• Developing Nimble Techniques in the Wire Harness Manufacturing Process

• Inline Wire and Cable Identification

- Roots and Routes: The evolution of leaders
- Wire Wisdom Electronic Cable Capacitance
- Surplus and Used Machinery, Parts, and Employment Opportunities



Ag Leader Technology

Boosting the Efficiency and Profitability of Crop Production

By Fred Noer

eople at Ag Leader Technology are thinking big these days.

How big? The company in Ames, Iowa, has a goal of cutting cable harness production time from five days to three days, a 40-percent improvement. Another daunting number is a reduction in defects from one percent

to a half percent, a 50-percent gain.

Ag Leader Technology (ALT) designs, engineers and manufactures software, equipment, and components that enable farmers to extract maximum production potential from a field. They factor in such field characteristics as soil condition, tillage method, seed variety and water drainage.

By knowing exact field parameters, farmers use ALT products in four distinct

Developing Nimble Techniques in the Wire Harness Manufacturing Process

n the early 2000's, millennial fears subsided, and manufacturers were no longer required to include Y2K compliancy certificates. The focus turned back to process improvement and Lean Manufacturing. Elimination of waste was paramount through all facets of production; and the concept of pulling, rather than pushing product through the production process; became the key. Fast forward to today and Lean Manufacturing is the starting point. It seems the new competitive challenge, especially for the small to mid-level harness manufacturer, is speed and agility. Price and quality are no longer the goal; they are the price of admission. Savvy manufacturers must cleverly adapt their entire organizations to accommodate quick changeover through the production process. Careful attention must be made to maintain Lean theory while minimizing the complexity of production in order to accommodate a wider breadth of products. Flexibility is now the key. This article offers a brief history of manufacturing theory, reviews Lean theory, and explores the essentials of speed and

agility for the wire harness manufacturer. It will then outline ways one equipment manufacturer has enhanced the capabilities of their equipment to facilitate this theory. Finally, the efforts of a small harness manufacturer successfully implementing nimble manufacturing techniques will be reviewed.

Frederick Taylor is considered the father of Scientific Management and efficiency studies. Using time and motion studies, Taylor applied the scientific method to the manufacturing process with the goal of optimizing tasks and simplifying jobs. Inspired by Taylor, Henry Ford studied various industries and identified four principles to increase efficiency for mass production. By using interchangeable parts, continuous flow, division of labor, and reducing wasteful efforts, Ford initiated the first assembly line in 1913.

In the Early 1920's Deming and Shewhart introduced Statistical Process Control. Previously, quality was achieved through post-manufacturing inspection. With SPC, statistical tools were used to

__Continued on page 27



The production area has long troughs for taping and corrugating.

ways: planning; planting; applying fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides and pesticides; and harvesting.

The overall concept is known as precision agriculture. It is focused on boosting the efficiency and profitability of crop production by relying heavily on electronic technology.

Among ALT products are harvest yield monitors, planting controllers, crop sensors and applicators of liquid and granular chemicals for fertilizing and/or preventing insects, weeds and fungi. Devices for mapping fields, automatically steering tractors and com-

bines, using global positioning systems and collecting details about crop scouting and soil sampling also are made by

Much of the equipment is mounted on tractors, harvesters and applicators. However, gathering and analyzing the information is possible on desktop and laptop computers as well as mobile devices.

The company makes all its own wiring harnesses and cable assemblies, more than 1,600 different types. In turn,

_Continued on page 38

Call for Technical Seminar Speakers at 11th Annual Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo

Presenters and technical seminars are being sought for the 11th Annual Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo held in May 2011. Expo Productions Inc. (EPI), the producer of the Expo, is looking for speakers with technical expertise in the fields of wire harnessing, wire & cable processing and related industries

The 11th annual Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo will be held Wednesday, May 18 & Thursday, May 19 at the Frontier Airlines Center in Milwaukee ,WI .The show features a dedicated seminar area for the presentations. Seminars are free with paid admission to the show. To ensure seminar attendees receive superior information, the conference advisory board is petitioning a number of key presentations from industry leaders as well.

The annual post-show survey of attendees shows that more than two-thirds of Expo attendees rate the technical semi-

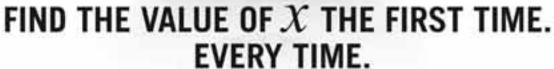
resenters and technical seminars are being sought for the 11th Annual Electrical Wire Profechnology Expo held in May no Productions Inc. (EPD) the market

> Prospective seminar speakers should send an abstract of their topic and an outline to Cheryl Luck, seminar coordinator of the Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo.

> Submissions must be submitted by December 31 to Expo Productions, Inc., 510 Hartbrook Dr., Hartland, WI 53029, faxed to 262-367-9956 or emailed to cheryl@epishow.com. (The presentation content must be technical rather than commercial in nature. General company information and advertising is not acceptable.)

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Developing Nimble Techniques in the **Wire Harness Manufacturing Process**

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Roots and Routes

All leaders have roots, and the same is true with company leaders.

News Plugs

Read about the latest prroducts on the market and points of interest about companies and people in the industry.

Inline Wire and Cable Identification

Pete Doyon of Schleuniger, Inc., discusses inline wire and cable identification, describing what type of information is typically identified on wire and cables, concepts for improved productivity, what types of systems are available and the pros and cons of each.

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Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and a great New Year!

Marilyn & Kathy



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Wiring Harness Contact Information:

Marilyn Magowan - Managing Editor Phone 262-394-5558 • Fax 877-275-5916 marilynmagowan@yaboo.com

Kathy Freund - Advertising/Circulation Manager *Phone 815-337-7885* • *Fax 888-709-8179* kfreund2000@yahoo.com

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MANAGING EDITOR

Marilyn Magowan marilynmagowan@yahoo.com

ADVERTISING/CIRCULATION **MANAGER**

Kathy Freund kfreund2000@yahoo.com

INTERNET

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Roots and Routes: The evolution of leaders

Il leaders have roots, and the same is true with company leaders. They came from somewhere and advanced through the organization before they were eventually given the opportunity to lead. Their roots, and the route they took, have a big impact on their leadership style.

From my observation, most company leaders started in one of three areas in the company: engineering, accounting or marketing. These are their "roots." Often, though, they start in one area and migrate to another before ascending to the top spot. This is their "route."

In my own career as a company leader, I have closely followed the career path of many role models, trying to learn good leadership habits and hoping to avoid bad ones. As I have written before, I believe the essential role of the leader pertains to two fundamental things: the vision and the values of the company. Recently, however, I have noted a certain pattern — an alignment so to speak — in the leaders I have considered as my "good" role models and in the types of companies they lead. Their roots, and their routes, line up well with their company types.

The leaders in growth-focused companies tend to come through marketing; leaders of startup or technology compa-



Paul Hogendoorn, President OES, Inc.

nies come from engineering; and leaders of bottom line focused companies usually come from accounting. This is not always the case, but it is the prevailing one in the successful companies that I have followed as models over my career.

Startup companies are usually founded by someone who believes they have a better idea about a product, or how to make a product. That company's first leader is usually the person with the ini-

_Continued on page 6





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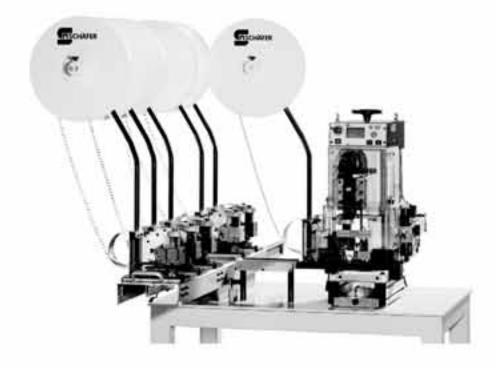












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Roots and Routes: The evolution of leaders

Continued from page 4

tial idea, and their roots are usually in engineering or technology development. After the startup company experiences some initial successes validating its technology or product offering, it starts to aim at loftier company growth goals. When this happens, the leadership needs to transition from someone with a focus on engineering to someone with a focus on marketing. In many cases, the leader makes the transition to a marketing focus by delegating the engineering and technology development to someone else in the growing organization.

Bottom line focused companies – those operating in mature marketplaces, where top line growth is not as important as profitability and sustainability – are most often led by someone with accounting roots. When head office is looking for a responsible person to oversee their operations, they are usually looking for a person that sees things the way they see them and can report to them in their terms.

When a successful family owned business transitions from the founding generation to the next, its leadership often transitions from engineering roots to accounting roots at the same time. This is because the second generation is

frequently groomed to take over the business by getting a "better business education" than the founding generation believed they had (which was learning the basics the hard way). This can inadvertently change the focus from growth (marketing) or development (engineering) to simply maintaining or growing the bottom line.

Growth-focused companies need solid leadership and skills in the accounting and engineering departments, but they have to be deployed effectively and intentionally in the pursuit of the overall goal — growth. The accounting and engineering leadership can be delegated to capable people, but the person in the ultimate leadership position has to keep his or her focus on growth, and that requires marketing.

Marketing is more than brand or brochures, advertising or websites. It means knowing your current and future market opportunities, and your key differentiating advantages, and then building your company in that pursuit. It also means knowing how your company is perceived in the marketplace, and how you want to be perceived, and then working to close the gap. Every part of the company that touches either the product or the customer involves marketing. It is nearly impossible to grow a



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E-mail: Info@shinmaywaamerica.com HP: http://www.shinmaywa.co.jp/english/index.htm company without that innate understanding, which is why the leader's "route" to the top should have gone through marketing.

This is not to say that leaders don't evolve as they grow, or can't change their roles along the way. Two of my best role models were engineers when they started their businesses, but their passion for designing the business grew to eclipse their passion for designing the product, and they migrated into marketing, delegating the engineering to others. One of my role models started out as a successful accountant, but then after

discovering he had a true entrepreneur's heart, he purchased and built two successful businesses by focusing on the marketing, delegating the accounting to others.

When you look at a leader you admire, be sure to look at their "roots" and their "routes," too. There is much to be learned from where they started, and how they got there.

Paul Hogendoorn is president of OES, Inc. (www.OEStechnologies.com) and can be reached at phogendoorn@ oes-inc.com.

NEWS PLUGS

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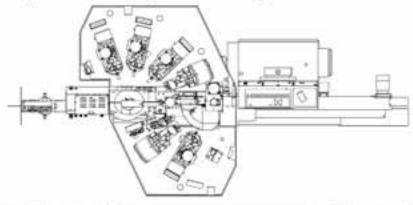
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Waytek's new Low Voltage Disconnect Switch (LVD) is a solid state electronic module that protects batteries from excessive draw, by limiting the drain due to auxiliary loads. The unit automatically disconnects loads that are powered when the ignition key is off, before the battery is discharged low enough to prevent a vehicle start. Ideal power management solution in off-highway equipment, military equipment, and the transportation industry.

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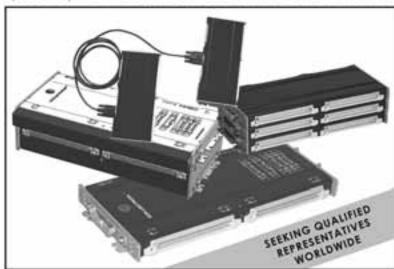
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Inline Wire and Cable Identification

By Pete Doyon, VP of Product Management Schleuniger Inc.

any OEM's require that individual wires and cables used in their products be clearly identified with a mark or label. For some, such as in the military and aerospace markets, wire and cable identification (or "wire ID") is mandatory and the process is governed by stringent specifications, such as SAE AS50881 (formerly MIL5088L). For others, the decision to use wire ID is a voluntary one.

Wires and cables can be identified as part of an "inline" process while they are being cut to length and stripped on automatic equipment. Alternatively, wire ID can be applied using a secondary manual or semi-automatic process. The scope of this article is limited to inline wire ID. This article will describe what type of information is typically identified on wire and cables, concepts for improved productivity, what types of systems are available and the pros and cons of each.

Why Wire ID is Used

Wire ID is used to identify individual wires during the life of a product, from

initial product assembly and testing to servicing the product years down the road. Key identification requirements are legibility, permanence and abrasion resistance. In order to meet those requirements, the identification method used must be well suited for the environment where the product will be utilized.



Typical Wire ID Uses
Termination ID's

The most common type of wire ID is the Termination ID. The Termination ID clearly identifies where a wire or cable is terminated on a terminal strip, mating connector, etc. The Termination ID prevents any miswiring during wiring harness assembly, product assembly and testing as well as when the product is serviced.

_Continued on page 10



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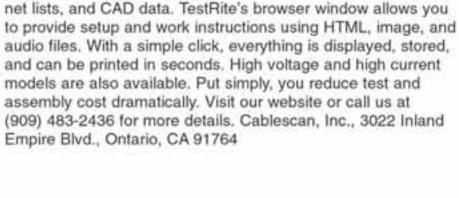
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Inline Wire and Cable Identification

Continued from page 8

Traceability

Many industries require traceability of product components and sub-assemblies. Company logos, serial numbers and date codes can be directly marked or labeled on each wire or cable to aid in traceability. This is especially common for more expensive assemblies which have undergone electrical performance or other testing. If there are any field failures or warranty claims, the unique code makes it possible to trace a particular assembly back to the original test report.



