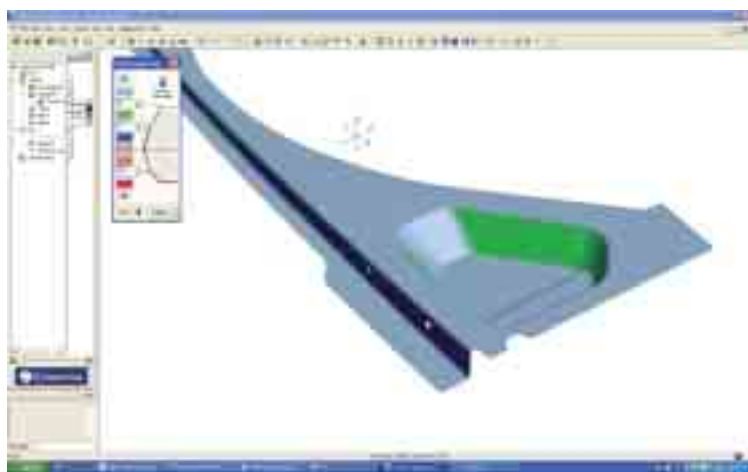


Tooling Update

Software Aids Quoting of Dies and Molds

Cimatron Ltd., Givat Shmuel, Israel, a provider of CAD/CAM software for the tool-making industry, has announced the availability of DieQuote and MoldQuote, products that automate a process that until now has been largely manual and stitched together with standalone spreadsheets, according to company officials. DieQuote and



MoldQuote, distributed in North America by Cimatron Technologies, Inc., Novi, MI, support the entire quote-generation process, starting with the import of part data and splitting the part, determining

mass properties (weight, volume, surface area), through the development of a blank layout, thinning and gathering material conditions (for die quotes) to final quote generation in the desired format.

All quote-related data stores in a database, allowing users to search for past quotes produced in similar situations, track successful versus unsuccessful quotes and conduct win-loss analyses. Quote data can be linked to accounting or ERP software to reduce redundant data entry and streamline processes.

Users can search the database, find quotes for similar past jobs, update overhead and material costs and quickly send out new quotes.

For more information from Cimatron, write no. 200 on your reader response card.

Software Adds Capability for Five-Axis Machining

Vero International, Bingham Farms, MI, a provider of PC-based design and manufacturing solutions for the mold and die industries, announced the debut in North America of its integrated five-axis machining capabilities for its VISI series software for CAD/CAM processes. The company's VISI software offers a combination of applications including fully integrated wire-frame, surface and solid modeling, comprehensive 2D and 3D machining strategies with high-speed routines, and dedicated tool design for plastic injection and progressive dies.

The addition of five-axis machining complements the existing 2.5-axis machining, two- and four-axis wire EDM, 3D and HSM CAM together with dedicated design applications for tools and dies.

Features include surface machining, port machining and swarf milling.

For more on VISI-series software from Vero International, write no. 201 on your reader response card.

CNC System Cuts Die-Build Time, Cost

The die-machining system from Revcam LLC, Romeo, MI, utilizes CAM software, fixturing, tooling and a vertical machining center to produce dies is less time and at lower cost than traditional CNC-machining methods, says the firm. Key to the system is automatic feature recognition, which the company says can eliminate 85 percent of die-design detailing.

Designers no longer have to dimension screw holes or counter bores, or specify tap sizes, drill holes or other standard features. All machining work is performed directly off of the design, meaning the machinist does not need a print. The reduced detailing reportedly can save at least 20 percent of die-design cost. Using the system's automated Smart Cycles, one program can be written that eliminates as much as 97 percent of machine programming time. Revcam notes that use of the system can reduce milling time and cost by as much as 85 percent, grinding time and cost by as much as 10 percent, and assembly time and cost by as much as 75 percent, while reducing lead time, improving quality and eliminating scrap.

A turnkey die-machining system, including programming software, a library installed on a PC, a specified 90-tool package and fixtures, typically is set up on a Fadal vertical machining center, though the company can customize programming for your VMC.

For more from Revcam LLC, write no. 202 on your reader response card.

Slug-Free Dies for Thin Sheetmetal

Mate Precision Tooling, Anoka, MN, introduces its Slug Free Light dies designed to increase punched-part qual-

ity and eliminate slug-pulling problems in thin sheetmetal.

During each punching cycle, the die creates a series of small protrusions around the edge of the slug. Each of these protrusions is made by a small angled notch cut into the die opening. As the slug passes through the die, the position of the protrusion relative to the notch changes slightly. Pressure between the

slug and the die land prevents the slug from pulling back through the top of the die and onto the workpiece. The slug then is safely cleared from the punching zone on the next stroke.

By eliminating slug pulling with every punch cycle, piece part quality is assured and tool life increased. The dies can punch thin sheetmetal with the following maximum thicknesses and where



the recommended die clearance is less than 0.008 in.: stainless steel to 0.032 in.; mild steel to 0.040 in.; aluminum to 0.048 in.

For more information from Mate Precision Tooling, write no. 203 on your reader response card.

Die-Spring CD Contains 2D and 3D CAD Drawings

Forward Industries, Plymouth, MI, introduces the 2005 edition of Nitrogen Die Cylinder Systems and Gas Springs, a CD that contains CAD drawing templates, to simplify die design, of manifold cylinders and gas springs used in metal stamping and forming operations.

The CAD-drawing folder includes manifold cylinders, SuperBrute gas springs, consoles, fittings and port plugs. A registration form is included—by completing it, users automatically receive updates as they are issued.

For more information from Forward Industries, write no. 204 on your reader response card.

Dadco Updates CAD Templates

Dadco, Plymouth, MI, has updated its CAD templates to version 4.8, which includes the company's entire line of nitrogen gas springs and accessories, air cylinders and hydraulic core-pin cylinders. The CAD templates are provided on CD-ROMs featuring DWG, DXF and in four

solid-model formats: CATIA, STEP, SAT and Parasolids.

To complete the package, Dadco also has included product literature on the CAD template CD-ROMs, enabling customers to easily access catalogs and bulletins using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

For more information from Dadco, write no. 205 on your reader response card.

Hyson Expands Gas-Spring Line

Hyson Products, Brecksville, OH, adds two new models to its T3 series, its high-force short-height gas springs.

The new models: T3-170, with a 0.75-in. dia. and stroke length from 7 to 125 mm; and the T3-320, 0.98-in. dia., stroke length from 7 to 125 mm. These springs extend the line to 11 models with contact forces from 380 to 21,400 lbs.

Both new models offer a bottom port for gas charging that also can connect to the Micro EZ hose system, and incorporate an upper ISO-standard C-groove



and threaded bottom hole to allow a variety of mounts. The T3-170 also includes a lower C-groove for mounting.

For more information from Hyson Products, write no. 206 on your reader response card.

Wilson Tool Launches Parts and Accessories Division

For those sheetmetal forming and fabricating companies looking for replacement parts and accessories for their stamping, bending and punching machines, Wilson Tool Intl., White Bear Lake, MN, has launched its Extra division. The new division will provide consumable products to support sheetmetal-fabrication equipment—replacement clamp assemblies, turret keys, tooling cabinets, alignment tools, hand tools and punch and die grinders.

For more information from Wilson Tool International, write no. 207 on your reader response card.