



# Wico Metal Products Making the Complex Simple... and Affordable

Making the complex simple, and affordable -- that's been the key to the success of Wico Metal Products.

Beginning its seventh decade of producing high quality stampings, Wico has built a reputation as one of the foremost providers of heavy, complex automotive parts featuring drawn extrusions and value added operations.

"We can take a part that previously required numerous post-stamping operations, and produce a finished part in one progressive or transfer tool," said Wico Owner Richard Brodie. "Utilizing advanced technologies, it's not unusual for our engineers to combine multiple stamped parts with weld nuts and other assemblies into one stamping. This saves our customers money."



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State of the art tooling and designs require state of the art production equipment, and this is why all of the presses at three different Wico facilities in suburban Detroit are Minster presses.

"The type of parts we manufacture demand a reliable, accurate press and that's what we get from Minster," Brodie said. "It's no secret that Minster presses consistently out-perform their competitors, and our success depends on that kind of quality."

Wico recently opened a 240,000 sq. ft. facility in Warren, Michigan, which houses among other things, two Minster E4H-1650 presses with 240"x108" beds, two Minster E2-1200 presses with 240" beds, a Minster E2H-600 press and a Minster E2H-450 press. With the tonnage, bed size and speed capabilities of its Minster presses, Wico sports some of the most

advanced progressive and transfer stamping capabilities in the United States.

Operating the facility efficiently and with minimal overhead is key to Wico being able to provide its customers with competitively priced parts. The efficiency is accomplished with large motorized die carts between the presses and fully integrated Minster coil lines for each press.



"The Minster coil lines not only provide the quality we're looking for, but also integration we need to be efficient," said Wico CEO Elmer Kretsch. "A single source provider for the entire system means the control that operates the press, also talks to each piece of equipment on the coil line, allowing us to pre-stage material and set-



Minster E2H-450 Press at Wico Metal Works.

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up jobs easily and efficiently without a lot of personnel and training."

Kretsch said another cost saver is the reliability of the Minster presses.

"The presses just run and run and run," he added. "We simply do not need to employ a large number of maintenance people for our

presses. We don't need them. And as long as our equipment is running, we're able to react to the ever-changing needs of our customers and respond in a timely fashion that adds value to our products and services."

"It's the same way Minster responds to our needs," said Madison Bunch, Vice



Integrated Minster coil line increases production on E4H-1650 press.

President of Manufacturing. "All of our Minster presses are backed up with great service. If there is ever a problem, Minster is right there. From parts to technical service, Minster is dedicated to making sure we are satisfied."

Wico's two E4H-1650 presses were installed in 2006, and feature an innovative four-point press design allowing for greater accuracy and speed. Minster E4H presses utilize link driven eccentrics which provide greater

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accuracy than typical eccentric gear four-point presses. In addition to the ability to stamp high tensile materials, a patented hydraulic clutch and brake unit for faster stopping, and a quicklift lift mechanism put the Minster E4H in a class of its own.

In a highly competitive market, the wide bed sizes and extreme accuracy of the E4H presses allow Wico to develop large multiple-out dies to further increase production and efficiency.

“The four point presses with the wider beds allow us to utilize wide coil stock,” Plant Manager Dennis Vennard said. “We have been able to develop some two-out tooling that doubles our production, keeps our costs down, and helps our customers. And even with the

large tooling, the part quality and die life we are getting on the E4H presses has been outstanding.”

In addition to innovative engineering capabilities, Wico Metal Products offers complete manufacturing packages, including welding and assembly. For additional information, contact Wico at [info@wicometal.com](mailto:info@wicometal.com) (586-755-9600) or visit Wico online at [www.wicometal.com](http://www.wicometal.com).



*Minster E2-1200-240 Press at Wico Metal Works.*



*A large motorized die cart between two Minster E4H 1650 presses assists in tool changes at Wico Metal Products.*