Bar Coding

Several of the wire ID methods allow barcodes to be printed directly on wire or cable or on labels that are applied to them. There is a practical limitation when using barcodes on wires or cables under 0.100", since the barcode scanner

may not be able to read the barcode. Samples should always be run to verify each application.



Logos

Some companies like to differentiate their cable assemblies by marking or labeling their logo, brand name or other unique identifying mark on them. Most of the wire ID methods (except hotstamp) offer this capability.

Wire ID Concepts for Improved Productivity

Lean Manufacturing of Wiring Harnesses

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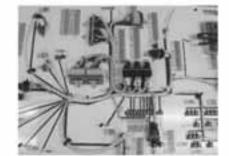


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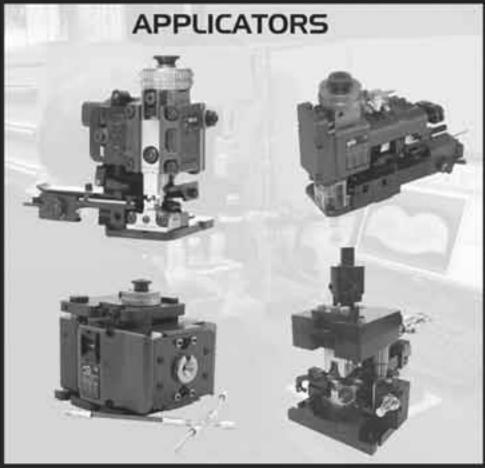






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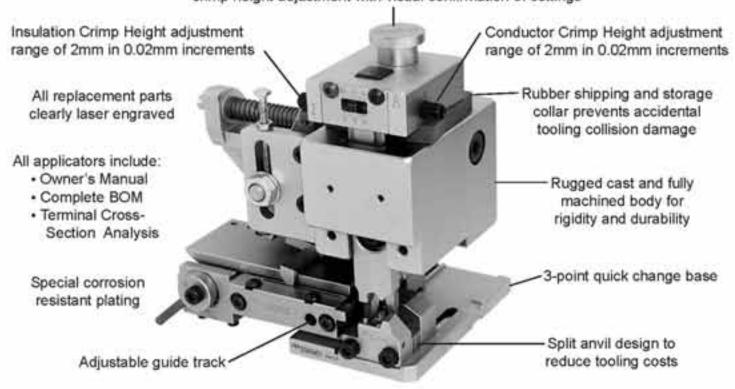




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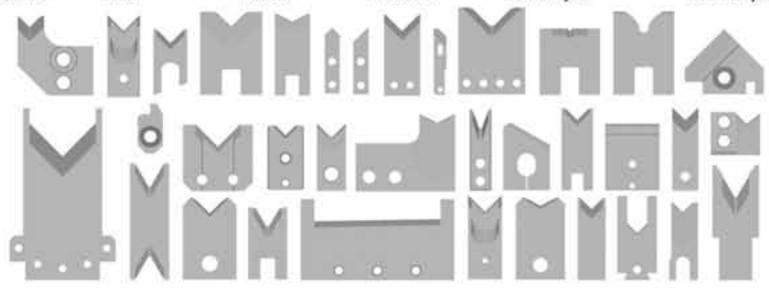


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Mechtrix has designed a number of unique machines to solve specific wire processing problems. These machines range in complexity from our patented center stripping machines to terminal paper winding machines. These machines include:

- Wire Prefeeding Equipment
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- Terminal Paper Winding Machines Terminal Applicators & Crimping Presses







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Continued from page 10

machines can produce all of the wires necessary to build one complete wiring harness. All of the wires are typically collected in a tray or wire stacker. Without wire ID, it would be difficult to identify the individual wires and where they go. By marking or labeling the termination ID's on each wire, an operator can quickly identify the "from" and "to" points when routing the wires on the harness board. If there are no identifying marks or labels, the operator must first determine which wire is which (by overall length, color, strip length, terminals, etc.) and then look at a schematic or other cross reference list to determine where each end goes. Having the termination ID's on each wire or cable end is like having routing instructions right at your fingertips.

Single Wire Color vs. Many Different Colors

In high mix, low volume applications, the key to success is to reduce tooling changeover time to the absolute minimum. In wire processing applications, each wire color change can take from one to several minutes. By reducing the number of wire colors from 10 to 1, changeover frequency and therefore

labor can be reduced by 90%. If permitted, using labeled white wire instead of many different colors can yield exceptional savings. Some applications are governed by specifications and codes which specify that specific different wire colors must be used. One example is ground wiring in electrical equipment must be green or green with a yellow stripe. Many other applications and circuits allow any wire color to be used. If permitted by the product manufacturer and any applicable specs, there are many benefits that can be had by using one wire color wire to replace many.

Some of the benefits include:

- Reduced changeover frequency saves labor costs
- Purchasing wire in bulk (larger reels or wire barrels) at a lower unit cost
 - Reduced wire inventory cost
- All wires can be marked using one inkjet ink or hotstamp foil color
- Larger reels or barrels impart less "memory" on the wire, resulting in more consistent wire processing

If the wiring harness for a given product was originally designed with many

_Continued on page 14

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Inline Wire and Cable Identification Continued from page 13



different colors, an alternative is to use white wire exclusively and print the name of the color it replaces on the wire. For example, the word "RED" could be printed every 3" along a white wire instead of using a red wire. In addition, the circuit number could be printed on the wire as well to distinguish it from other white wires that have the "RED" designation. Using a single wire color (or just a few) with an integrated inline wire ID system saves time and money, especially in high mix, low volume applications.

End Marking vs. Continuous Marking

End marking is typically used for termination ID's, as mentioned earlier in this article. Continuous marking can be used in addition to end marking to provide more information at preset intervals along each wire or cable assembly. Typical nomenclature includes the wire part number or circuit number and it is repeated every 3 to 6 inches or more along the wire. This makes it possible to identify individual wires anywhere along their length when servicing them. If a particular mark is difficult to read, another mark is located just a few inches away.

Marking on-the-fly

Like laser marking, inkjet marking is done on-the-fly, i.e.; while the wire is moving. The benefit is that the wire doesn't have to stop during the marking process, therefore the production rate of the wire processing machine is not

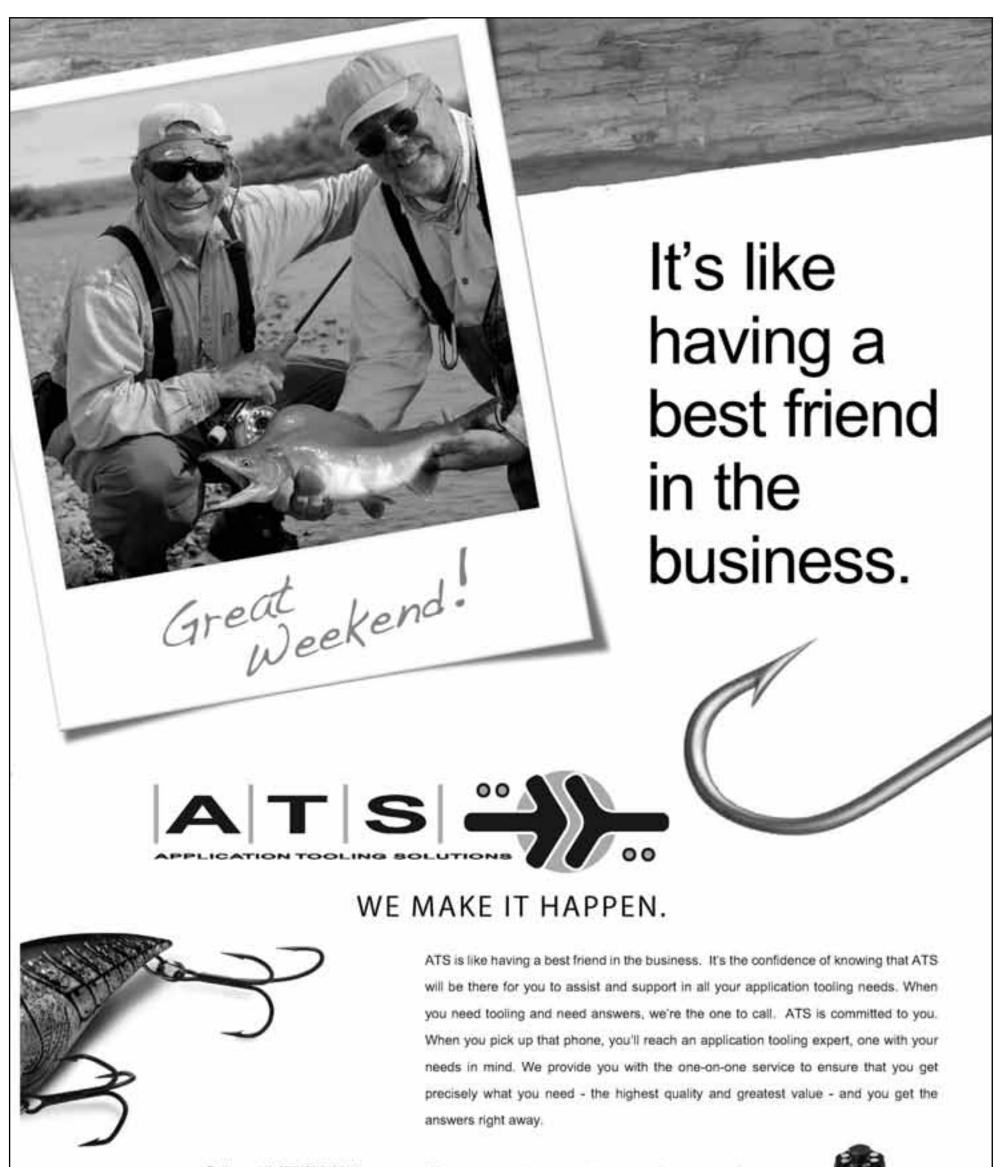
greatly reduced. Continuous marking is best suited for inkjet or other marking methods that can be done "on-the-fly". For labeling, hotstamp and direct thermal transfer marking, the wire must be stopped, therefore these methods are best limited to end marking applications

Wire List Management Software

To realize the maximum benefits that inline wire ID has to offer, some type of Wire List Management Software (WLMS) is required to control the wire processing system and the inline Wire ID system. The WLMS is used to keep track of the processing parameters for every wire that will be produced. Typical parameters include wire type and size, overall wire length, strip lengths, marker text and marking positions. The WLMS synchronizes the functions of the wire processing machine and the wire marker, including automatic text changes (depending on the wire ID method used). All of the wires for a particular wiring harness may be produced in sequence without any operator intervention. Since all functions are synchronized, there is no waste wire when the system changes over from one wire to the next in the wire list. The wire list can be sorted by wire size/type/color. In this way, the only time the system has to stop processing is for the operator to change the wire size, type or color.

Continued on page 16





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Inline Wire and Cable Identification

Continued from page 14

Wire Identification Methods

Hotstamp

Hotstamp marking is one of the oldest wire identification methods. On the positive side, it's one of the lowest cost marking methods and the marks are quite legible and permanent. Other than laser marking, it's one of the few marking methods that can produce a permanent mark on Teflon insulations. It's also easy to change the color of the marking foil, making it possible to print on every insulation color.



On the negative side, the wire must be stationary while the hotstamp process takes place (approximately 1 sec cycle time), thus lowering the production throughput. Changing the marker text is a manual process on most systems, which means that hotstamp marking is not a good candidate for low volume, high mix production. Improper settings (temperature, pressure and dwell time) can cause damage to the wire insulation. Some specifications require that a spark tester be used after the hotstamp marker to verify the insulation integrity.

Labeling

New labeling machines offer print and apply technology, making it possible to use them with inline wire processing systems. They offer high resolution (300+ dpi) print resolution and multiline text capability. Like hotstamp, the wire must be stationary during the labeling process (4 - 5 sec cycle time), which also lowers the production rate. In general, the cost for the labels is higher than for other wire identification methods. On the other hand, the ability to print logos, multiple lines of text, barcodes, etc. in a self laminating package may justify the higher applied cost. Applying labels as part of an inline wire processing operation is much less labor intensive than printing labels and then applying them manually in a secondary oper-

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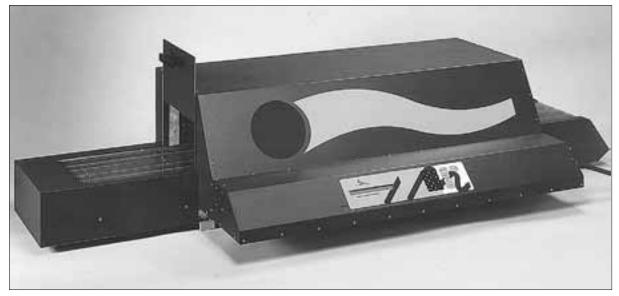
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NEWS PLUGS continued



A.E. Petsche Co. Recognized by Cessna for Outstanding **Performance**

A.E. Petsche Co., Inc. has received Cessna Aircraft Company's "STARS" Supplier Excellence Award for the sixth consecutive year. Each year, Cessna, a Textron company, recognizes suppliers for adherence to the STARS 2000 vendor performance criteria including quality, delivery and cost control. Less than 1 percent of Cessna's suppliers have received the STARS award more than three years in a row.

