

# Wico Banks on Minster Reliability



*Minster E2 Hevistamper presses line the floor of the Wico Metal Products manufacturing facility in Warren, Michigan.*

“When we talk about the Minster presses we keep coming back to reliability,” said Elmer J. Kretsch, General Manager of Wico Metal Products. “I guess that’s why we selected Minsters. They are a very reliable press.”

Located just outside of Detroit in Warren, Michigan, Wico Metal Products has built a reputation as a high quality progressive die and stamping house, specializing in drawn extrusions. Wico currently manufactures over 150 different kinds of drawn extruded parts for the automotive industry, making it the industry’s leading supplier of this type of part.

By offering high quality parts and on-time delivery, Wico’s operations have expanded in recent years with the addition of 16 Minster presses in several plant locations since 1989.

“They are probably the finest presses in the world,” said Wico’s Vice President of Manufacturing Madison Bunch. “Through my years of experience with different makes of

presses, Minster is the truest press there is when you talk about true strokes, true shutheight, true hits... Minster is the most reliable press in the world.”

By investing in Minster, Wico has increased its production uptime, which is very important when dealing with the just-in-time demands of the automotive industry.

“We have no problem with uptime,” Kretsch said. “If we do have a problem, it’s with die maintenance. The press is not a factor in uptime. If we had no problems with our dies, the uptime would be around the clock. The press is simply not an issue.”

“The press is not an issue when you have all Minsters like we do,” Bunch added. “The Minsters perform well enough

that as long and the tool is runable, the press is going to be running.”

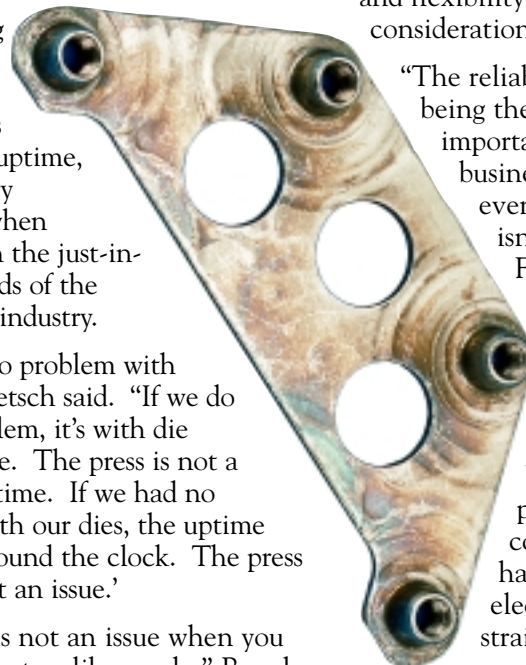
In producing a large variety of drawn extruded parts, accuracy, ease of use and flexibility are all very important considerations for Wico.

“The reliability of each stroke being the same is very important,” Bunch said. “In our business, if we don’t hit true every time, the extrusion isn’t going to be there.

Front top back, left to right, you have to be close, and it makes a big difference when you use a Minster press.”

Wico’s new Minster presses are equipped with complete Minster material handling lines, including electric feeds, hydraulic straighteners and reels.

“Alignment is very critical in our work, and



*Wico Metal Products specializes in progressive die drawn extruded parts.*



with the whole Minster line we can get a true position,” Bunch said. “It takes a good piece of equipment to get a true extrusion every time. A lot of the equipment is programmable, which is very helpful. We can program the job into the system, the feed length, shutheight... The Minster equipment is very user friendly.”

“We don’t keep a lot of inventory because we have the ability to go in there and make quick changes,” Kretsch said. “We can set a die and have parts running within an hour.”

“And because Minster is so reliable, we know that when we need to quick change, the press will be there for us,” Bunch added.

And above all the Minster presses have made a contribution to Wico’s bottom line.

“Everyone wants to buy cheap parts, and they want a quality part,” Kretsch said. “And the only way we can provide that is to have reliable equipment that is low maintenance with a high percentage of uptime. That way we can quote better to get more work.”

“We’ve got fewer maintenance people,” Bunch said. “We’ve got fewer people involved in everything. The presses run, and the overhead is down.”

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**Madison Bunch**  
*Vice President of Manufacturing  
Wico Metal Products*

*A Minster E2-600 busy making parts at Wico Metal Products.*

“The Minster presses are a big part of our company,” Kretsch concluded. “When we bring people in here and they look at the Minster Equipment and realize it says a lot about our credibility and commitment to quality. Some people didn’t think Wico was much of a company until they walked in here and saw those eight Minster presses lined up with the feeds, and everything is Minster equipment. It’s a very

impressive sight for people who know presses, and that fact alone has gotten us additional business.”



*This Minster coil handling line includes an adjustable position reel, coil car, hydraulic straightener, thread table and feed.*