"We are once again honored to receive the Cessna STARS award. We are proud of our long-term relationship and look forward to supporting

Cessna's needs in the years to come," said Glenn Davidson, president of A.E. Petsche Co.

A long time supplier to Cessna, A.E. Petsche Co. provides a wide range of interconnect products and services that allow Cessna to minimize on-hand inventory, and provide the assurance of on-time delivery of product. A.E. Petsche Company is a global supplier of high-performance military/ aerospace interconnect products and services. For additional information on A.E. Petsche Co., visit www.aepetsche.com.

Sharpening Industry's Edge on Tin Whiskers

The microscopic crystalline structures known as tin whiskers will be the focus of an IPC technical conference and workshops, December 6–7, 2010, in Schaumburg, III. IPC Tin Whiskers Conference: Practical Perspectives convene industry experts from all market sectors to present the latest research and practical methodologies to mitigate the risk of tin whiskers. Presentations will provide realworld examples to illustrate causes of growth, risk mitigation, implications of material selection methods for detection and failure analy-

The technical conference will kick off on December 7 with a keynote presentation, "Practical Perspectives on Tin Whiskers," by Dave Hillman, principal materials and process engineer at Rockwell Collins. Other presentations will explore: controlling the copper substrate roughness and controlling the tin deposit crystal structure; long term investigation of conformal coating; susceptibility testing; evaluations of nanotechnology-based

component surface finishes; pressure-induced growth in press-in connections of PCB

through-holes; reliability issues from a military perspective; and forensics, using automotive case studies.

Technical conference speakers include representatives from ACI Technologies; Benchmark Electronics; Boeing Satellite Systems; CALCE; Continental Automotive GmbH; Delphi Electronics and Safety; EMC Corporation; MacDermid; NASA Goddard Space Center; SAIC; Sundew Technologies; the University of Massachusetts Lowell; and Uyemura International Corporation.

Prior to the technical conference, two half-day workshops will take place on December 6. DfR Solutions CEO Craig Hillman, Ph.D., will provide an understanding of fundamental drivers of tin whisker growth in a morning workshop. He will discuss the roles that material diffusion, stress gradients, oxide formation and various plating elements play in tin whisker formation, and how elements of the environment, including temperature, humidity, vibration, mechanical shock, corrosion, pressure and bending impact the drivers. Dr. Hillman will also explain the risks and benefits of implementing existing tin whisker prediction algorithms into design decisions and reliability forecasts. The afternoon workshop, "Controlling Tin Whisker Risk: Implementation of Appropriate Mitigations," will be led by David Pinsky. A principal engineer at Raytheon Company, Pinsky will cover the practical aspects of managing tin whisker risks within the context of high-reliability systems. He will share proven techniques for integrating various approaches into a successful program of risk mitigation and discuss the trade-offs inherent in implementing these techniques.

For more information or to register, visit www.ipc.org/tin-whiskers-conference.

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NEWS PLUGS continued



L-com, Inc, a global leader in the manufacture of wired and wireless connectiv-

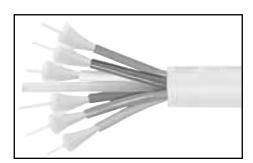
ity products, now carries Bend Insensitive (BI) bulk fiber optic cable and cable assemblies, a unique cable type that solves one of the biggest drawbacks of fiber-bend sensitivity.

Standard fiber cable does not perform well when it is bent at sharp angles or flexed frequently. L-com's BI fiber cable is ideal for data centers or any environment where cable is subjected to long-term

bending and flexing because it avoids performance issues.

"Fiber optic technology offers blinding speed and pure data durability," said Steve Smith, L-com's Product Manager in charge of fiber optics,

"but until now its physical limitations kept it from being used in high-flex applications. Now, customers can find a quality, professionally made and tested fiber



Bend Insensitive (BI) Bulk **Fiber Optic Cable**

cable that will last for bend after bend."

L-com's BI cables come off-the-shelf as singlemode simplex and duplex with LC connectors, and bulk cable as simplex, duplex, and 6or 12-count breakout, but Lcom can custom manufacture fiber cables quickly and in multiple formulations per customer requirements.

For further information visit http://www.L-com.com

Laird Technologies Releases New Tflex™ **XS400 Series Thermal Gap Filler**

Laird Technologies, Inc., a global leader in the design and supply of customized performance-critical components and systems for advanced electronics and wireless products, has announced the release of its new Tflex™ XS400 Series thermal gap filler.

The Tflex™ XS400 Series is the latest thermal pad in the Tflex™ thermal gap filler line, offering a compliant elastomer gap filler specifically designed to provide moderate thermal performance with a thermal conductivity of 2.0 W/mK. This soft interface pad conforms with minimal pressure, resulting in minimal thermal resistance even at low pressure with little or no stress on mating parts.

Available in thicknesses from 0.020 inch (0.50 mm) through 0.200 inch (5.0 mm) in 0.010 inch increments, the Tflex™ XS400 thermal material is naturally tacky for easy assembly and no adhesive coating is required. Due to its TG (Tgard™) liner on the other side, it is electrically insulating, stable from -40°C to 160°C, and is certified to UL 94V0 flammability rating; complying with the limits of RoHS Directive 2002/95/EC and its subsequent amendments.

"The Tflex™ XS400 gap filler is an easy-to-handle thermal pad that possesses low outgassing properties," said Jane Bell, Laird Technologies Thermal Interface

L-com Solves Bend Sensitivity in Fiber **Bulk Cable and Cable Assemblies**



Solutions for seal processing

You do have choices

When it comes to fully automatic seal applicators, you have a few to choose from. Your choices have just grown as Schaefer GmbH has introduced a new seal module or SSM for fully automatic wire process machines.



Schaefer Seal Module SSM with SSK.

Your benefits

One of the many benefits of the SSM is it will work with seal kits that you may already own. The seal size range for the standard track in the Schaefer unit is the widest in the industry. Its narrow construction saves space on your machine table, allowing for a wider variety of other modules. The SSM is designed to achieve maximum process speeds while minimizing space requirements.

Schaefer Seal Kit SSK

Wide range is standard

The new SSM unit can handle seals in a wider range of sizes and shapes. It is user friendly and will process seals with diameters up to 10 mm and 9 mm in length in its standard configuration. This includes many hard shell seal applications. Optional settings are available for large seals with diameters up to 17 mm and 16 mm lengths. The SSM has many other cost savings options available

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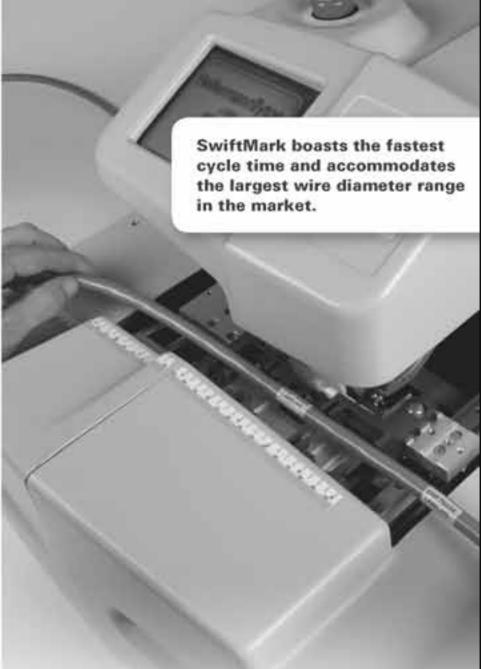
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Materials Product Manager. "It is an excellent choice for telecom, IT, consumer, automotive, LED, and power supply applications which require a gap pad between heat generating components and heatsinks, and provides electrical isolation with the ability to absorb high tolerance stack-up."

Laird Technologies provides the knowledge, innovation, resources to ensure exceptional thermal performance and customer satisfaction for applications in the med-

NEWS PLUGS continued ical, analytical, telecom, industrial, and consumer markets. For more information, please logon to www.lairdtech.com.

Alpha Wire Introduces Rugged **Sleeving Line Extension**

Alpha Wire has announced a line extension of its FIT Sleeving product family. The new offering is comprised of rugged sleeving products that are designed for applications that demand superior abrasion resistance, high operating temperatures, and/or resistance to oils, solvents, and chemicals.

Available in a varied assortment of wrappable, expandable, and nonexpandable configurations, the new FIT rugged sleeving is ideal for military, industrial, and other potentially hazardous applications.



Rugged FIT Wire Management Sleeving

"The new FIT rugged sleeving products allow us to expand and already considerable offering of wire management products," said Konstantin Khitrik, Product Manager at Alpha Wire. "With accessories ranging from heat-shrink, rigid, and flexible tubing to lacing cords and EMI shielding tape, Alpha Wire has an unparalleled range of wire management accessories."

The new FIT rugged sleeving products are available in the following configurations:

Flexible, Semirigid Wrappable Sleeving: 10-mil PET braid, more flexible than spiral wrap or split convoluted tubing, available with an installation tool for fast and easy wrap-around installation. Flame resistant and flame retardant constructions available.

Advanced Performance Expandable Sleeving: 20nylon polyamide monofilament for extreme abrasion resistance without losing flexibility or durability. Expandable to 150% and resists fuels, solvents, salt water, chemicals, and UV

Advanced Chemical Resistance Expandable Sleeving: 8-mil polyphenylene sulfide (PPS) monofilaments for advanced acid, base, solvent, and fuel resistance. Ultra-lightweight with high abrasion resistance, expandable to 150%, and flame resistant.

Maximum Performance Expandable Sleeving: Flat 20-mil nylon filaments for superior coverage and abrasion resistance. Resists fuels, solvents, chemicals, salt water, and UV rays; smooth inner wall prevents internal abrasion damage.

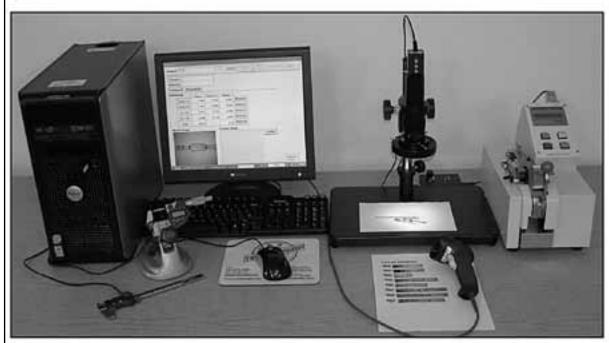
Extreme Performance Sleeving: 16-mil PTFE filaments resists virtually all chemicals and UV rays. Features a wide temperature range of -70°C to +280°C, thermally stable with low outgassing, and suitable for plenum use.

Abrasion-Resistant Non-Expandable Nylon Sleeving: 45-mil tightly woven thick nylon for excellent abrasion resistance. Deflects highpressure hose ruptures and resists fuels, chemicals, UV rays, rot, and vermin.

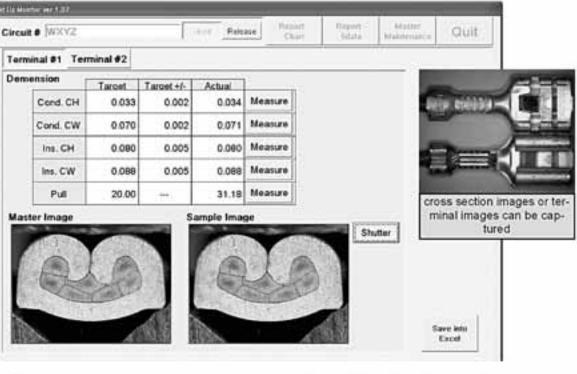
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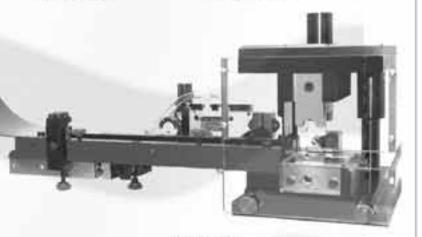




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NEWS PLUGS continued



Weidmuller Terminal Blocks Pass Insulation Testing for Photovoltaic Applications

Weidmuller has announced the completion of specialized insulation testing on their terminals blocks, geared specifically for solar photovoltaic (PV) applications. This testing ensures that Weidmuller terminals can withstand a continuous voltage of 1000 VDC under all climatic con-

Specialized insulation testing is required for PV applications because



Weidmuller's Terminal Blocks at work in a PV application.

standard insulation tests performed on terminals do not detect low-energy (partial) discharges, which are common in PV applications. Partial

> discharges can slowly work through a terminal's insulation line, ultimately causing a defect. In addition, insulation lines react differently to partial discharge tests for DC voltage than to partial discharge tests for AC voltage. Since solar panels generate DC electricity, only terminal blocks that have passed a partial discharge test for DC voltage are suitable for safe use in photovoltaic systems.

> To maximize the power generated by a PV system, solar panels that convert solar energy to DC electricity are connected in series or in parallel to create solar arrays. Arrays are connected to a DC to AC converter (Solar Inverter) via a combiner box. The combined voltage from the arrays within a combiner box may be as high as 1000 VDC in global applications, or 600 VDC for NAFTA applications requiring UL certification. It is critical that terminal blocks used within a combiner box are able to safely and reliably withstand these voltages.

"Weidmuller is well positioned to serve the global photovoltaic industry", says Jim Cahaly, Director of Custom Engineered Solutions for Weidmuller. "Our engineers have developed a complete offering of high quality and innovative connectivity solutions for the entire DC pathway of a solar energy system, including connections in and between the solar panels, combiner box, and inverter."

For further information contact Weidmuller, 821 Southlake Blvd., Richmond, VA 23236. Phone (800) 849-9343 or Fax (804) 379-2593. Visit www.weidmuller.com.

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In every issue of Wiring Harness News Anixter will bring you informative articles about wire and cable technology.

Electronic Cable Capacitance

A high-performance communication cable requires a precise capacitance to ensure it performs to its stated specifications. Even though there are many characteristics that determine the performance of an electronic cable, a lower capacitance value is often a goal many cable designers try to achieve. System designers and users need to understand how a cable's capacitance can impact its performance and what manufacturers do to control it.

What is Capacitance?

Capacitance is a measure of a material's ability to store a charge between two conducting, current-carrying components. If a signal is transmitted along a twisted-pair or coaxial cable, the insulation becomes electrically charged. The charge is stored in the medium between the two conductors, which can be the insulation, air or other filler. All electronic cables (not wires) have two or more conductors and therefore have some capacitance. This is also true for a coaxi-

al cable that uses its shield as a conductor

The materials that constitute the cable generally dictate the cable's capacitance. The materials often have a specific characteristic that is identified by the manufacturer as the dielectric constant. If all things are equal, the lower a material's dielectric constant, the lower the capacitance.

The geometric size and spacing of the conductors is also a major influence on a cable's capacitance. Spacing is affected by the thickness of the insulation and other components sometimes found between conductors. The smaller the conductor and the larger the distance between them, the lower the capacitance. Figure 1 (page 24) identifies some of an electric cable's common components and the capacitance that is present between the conductive surfaces.

Impact of Capacitance on Cable Performance

Because cables are intended to carry electrical current from one point to another, low-capacitance is generally preferred. A low-capacitance cable is a poor energy-storage device. If the cable is a poor energy-storage device, then more energy is delivered to the intended destination and less energy is used charging and discharging the cable.

If low capacitance means less energy is used in the cable, why aren't all cables designed with the lowest capacitance possible? There are several reasons to accept or even design for higher capacitance. One reason is cost: materials that have lower dielectric constants are gen-

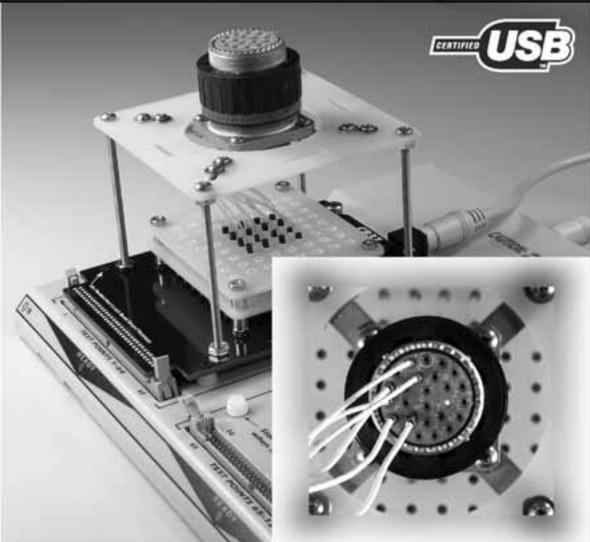
erally more expensive. Also, cable designs that use greater conductor spacing to reduce capacitance can grow large quite quickly. Finally, some cables are designed with higher capacitance because it is only one factor that affects a cable's impedance. When communication systems are designed for a specific impedance, such as a 100-ohm Ethernet cable, they will maintain maximum sig-

_Continued on page 24



Use this new, patented system to double your productivity* when assembling circular and rectangular connectors. The Light Director™ system uses light fibers driven by super-bright LED lamps to individually illuminate target cavities in the connector being assembled. When you enter the wire code printed on unconnected wires or touch a wire terminated at the other end, software turns on the appropriate fiber, thereby causing a bright, flashing light to project from inside the target cavity guiding you to the proper insertion point. Correct insertion is confirmed by the elimination of light from that location, whereas insertion into an incorrect cavity leaves the flashing light visible.

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2 - Target cavity begins to flash. Computer also reads pin number in natural voice.

3 - Insert and lock pin in place. Light blocked to confirm insertion.

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Continued from page 23

nal transfer if the impedance of the cable matches the rest of the system, even if the capacitance is higher than it might otherwise be.

Measuring Capacitance

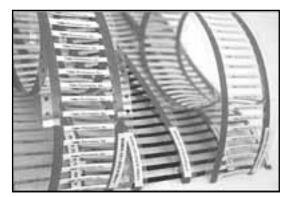
In North America, capacitance is usually expressed by the unit pF/ft. (pico-Farads per foot). As the unit implies, capacitance of a cable run increases as



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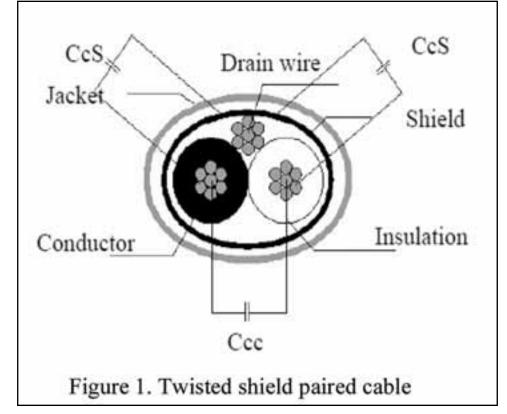
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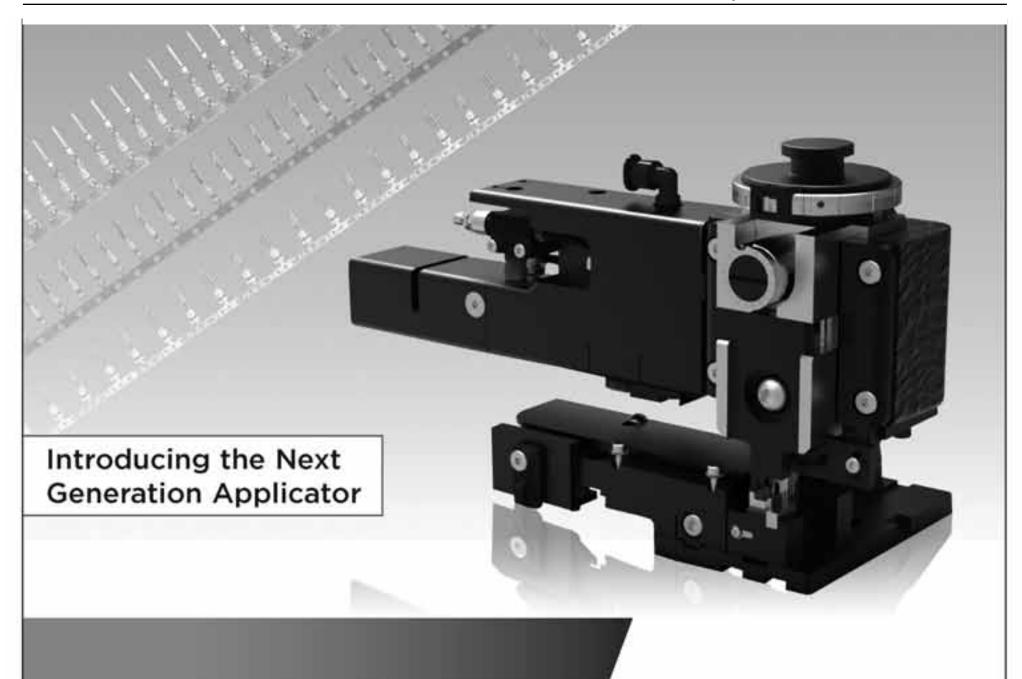
the run length increases. In fact, long run lengths can have such a high capacitance that it becomes the limiting factor of the system. This is important to remember when measuring the capacitance of a cable. If you are using a handheld capacitance meter, the length of the cable will need to be taken into account after measuring the cable capacitance.

Because digital signals are usually transmitted as square waves with sharp increases in voltage, the waveform is quite distinguishable by the receiver. This is one of the reasons digital communication is relatively noise immune. However, high capacitance can round

off the tops of the square waves through the aforementioned charging mechanism. If the square wave is affected too much, it can impact the successful transmission of the signal and cause communication errors.

Fortunately for many common systems, maximum capacitance values are specified by the equipment supplier. For systems that don't specify a maximum capacitance, selecting a cable with the capacitance necessary to ensure robust performance without being too costly or too large can be confusing. However, with this basic understanding of cable capacitance, you will be better prepared to select just the right product.





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Developing Nimble Techniques in the Wire Harness Manufacturing Process

Continued from page 1

observe the performance of the production process to highlight variations as they occurred. By quickly identifying quality problems, waste could be further eliminated.

At the end of WWII, American experts were sent to Japan to help with the rebuilding efforts. The Japanese built on the American principles, and began to develop the Kaizen method of continuous improvement. By doing little things better through teamwork, establishing quality circles, and promoting a

zeal for improvement; kaizen set increasingly higher standards. Through the years, Japanese manufacturers distinguished between innovation (single point discovery) and Kaizen (continuous discovery).

In the 1950's, two Toyota engineers, Taiichi Ohno and Shigeo Shingo began to develop the Toyota Production System. Unlike Ford who concentrated on producing millions of cars, TPS was a series of production processes developed to produce small batches, where and when they were needed (just-in-time). The goal was to eliminate waste, improve quality, and promote evenness in the production flow.

Kaizen was officially introduced to the West by Masaaki Imai in his 1986 book Kaizen: The Key to Japan's Competitive Success. Not long after, in 1988, the term Lean Manufacturing was used in an article by John Krafcik, quality engineer at the Toyota-GM joint venture in CA; and then in the international best-selling book, co-authored by Jim Womack and Daniel Jones, called The Machine That Changed the World: The story of Lean Production.

For the purpose of discussion, TPS and Lean are very similar. Both consider expenditure of resources for any goal other than the creation of value for the customer to be wasteful, and thus a target for elimination. By steadily removing waste and improving work flow, quality issues are identified and lead times are improved. The basic difference is that Lean is a somewhat west-

ernized version that concentrates on various tools to reach the goal. Among these are Kiazen events, Value Stream Mapping, and Six Sigma. TPS uses many of the same tools, but is a more holistic way of thinking.

While TPS and Lean are essential in meeting the cost and quality objectives in today's competitive marketplace, they tend to orient towards manufacturing a high volume/low product mix. For the small to mid-level harness manufacturer, there is an added need to address agility. Speed and flexibility become para-

mount to success. Companies must leverage technology in order to provide easy setups, quick changeovers, and equipment integration. In a world of standard products, harness manufacturers can differentiate themselves by providing customized options. They must pay even more attention to develop a responsive supply chain to optimize performance. Equipment suppliers must specify the technology to muscle up existing equipment in order for the quick changeover model to work.

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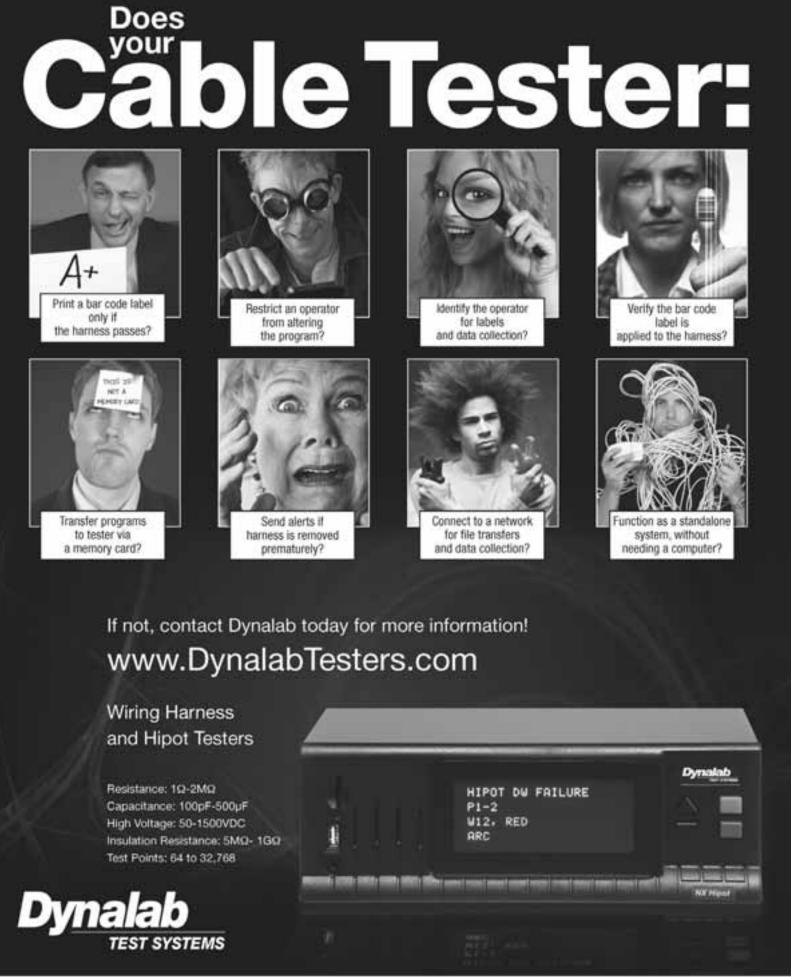
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Developing Nimble Techniques in the Wire Harness Manufacturing Process

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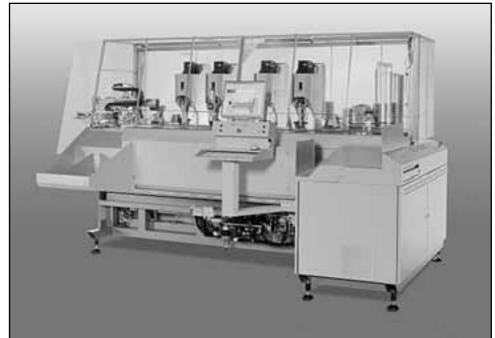
Quick Changeover Developments at Komax

Over the past several years, equipment suppliers have responded positively to this notion. Erich Moeri, Applications Engineering Manager at Komax Corporation, recently outlined several ways his company has used software enhancements to help harness manufacturers meet this competitive challenge. Integration with other equipment is crucial, Moeri suggests, and Komax has developed many interface upgrades. "We have actually changed our software to make it easier for our equipment to talk to, and receive feedback from other

(third party) equipment." Moeri then outlined the way Komax has buttressed software by enhancing the network interface. With an easier interface, Moeri explains, setups can be uploaded along with process integrated pull out force, crimp height, and other measurements gathered during production.

Physical upgrades also give Komax equipment a wider range. This is most evident, Moeri indicates, with the Zeta line of harness machines "where you can actually set up a number of crimping presses on one machine and the pro-

_Continued on page 32



Komax Zeta 633 Wire Processing System Block Loading Module.

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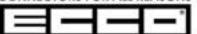
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> The covers for OCAL-BLUE Type 4X Form 8 conduit bodies offer additional features, such as an integral Oring seal on the cover that seals against the flat base. Another feature is the encapsulated stainless-steel cover screws that meet UL-listed Type 4X and NEMA 4X requirements with simple hand-tightening to 15 foot-pounds of torque; competitive products typically require 35 footpounds of torque. No tools or separate gaskets are needed.

"Double-coated OCAL-BLUE conduit bodies provide an added layer of corrosion protection in harsh environments found in water and wastewater treatment facilities, food and



OCAL-BLUE® Type **4X Form 8 Conduit Body**

beverage processing facilities, oil and gas refineries, and mining operations," said Mark Nowak, Thomas & Betts product manager for Ocal® products. "An added benefit is the ability to meet UL and NEMA Type 4X requirements by simply hand-tightening the cover screws."

OCAL-BLUE Type 4X Form 8 conduit bodies are made from cast iron and are available in sizes from onehalf inch to two inches. The PVC

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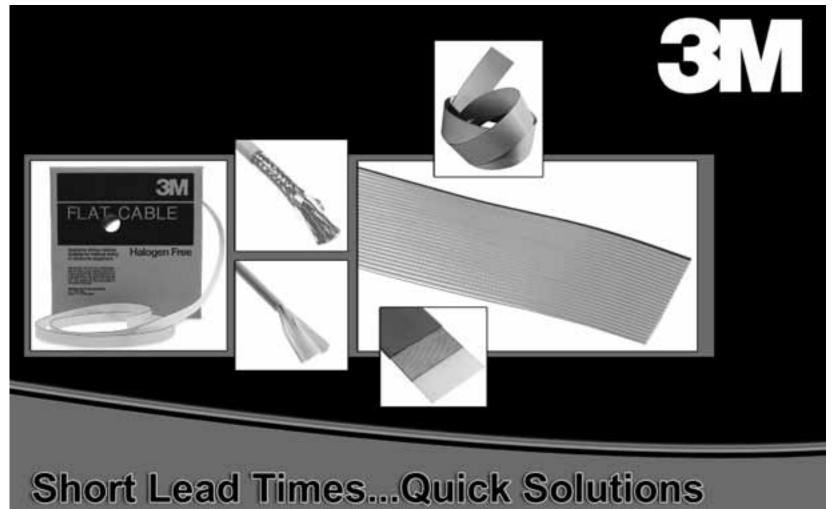
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Inkjet

Inkjet marking systems used for marking wire and cable are of the continuous inkjet (CIJ) type. Newer inkjet printers on the market are simpler, faster and more reliable than their predecessors. They feature automatic startup / shutdown cycles and much better process control. They use far less makeup solvent per unit time, resulting in less odor and improved air quality.

Inkjet marking can be used on most wire insulation types except PTFE/ Teflon. Permanence and abrasion resistance is excellent on most PVC type insu-



It's always best for customers to get their wire samples marked so they can determine if the results will meet their application requirements. Depending on the system hardware and software, additional features may be available to the user. The user can select the font size to match the wire size. The standard text format is horizontal orientation but it's possible to change it to vertical, also known as "tower" orientation. Special codes can be programmed to automatically print the time, date or a different serial number on each wire. This is very useful for production traceability. Bold, underline and italics font attributes are

Continued on page 34





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Developing Nimble Techniques in the Wire Harness Manufacturing Process

Continued from page 28 _____

gram takes over. "The system can select between 1 - 30 wires which are always on the machine" which greatly enhances flexibility on the shop floor, he added.

Moeri strongly asserts that while the concept of interface and quick changeover is important, it can't happen without inprocess quality monitoring. "You must have crimp force and other similar outputs from the machine to improve quality and traceability," Moeri reminded.

To capstone his company's

efforts to aid agility, Moeri stressed Komax's ability to run next-job setups concurrent with current production. Changeovers on Komax equipment have become quicker and more automated following machine stop, he noted. He finally reiterated Komax's commitment to providing tailor-made solutions for the tasks necessary to combine automation with flexibility.

In The Trenches With Wiring Looms Australia

The nimble approach to manufacturing was exemplified in a recent interview with Rob White, Managing Director of Wiring Looms Australia in Brisbane, Australia. Four years ago, after 17 years of ownership, White began to narrow his focus to low volume/high mix production. "We started with a Lean Manufacturing consultant, but only got so far," he said. White began to feel that not all the tenets of Lean fit what they were doing. It did, however, highlight the type of business they should be chasing. "We knew we couldn't compete with China making millions of harnesses," notes White, "but felt we could make it very hard for them to compete on low volume." White further explained his competitive strategy by noting that manufacturing in China or Taiwan requires a large cash outlay. "They have to commit to a large order, they have to buy six months worth, and they have to pay for it up front," Rob reminded. "When you add in the freight cost and the fact that we offer thirty day terms, it just makes more sense for some customers to deal with us." White has been able to sell the value of his model to customers in automotive aftermar-



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ment, service vehicle, RV, and other industries. "In some applications, we are actually finding we can get under Taiwan prices," White said. And there are other financial considerations for customers. WLA has one customer that was previously using a Taiwanese supplier. "They ran into an issue that if they had a very good month, they couldn't ramp up the Taiwanese production." The desire to forgo that opportunity cost led the customer to shift significant orders to WLA.

It was not easy getting where they are today, White cautioned,

"and we still have a long way to go." The most difficult thing, he indicated, was getting the staff to think differently. "We want them to design the way we do set ups, instead of relying on a supervisor." He contends this empowerment helps his company develop more streamlined processes. "We have a motto around here: nothings a monument," added White. "When they take the initiative to move something to improve flow or flexibility we say 'good on ya', and encourage more!"

Rob White agrees that equipment manufacturers have come a long way, but insists WLA still has to make changes to incoming equipment to facilitate quick changeovers. White contended that small things make a big difference when he discussed a recent issue with a spool on a pre-feeder. "Usually there is a nut that holds the spool in place, but our guys developed a quick release where the spools can come off in seconds." They are also using a prefeeder with no accumula tor. White explained that "wrapping wires around pulley after pulley takes a lot of time. "We've actually got a light sensor that reads the cables slackness, so there is no need to run the accumulator." WLA has also adapted feeder pulleys with an air lift instead of the manual switch that came on the equipment. Again, sensors have been installed that activate the lifters. "We are talking about seconds with these changes, but when multiplied 300 to 400 times a day, it is becomes significant."

The biggest change for WLA right now, is equipment streamlining. "Where we had 70 to 80 presses set up to run individual terminals, we want to have three or four. "This means we are going to cartridge all the applicators and terminals, so we can get a 20 to 30 second changeover from terminal to terminal."

White lamented the importance of having suppliers on board with his agile strategy, but admits it has been a struggle. "We are using Kanban so we don't want to carry excess stock" notes White. "We've said, look, were not going to hassle you on price, its service were chasing." White has had some success getting suppliers to understand what they are trying to do, but relinquishes "we still have a lot of work to do with suppliers."

Rob White is quite passionate about his efforts towards this notion of nimble manufacturing. "It's a type of Lean Manufacturing that we are trying to adapt to the quick changeover setting," he notes. "Lean is great and we use it where applicable, but it is limited for our low volume/high product mix." White found it interesting that Toyota started its production system to do just that. He asserted that agility is not a fad or trend at WLA, and that it's crucial for the whole company to be on board. This daily commitment has nearly doubled output over the last couple of years, with only a 20% increase in White concluded saying "management has to take it on and go with it. "If you don't, you end up steps back from where you were."



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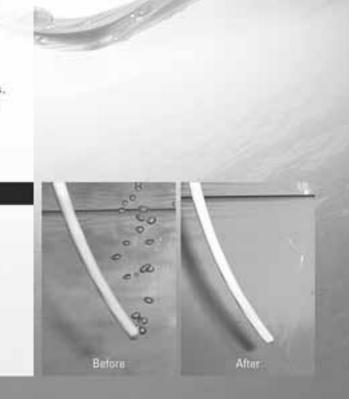


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Enviroseal by Magna-Tech Manufacturing is effective in wires, wire harnesses, terminated connectors, thermistors, over-molded coil windings, and insert and injection mold components that are exposed to harsh environmental conditions. This sealing process ensures part integrity and there is no change in the appearance or dimensional attributes of the wires or components.

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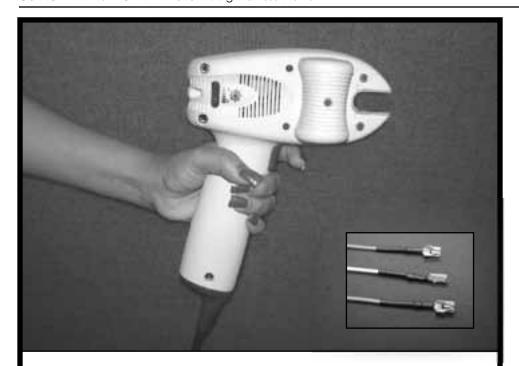
- More Economical than traditional sealing methods
- Consistent Batch Process
- No dimensional changes
- High capacity and quick turn around
- Increased customer satisfaction











Our Gun out-shrinks the competition 5 seconds vs. 12 seconds*

*polyolefin, 5" length

The Focus-Lite[™] FLG3[™] by Judco Manufacturing, Inc., is the solution to all your heat-shrink operations. You can say goodbye to the high labor cost, excessive heat, and inefficiencies of other methods. The Focus-Lite[™] reduces the time necessary to shrink most types of heat shrink tubing. It also improves the process control and overall quality of your shrink operation. The FLG3[™] can be used for high volume benchtop applications and is completely portable and mobile for board mounted harnesses and tight space assemblies.

Focus-Lite $^{\text{\tiny{IM}}}$ technology uses radiant energy to shrink heat-shrink tubing in a fraction of the time of traditional methods.

Here's why it works: Dual Quartz Halogen bulbs are focused to direct all of the usable radiant energy to the cable/wire diameter covered by shrink tube. This allows for 10 times the

average energy expended by the bulbs to be delivered to the target zone. What you will see is an amazing difference in shrink time!

The Focus-Lite $^{\text{TM}}$ is equipped with an adjustable timer for repeatable shrinking, time after time. It also has a dimmer switch that controls the power for sensitive components. Visit our website at **www.judco.net** and see our full line of Focus-Lite $^{\text{TM}}$ products.



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Inline Wire and Cable Identification Continued from page 31 ____

also possible. Mirror is a useful feature which rotates the text string 180 degrees on one end. This is sometimes necessary to ensure that all marker text is oriented the same way on a terminal strip, such as on a jumper wire in a control panel, for example.

New ink formulations have been developed specifically for wiring harness applications. These inks allow faster line speeds, better permanence as well as improved solvent and abrasion resistance. The basic colors are black and white, although other colors are available. Black inks are dye-based while white inks are pigmented. Dye based printers tend to be simpler and more reliable, therefore it's best to try to standardize with black ink on white or light colored wire.

The range of insulations types which can be successfully marked using inkjet can be expanded with additional processes such as plasma pre-treating and UV curing of UV curable inks. These additional process steps add significantly to system cost and complexity.

Laser

There are a number of different laser sources that are used in wire marking. By far, the most common are those that produce wavelengths in the UV part of the spectrum. UV laser marking is used primarily for military and aerospace applications. This marking method produces superior, permanent marks, even on Teflon insulated wires. For UV laser marking to work satisfactorily, the wire insulation must have a sufficient amount of Titanium Dioxide (TiO2) in its composition for the color change to take place.

Fortunately, most wire insulations used in military and aerospace applications have an adequate amount of TiO2

in them. Like inkjet wire marking, the laser marking process takes place while the wire is moving, allowing better production rates than hotstamp marking or labeling. Laser marking of wire for commercial applications is less common since it does not work as well on most commercial insulations such as PVC. Laser marking systems range in price from \$100k to \$500k or more. The more expensive systems can run at higher production rates while the entry level systems are typically used for low volume production and service work.

As wiring harnesses and cable assemblies become more and more complex, proper identification of individual wires and cables is crucial during wiring harness assembly, product assembly and testing as well as servicing. There are many different wire ID methods and each has its own pros and cons. Selecting the best system for a given company and application requires a thorough review, including:

- Applicable specifications
- Insulation types being marked
- Information which needs to be marked (number of characters required, logos, etc.)
 - Typical batch sizes
 - Processing speed
 - Cost per mark

According to Lean Principles, the ideal batch size is a quantity of one. A completely integrated wire marking / processing system can produce an individual wire on demand or all of the individual wires necessary to build one complete wiring harness. This results in less Work-In-Process and all of the other benefits of One-Piece-Flow manufacturing.

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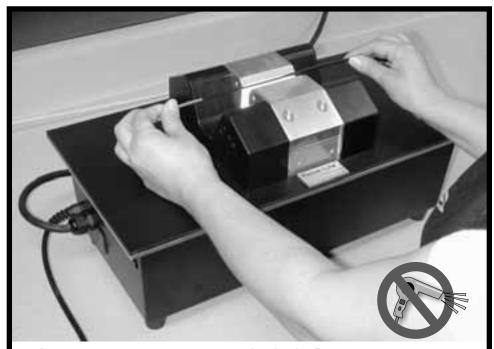


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Marking process	Cycle time (sec)	Pros	Cons
Hotstamp	1	Lowest cost wire ID system	Wire must stop during process
		Marks Teflon and Tefzel insulated wire	Marking disc typeface must match wire size - discs not easily changed
		Marking foil available in many colors - easy foil changeover	Can damage insulation if settings not correct
		Full alphanumeric capability	Radius of marking disc typeface must match radius of wire on smaller wires
Labeling	4 - 5	300 dpi print resolution	Wire must stop during process
		Multi-line marking possible	Cycle time longer compared to other methods
		Print and apply in one cycle	Higher cost per mark
		Multiple label sizes and types available	
		Self laminating labels protect mark	
		Barcodes and logos possible	
Direct Thermal Transfer	1-2	300 dpi print resolution	Wire must stop during process
		Multi-line marking possible	Requires several adjustments when changing jobs
		Marks directly on wire or cable	
		Barcodes and logos possible	
Inkjet	0	Marks on-the-fly	Can not easily change ink colors
		Marks most insulation types except Teflon and Tefzel	Ink and solvent are MEK based
		Can be fully synchronized with wire processing system	
		Ink available in multiple colors	
		Can mark wide range of wire and cable sizes	
		Barcodes and logos possible	
Laser	0	Marks on-the-fly* (only on higher end systems)	Most expensive wire ID system
		Marks Teflon and Tefzel insulated wires	Marks very limited range of insulation types
			Production rates are slow on all but the most expensive systems



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The Focus-Lite™ by Judco Manufacturing, Inc., is the solution to all your heat-shrink operations. You can say goodbye to the high labor cost, excessive heat, and inefficiencies of other methods. The Focus-Lite™ reduces the time necessary to shrink most types of heat shrink tubing. It also <u>improves the process</u> control and <u>overall quality</u> of your shrink operation. The **The Focus-Lite**[™] can be used for <u>high volume</u> bench top applications as well as low volume prototypes and laboratory applications.

Focus-Lite[™] technology uses radiant energy to shrink heat-shrink tubing in a fraction of the time of traditional methods.

Here's why it works: Dual Quartz Halogen bulbs are focused to direct all of the usable radiant energy to the cable/wire diameter covered by shrink tube. This allows for 10 times the average energy expended by the bulbs to be delivered to the target zone. What you will see is an amazing difference in shrink time!

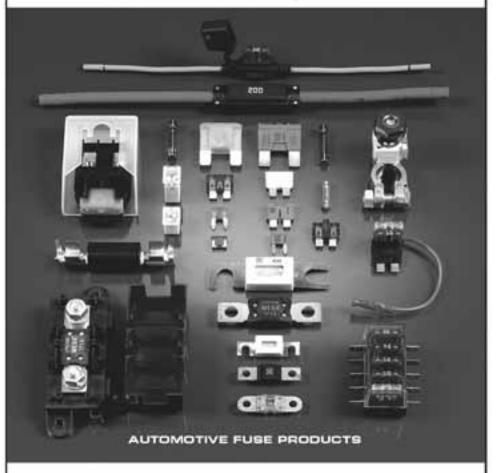
The Focus-Lite $^{\scriptscriptstyle\mathsf{TM}}$ is equipped with an adjustable timer for repeatable shrinking, time after time. It also has a dimmer switch that controls the power for sensitive components. Visit our website at www.judco.net and see our full line of **Focus-Lite**[™] products.



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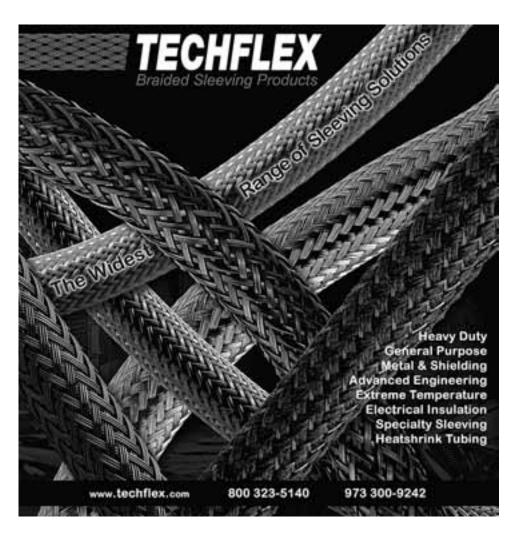


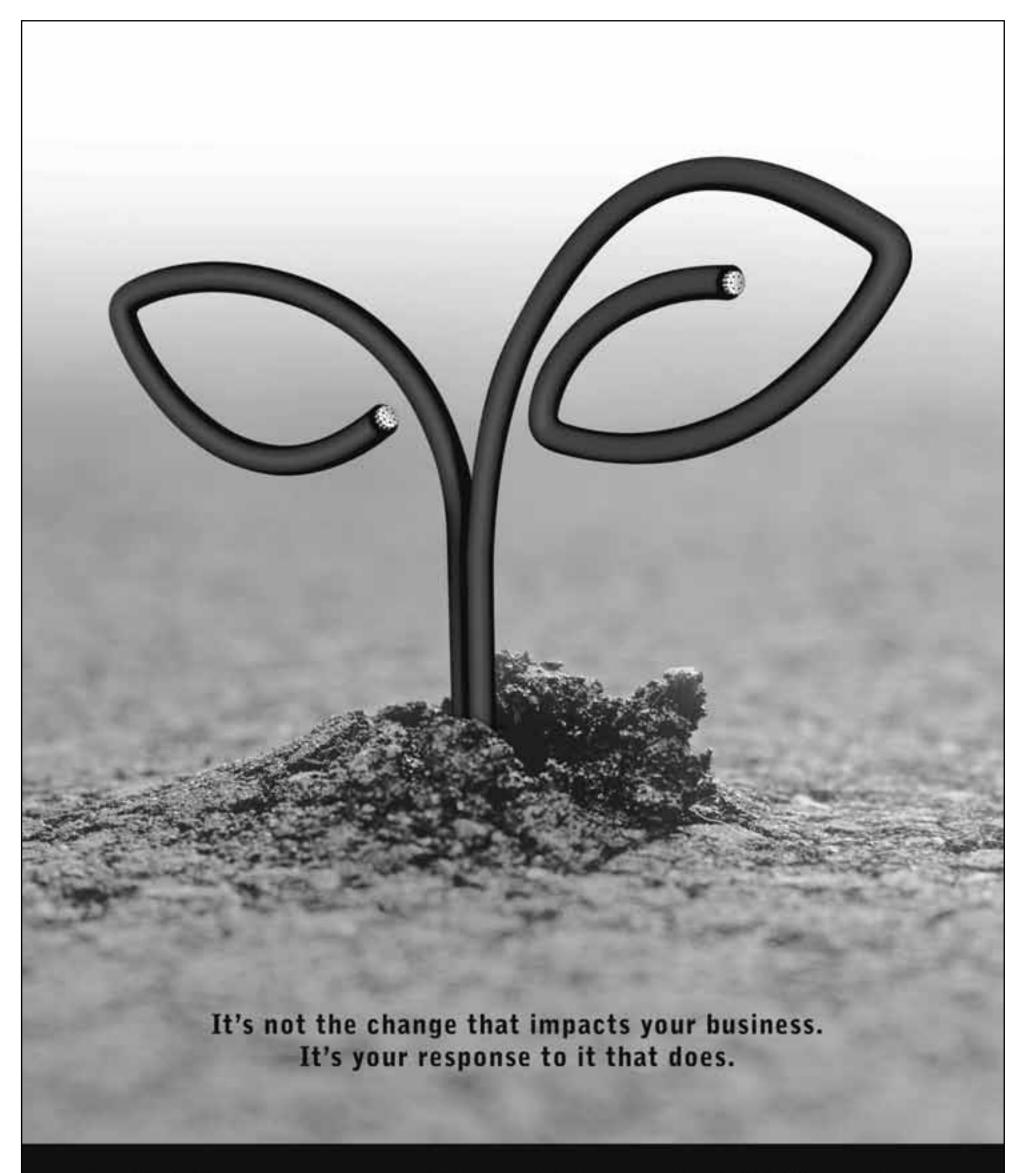
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Mouser Electronics Awards "Best in Class" Partners for 2010

The awards ceremony was held on August 2, 2010 during the 15th Annual Mouser-Supplier Golf Tournament. Winners of the Best in Class award were selected by Mouser using five criteria:

- Promoting the product line within Mouser
- Finding solutions to grow Mouser and supplier market share,
- Strategic partnering with the Mouser team,
- Maximizing Mouser's unique value proposition within their own businesses.

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Mouser's Best in Class Award

job well done, and thank you to the companies they represent for sharing these winners with Mouser."

Mouser Electronics' website is updated daily and searches over 6.7 million products to locate over a 1.7 million part numbers available for easy online purchase. Mouser.com also houses an industry-first interactive catalog, data sheets, supplierspecific reference designs, application notes, technical design information, and engineering tools.

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Winners of the Mouser Best in Class award:

Larry Buckley, National Distribution Manager, 3M **Electronic Solutions**

Canda Carr, General Manager Global Distribution, Tyco Electronics

Ryan Crouch, Corporate Sales Director, Freescale Semiconductor

Anna Greashaber, Mar-Communications keting Manager, Honeywell Sensing and Control

Scott Johnson, Corporate Account Manager, Texas Instruments

Dawn Manhart, Corporate Distribution Manager, Littelfuse

Steve Nye, Strategic Account Manager, Vishay

Sue Rios, Channel Sales Account Manager, Digi International

Steve Shoemaker, President, Advanced Web Off-

Doug Steele, Global Vice President of Catalog Distribution, Harwin

Cheryl Swaim, Account Executive, KEMET

Caroline Wells, Distribution Sales Representative, Omron Corporation

Glenn Smith, Mouser President and CEO, commented, "It's a great pleasure to express our gratitude and publicly recognize the winners of the Mouser 2010 Best in Class award. These individuals were incredibly supportive and showed great creativity. Our record growth is due, in large part, to the unwavering commitment of suppliers who help us introduce the newest products and latest technologies. Our commitment to becoming the most preferred distributor of design engineers is strengthened



The Tape-Terminal Crimp Module and Tape Terminal Press from Molex will reduce tooling investments, reduce setup times and allow you more production flexibility.



The Tape-Terminal Crimp Module from Molex efficiently crimps terminals to wires from 4 to 30 AWG with minimal setup adjustments and achieves optimal cycle rates for mid-to-high volume, semi-automatic operations.

Features and Benefits of the Tape Terminal Crimp Module Include:

- Quick-change modular tooling accepts all existing ATP-201 and ATP-301 die sets
- Used in Molex TM-3000™ and TM-4000™ presses, which accept Molex applicators and most industry standard applicators.
- · Independent adjustment of insulation crimp height provides flexibility for various wire insulation thicknesses.
- · Quick tool changeover from die set to die set.

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Ag Leader Technology

Continued from page 1

they are combined with ALT-made electronics (including printed circuit boards) and mechanical assemblies.

Paul Slifka, manager of manufacturing engineering, is confident the dramatic change in delivery time can be achieved. "Our area has been going through a lot of changes in the last three years," he said. "All the cables were pulled by hand before, but most of that is automated now."

Schleuniger, Kodera and Komax equipment has been installed that does cutting, stripping, terminating and tinning. Stapla ultrasonic welders have replaced much of the hand soldering.

Force gauges

Processes were examined and refined. Both employees and machines were dedicated to certain processes and work orders. The 34 people in the department work at nine build boards, 24 benches and three universal troughs.

One change involved cutting according to circuits instead of harnesses. People doing the cutting no longer sort, coil and shelve the wires. Other employees route the wires to key areas.

Production is determined by decisions and priorities made by a planner. Orders are scanned into an enterprise resource planning system, and processes follow from there.

"Our focus is on a high mix and a small volume," said Slifka, 37, who has



Custom made testing software works with the ERP system and a tester. Employees enter in the work order number the computer enters the test in the tester.

worked seven years at ALT. "We'll make one, 10 or 100 of one thing. We keep batches small so we can fill a lot of

Force testing systems Torque testing systems

orders at once and not tie up people and equipment."

The changes have boosted produc-

tion immensely. Current output is 20,000 to 30,000 harnesses and cables a month. In contrast, in 2007 monthly production was 3,000 to 7,000. Just one two-inch wire may meet a requirement, or it may necessitate a harness 85 feet long with up to 40 circuits. The average harness is 10-20 feet long.

Besides visual inspection, testing is performed with Cirris equipment. It checks for terminations that meet A-620 standards by IPC and the Wiring Harness Manufacturers Association.

The quality goal of a mere half percent defective cables and harnesses was set at ALT in late summer. Quality used to be on customer based returns, which, according to Slifka, were "very, very low. But, we wanted more internal measurement. Inspectors track everything on a weekly basis, and we have weekly continuous-improvement meetings to look at all problem areas."

Those meetings are led by Irene Postma the cable supervisor and attended by manufacturing engineer Chris Cran. Chris is then able to develop plans for improvement to the area.

The department, which continues to add employees, works one shift. Overtime is necessary during busy periods in December-May and late July through early October.

"We have a very quality-focused culture," Slifka said. "We look out for the customer and have a good sense of pride in what we do. People on the floor



Grips & accessories

are involved, and they make the difference whether something will work or not.

"There have been a lot of good suggestions from employees," Slifka said.
"They have helped a lot in the company's growth."

He recalled one instance in which employees suggested three designs for a cable assembly cell. All the designs were evaluated and one cell was implemented on the production floor. Employee input in to the cell design resulted in a 50-percent cut in build time. The reduction aligned with the company's emphasis on lean processes.

"This is a very exciting place to work." Slifka said. "It is very fast paced because we're very engineering driven and try to get products to market quickly. We go the extra mile to make sure our products work for the customer right out of the box. It's great to see everything come together. It's a wonderful feeling."

Slifka, the 200 other people who work at ALT, and thousands of customers owe everything to the ingeniousness of Al Myers, the 62-year-old founder, president and sole owner of ALT. He spent nearly seven years developing it before going into business in June 1992.

Most of Myers' initial effort went into a monitor that measured the yields of corn, soybeans and wheat as they were being harvested. The sensing device was mounted on the clean grain elevator of a combine, and the operator could read

_Continued on page 40



A one piece flow setup with a Stapla welder, and focus light help keep the product moving.

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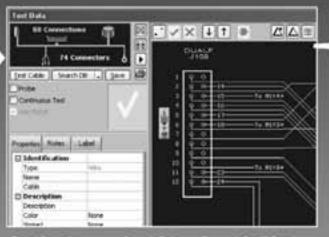
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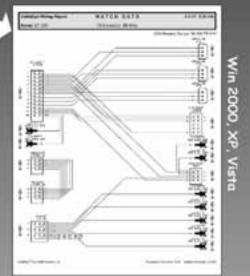
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Ag Leader Technology

Continued from page 39

how yields varied while he was going up and down a field.

Why a yield monitor? The answer requires a bit of background. It starts with Myers growing up on a grain farm near Watseka, Ill., 100 miles south of Chicago. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in Ag Engineering from the University of Illinois in Champaign and Urbana.

Myers intended to become a machine or engine designer for Caterpillar or John Deere. He had a summer job at each firm. But, due to a sour economy he could not find a job at either company after completing his formal education.

He settled on a design engineering position at Sundstrand in Rockford, Ill. The large corporation specialized in hydraulics and hydrostatic transmissions.

Myers started there in 1971 and the following year transferred to the company's operation in Ames. He remained there until ALT opened and held other positions of engineering supervisor and application engineering department manager.

In the mid-1980s, with a weak

economy forcing companies to tighten their budgets, product innovation and development stagnated. Dissatisfied with his career, Myers began brainstorming products he could design that could launch his company.

Myers settled on the yield monitor because of the impacts it could have on farming. "I thought the monitor would happen someday, but technically it was not an easy thing to do," he said. "But if it was difficult to do, then there would be less likelihood that it would be copied, and I'd have less competition."

Prototype design was carried out in the dining room of Myers' Ames home. In his garage he set up a grain flow test stand with a sensor made largely from parts bought at Radio Shack. He financed the venture himself, often relying on several credit cards.

Only Myers' father and three farmers who tested the invention in their fields knew about it. Once ALT started in 1992, many people found out about the device and the consequential analysis of cropping practices that meant dramatic yield increases.

In the first two years less than 150 monitors were sold. Once Myers set up dealers to handle



The use of the striper crimper have been a great help with jacketed



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sales, 500 units were purchased in 1994. With sales through dealers, Myers focused on designing, manufacturing and software programming.

"Sometimes I wondered if I would ever get to where I wanted to be with it," Myers said. "I'm glad I stuck with it. I'm in control of my own destiny. There has been success, and that is very satisfying.

"I created a world-leading product that has yet to be equaled," Myers said. "I also have the satisfaction of giving a lot of young, hardworking people jobs here. I have given opportunities to people to do exciting things."

In early 1993 Myers moved his business to an 1,800-square-foot space in a small office building. The next move was in late 1994 to a new 7,200-square-foot building, which was doubled in size in 1996.

More space was required, so ALT moved in 1998 into a 54,000square-foot building on seven acres. Myers purchased the structure in 2004 and four years later expanded it by 95,000 square feet. A 25,000-square-foot training facility, in a separate building on 3-1/2 acres, opened in late 2009. Testing is done on a 100-acre farm purchased in 2008 that is two miles from the other two buildings.

Facilities were needed because of substantial company growth. Myers estimated between 50,000 and 100,000 products have been sold so far. The biggest ALT customer is Case New Holland, followed by Kinze and Claas of North

ALT has more than 1,000 dealers and distributors in North America and another 50 in 25 foreign countries. Thirty-three dealers have earned Blue Delta status, meaning they have advanced levels of training, knowledge and service. Dealers are developed and serviced by an in-house sales staff of 20.

A comprehensive marketing program is in place. It includes print advertising, direct mail, trade shows (60-70 a year), product literature, dealer events, newsletter, e-mail, public relations, website and social media. All company products must be purchased through dealers except for software. Anyone may buy it directly from ALT.

Myers stated his company has grown 3,000 percent since start-up 18 years ago and 500 percent in just the last six years. Overall, growth has averaged 10 percent annually. 2008 was a record year, but 2009 meant a 27-percent drop in sales.

ALT rebounded this year, but it is

not expected to match 2008. Sales next year should set a record. Profits have been "very good," Myers said. "In 2007 and 2008 they grew 50 percent each year. We have been profitable the last seven years and expect to stay that way."

"We have become large enough so we can keep moving ahead," Myers said. "We are in a strong position in the industry. The ag business is a good one to be in. It has the promise to be healthy, and recessions don't affect it because people have to eat.

"We invest heavily in new products to try to keep us at the forefront of precision ag," Myers said. Product development is handled by many of the 31 engineers on staff, some of whom have attended Iowa State University in Ames.

"What also makes us different is that we're very strong in people with direct farming background," Myers said. "Other companies in the field that don't have such people don't understand the mentality of our customers. You can't just let talk be talk. You take care of your customers, and you do right by them. That is the culture of this company."

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Model G10S Bench Wire Twister Offered by Erser Company

Eraser's Model G10S Bench Wire Twister is used for many diverse twisting needs. The unit can twist pre-stripped stranded wires, twist strands of two or more wires together, twist wrapped



Model G20S Bench Wire Twister

shields on coaxial cables and tighten the twist of already twisted wire.

The Model G10S is supplied with one set of three twist length spacers to vary the twist length, depending on application needs. Twisting inserts can be ordered depending on wire size to be twisted. Specifications are as follows:

Wire Sizes:

12-18 AWG (2.06-1.02mmø)

18-24 AWG (1.02-0.51mmø)

22-26 AWG (0.64-0.41mmø)

Twist Length:

Up to 1" (25.4mm) dependent on spacers used.

Twisted Pair:

Not to exceed 2 18 AWG (1.02mmø).

Three Size Spacers:

1/2" (12.7mm) thick

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For more information on Eraser's entire product line visit www.eraser.com or call 315-454-3237.

Teknor Apex Exclusive North American Distributor of TPU Wire and Cable Compounds from COIM

The Italian chemical company COIM S.p.A. has appointed Teknor Apex Company to be the exclusive distributor of COIM's Laripur TM thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) elastomer compounds to wire and cable manufacturers in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Teknor Apex's Vinyl Division, a supplier of compounds for wire and cable, will supply the Laripur materials. The agreement with COIM also enables Teknor Apex to broaden its portfolio by using COIM's TPU products to develop plastics compounds for use outside the wire and cable

LESS

THAN

\$50,000

industry, according to Teknor Apex vice president Louis R. Cappucci.

"We are very pleased to engage in a strategic co-operation with a high-value partner like Teknor Apex," said COIM's Antonio Piroddi, division manager for Laripur TPU. "Their technical and commercial capabilities combined with COIM's TPU expertise and broad product offering provides a valuable new resource for wire and cable customers in North America."

The agreement between COIM and Teknor Apex provides North American wire and cable manufacturers with direct access to COIM's diversified range of internationally specified TPU compounds, noted Louis Cappucci. "TPUs are particularly valuable for withstanding rugged end-use conditions because of their resistance to abrasion, chemicals, microbial attack, and hydrolysis, as well as flexibility at low temperatures."

Laripur compounds are available in grades ranging in hardness from 60 Shore A to 75 Shore D. As elastomers they are inherently flexible and contain no plasticizers except as required for certain specialty formulations.

Typical applications include cables for automotive sensor and antilock brake systems and for mining, seismic monitoring, oil exploration, and other end uses requiring ruggedness and cold weather performance.

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BURNDY®, a leading manufacturer and provider of connector solutions to the industrial, energy, construction, telecommunication, petrochemical, data center, and transportation industries, announces the introduction of our lithium-ion line of PATRIOT® battery actuated crimping tools.

BURNDY® has incorporated lithium-ion (Li-ion) technology, enhanced electronics and refined hydraulic systems advancing the PATRIOT® line of crimping and cutting tools to the forefront of performance, speed, and reliability.

The advantages of the new 18-volt 3.0 Ah lithiumion technology over Ni-Cd and Ni-MH are no memory effects, no self discharge, no conditioning required and a longer battery life — 2.5 times more charge/discharge cycles than traditional Ni-Cd batteries and provides 430% more lifetime work. The charge time is only 30 minutes, twice as fast as Ni-Cd and the battery

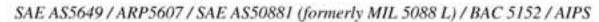


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Lithium-ion PATRIOT® Crimping Tool

weights 40% less than Ni-MH batteries.

The new Li-ion tools have over-molded handles for comfort and improved grip. All BURNDY® PATRIOT® tools are proudly made in the USA.

BURNDY® will continue to offer the current line of Ni-MH PATRIOT® tools allowing customers choice and flexibility.

For additional information, visit website at www.BURNDY.com.

New and Improved Sta-Kon® Comfort Crimp® Compression Tool from Thomas & Betts

In a continuing effort to produce the safest, most ergonomically advanced tools on the market, Thomas & Betts recently redesigned the Sta-Kon® Comfort Crimp® Compression Tool. An award-winning product, the redesigned tool requires 25 percent less handle force to complete a crimp than earlier versions and up to 75 percent less handle force than similar tools on the market.

Additional ergonomic features include special over-molded handles that naturally place the hands in a safe, strain-reducing position, while creating a soft cushion for both fingers and palms. A new Crimp-Assist® foot stabilizes the tool when the user needs to place it on a work surface for additional leverage to crimp larger connectors.

In addition, the patented Shure-Stake® mechanism ensures a complete crimp cycle is made before it will release to the open position. The Sta-Kon tool also incorporates interchangeable dies with color-coded die nests for easy matching with Sta-Kon insulated terminals.

"T&B is committed to creating the best user experience possible in terms of comfort and strain reduction," said Matt Willard, product manager with Thomas & Betts. "Equipment manufacturers, maintenance professionals and field technicians have come to trust and rely on the Sta-Kon compression tool for a safe, constant crimp every time."

Sta-Kon Comfort Crimp Compression Tools are UL Listed for use with Sta-Kon connectors. Similar Sta-Kon tools are



Sta-Kon[®] Comfort Crimp[®] Compression Tool

available for terminals, flags, ferrules and disconnects ranging from 6-22AWG with both insulated and non-insulated jackets.

For more information on the Sta-Kon

Comfort Crimp Compression Tool, visit your T&B authorized distributor, contact T&B by calling (800) 816-7809, or visit www.tnb.com.

2011 Annual Wire Harness Conference San Diego, CA - March 2-4





YOUR CONNECTION FOR... Amphenol® RF Solutions ECCO specializes in RF, Microwave, and Coaxial connectors from Amphenol® RF. These connectors are ideal for RF, broadband, wireless, microwave, and cellular applications. We stock a wide variety of these connectors including standards; UHF, N, HN, C, Twinax, & Triax Miniatures; BNC, TNC, Mini-UHF, & MHV Sub-Miniatures; SMA, SMB, & SMC Microminiatures; MCX & MMCX as well as precision connectors, adapters, accessories, and assembly tools. Our extensive Amphenol inventory includes many factory special, low volume, and hard to find items allowing us to quickly fulfill your interconnection needs. For responsive, experienced service, call Electronic Connector at 800-742-3262 🥯 FAX: 773-767-9634 e-mail sales@eccochicago.com www.eccochicago.com CONNECTORS FOR ALL REASONS

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Peterson Adds ECK® Corrosion Fighter to its Product Line

Peterson Manufacturing Company has augmented its vehicle safety lighting line by adding ECK® corrosion prevention products from Van Nay, LLC.

ECK® (Electrolysis Corrosion Kontrol) is a unique dielectric coating patented by Van Nay in 1998. Its breakthrough formulation has proven highly effective in preventing dissimilar metal corrosion of all metals, including stainless steel, aluminum, copper, brass, cold-rolled steel and black oxide.

Field tested for over 12 years,

ECK® not only protects all metals and electrical connections, it also prevents all types of corrosion: electrolysis, galvanic, magnesium and calchloride. It is safe to use with both rubber and plastic, will not harm paint, and withstands high temperatures up to 1000° Fahrenheit. Peterson will be selling ECK® in the United States only.

"Harsh road conditions including chemicals, moisture and temperature changes are always an issue, no matter the manufacturer," said Kristen Goodson, Director of Product Management for Peterson. "By offering ECK® as a value added product for the safety lighting needs of our customers, we're helping ensure that their trucks and trailers keep on rolling instead of sitting idle due to corrosion issues."

Peterson will offer ECK® in tubes of



ECK[®] Corrosion Prevention Products

brushable liquid that applies easily to electrical connections and different metals being assembled. ECK® was specially engineered to outperform such industry standard products as silicones, tapes, and coated hardware. And unlike other dielectric coatings, the ECK® formulation incorporates zinc powders to create a lasting barrier against the corrosion that always occurs between dissimilar metals such as aluminum and steel. This barrier absorbs the energy from any electrochemical reaction, thus preventing corrosion -- the only patented product proven to do so.

"But ECK® is more than a unique corrosion fighter," Goodson added. "It also provides bedding protection for hardware and fasteners, contains anti-seizing lubricants for threads, and is perfect for use with electrical connectors. Peterson products are all about performance, and we're proud to offer ECK® as a great way for customers to protect that performance."

Richard Nay, Van Nay's president, said: "We're pleased to have a world-class safety lighting manufacturer such as Peterson using ECK® to fight corrosion. The top two warranty and downtime issues in the trucking industry are dissimilar metal corrosion and lighting/wiring corrosion. Our product tackles both."

Van Nay, LLC headquarters in Elgin, Illinois and owns the patent for dissimilar metal corrosion prevention with their ECK® coating.

IPC/WHMA-A-620 Recertification at the 2011 Wire Processing Technology Expo

A-620 Challenge Testing for Recertification

- Testing will be by appointment ONLY. Appointments will be accepted through April 29th, 2011.
- Testing will be conducted during the 2011 Wire Processing Expo,
 May 18-19 testing will begin any time between 8:00am 1:00pm
- To schedule your appointment call Rick Hawthorne at 717-810-2417 or visit www.tooling.tycoelectronics.com/mailer/a620_cit_rfq.asp

 Receive a 5% discount by scheduling your appointment before April 29th. Walk-ins are welcome at the expo at full price of \$525.

**Dont forget to bring a copy of your current or expired A-620 Certificate

BYOB!

<u>Bring Your Own</u> A-620 <u>B</u>ook or borrow one of ours.

Testing will be held at the Midwest Airlines Convention Center in Milwaukee during the 2011 Wire Processing Technology Expo.

Certifications expiring up to the end of August may recertify now without losing any time on the current certification. The new expiration date will be the month of current expiration in 2013.

Phone: 717-810-2417 www.tooling.tycoelectronics.com/a-620.asp



__Continued on page 46



With 60 years of industry experience, Daniels Manufacturing Corporation is the leading manufacturer of Mil-Qualified Crimp Termination Tools and Insertion/Removal Tools. DMC also supplies BETA Backshell Torque Tools and ALPHATRON Wire Crimp Pull Testers. DMC products are used on virtually every defense system, aircraft program, land or sea transport system, and space exploration program.

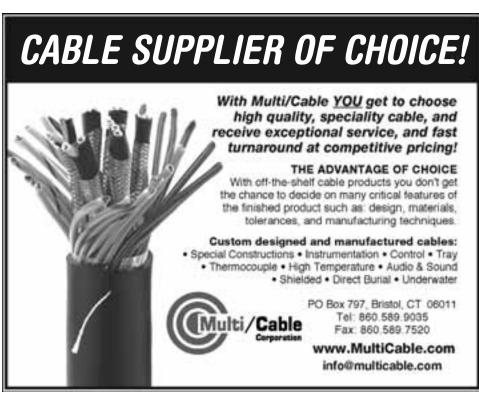
Visit our web-site or call for prices and more information.

www.DMCTools.com

E-mail: DMC@DMCTools.com • Telephone: 407.855.6161



An ISO9001:2000, AS9100:2004 Registered Company





Continued from page 44

Peterson Manufacturing Company is a world-leading innovator in the production of a complete line of vehicle safety lighting, mirrors, reflectors, antennas and related products.

For further information visit www.pmlights.com.

Dow Introduces World's First PVC/Halogen-Free Sollution to Meet Key Global Standards

Electronics OEMs looking for PVC alternatives to make flexible cords safer and more environmentally sustainable now have options thanks to the introduction of DOW SUSTAIN TM halogen-free com-

pounds from The Dow Chemical Company. Developed by Dow Wire & Cable, a business unit of The Dow Chemical Company, DOW SUSTAIN offers the first PVC and halogen-free compounds that meet key global industry standards for continuous operating temperature, low smoke and heat deformation. Four different product grades for jacketing and insulation are now available in sample quantities for producers of wires, cables and cord sets for personal electronics, large and small appliances, TVs, DVD/DVR devices, gaming systems, computers/monitors/USB attachments, etc.

"With the demand for PVC alternatives in an electronics market growing fast, Dow has made a significant investment over the last three years in perfecting halogen-free compounds," says Simon Leung, Platform Leader for Personal Electronics, Dow Wire & Cable. "DOW SUSTAIN is the first halogen-free offering qualified to meet UL 62,

JCS4509 and HD21.14 requirements on a commercial scale while delivering excellent look and feel as well as enhanced product and extrusion performance."

The ability to achieve key regional standards is what differentiates DOW SUSTAIN.

In addition, DOW SUS-TAINTM exhibits good chemical resistivity, low corrosive off gassing in the event of a fire, and flexibility that is essential for ease of handling during manufacturing and the overall look and feel of the end product.

Dow Wire & Cable worked with Shenzhen Bao-Hing Electric Wire & Cable Manufacture Co., Ltd. and Volex, a recognized global leader in the manufacture of power cords, to trial DOW SUSTAIN™ in actual manufacturing conditions. The companies were able to meet key global standards using the new Dow Wire & Cable compounds.

"Dow Wire & Cable has been a good working relationship with the product development and technical know-how to help us efficiently run their product," says Chris Rutherford, VP of Global Supply Chain, Volex Group plc. "The new compound can achieve production rates similar to PVC with only minor investments for extruder screw design and drying conditions."

The launch of Dow SUS-TAIN is the next in a series of planned product innovations that Dow is introducing to the wire and cable industry. With the introduction of this product, Dow is bringing forward a new technology that can be





Minimize tooling costs. Maximize crimp quality.

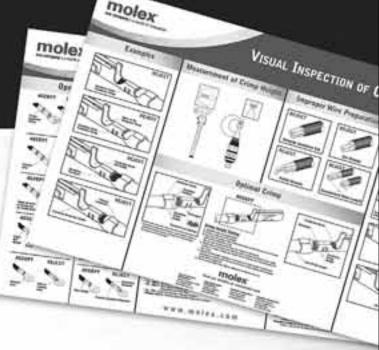
The TM-3000™ and TM-4000™ Universal Crimp Presses ensure your terminals are crimped correctly — every time.

Reduce your applied costs and maximize your production efficiency by applying your terminals with a Molex TM-3000 or TM-4000 crimp press. Designed specifically for use with industry standard applicators, these cost-effective bench presses not only expedite the entire tooling changeover process, they're also the best options for applying side- and rear-feed terminals to a wide range of wire sizes.

The TM-3000 and TM-4000 also feature:

- 3.5 tons of crimp force for terminals up to 4 AWG with the TM-4000 and 2.0 tons of crimp force for terminals up to 10 AWG with the TM-3000
- · Lower overall applied cost
- Two safety interlock switches for user protection

Don't put the quality of your crimps at risk. Demand Molex crimp presses — the tooling solution that won't compromise the design and functionality of your products.



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Email: sales@jwbmanufacturing.com Web: www.jwbmanufacturing.com

JWB Manufacturing LLC is a full line manufacture of aftermarket wire cutting and stripping blades, and is a small family owned business. The "Worlds Finest Strippers" try harder to earn your business.

> **COMPOSITE & WIRE** MACHINERY INC. 490 Old Baptist Road North Kingstown, RI 02852 PH: 401-884-4760 Fx: 401-885-2499 E-mail: jack@compositewire.com Web: www.compositewire.com

For 20 years, Jack Dennehy and Composite & Wire Machinery have provided new design and completely rebuilt braiding machines for many industries while keeping delivery times to a minimum. Expert technical assistance is an integral part of our line of braiders.

DANIELS MANUFACTURING CORP. 526 Thorpe Rd. Orlando, FL 32824 PH: (407) 855-6161 FX: (407) 855-6884

Email: www.DMCTools.com Web: DMC@DMCTools.com

With over fifty years of industry experience, Daniels Manufacturing Corporation (DMC) is the leading manufacturer of Mil-Qualified Crimp Termination Tools, Wiring System Maintenance Tool Kits, and Insertion/Removal Tools. DMC also supplies Backshell Assembly Tools, ALPHATRON Wire Crimp Pull Testers, and SAFE-T-CABLE, the time saving substitute for safety Lockwire.

ECC 5905 Green Pointe Drive, Suite G Groveport, OH 43125 PH: 614-409-9104, Fx: 614-409-9115 E-mail: sales@ecco.com Web: www.ecco.com

ECC provides continuity test fixtures for any connector and can incorporate features such as: locking mechanisms, marking ability, lock and clip verification, terminal seating verification, pressure testing for seals or cavity plugs, color sensing. ECC builds custom wire harness build/test boards for manufacturers that are looking for a turnespecially where ease of connection is essential. Additionally, an array of wire harness assembly aids such as standoffs, cable bundlers, and other wire routing products are also offered.

> THE ERASER COMPANY, INC. 123 Oliva Drive, PO Box 4961 Syracuse, NY 13221 PH: 315-454-3237 or 800-724-0594 Fx: 315-454-3090 E-mail: info@eraser.com Web: www.eraser.com

The Eraser Company, Inc., celebrating its 99th anniversary in business, manufactures a wide range of industrial products including wire, cable and tubing cutters, wire and cable strippers, wire twisters, wire brush wheels, dereelers, infrared heating equipment, measuring tools, and fybRglass® erasers. Custom design services. Free sample program. ISO 9001:2000 certified.

PLASTIC EXTRUDED PARTS, INC. WIRE & CABLE MARKERS 5229 NY Rt. 203, PO Box 540 Nassau, NY 12123-0540. PH: 518-766-9878 FX: 518-766-3229

Email: sales@pepico.com Web: www.pepico.com key product. ECC also makes specialized Markers (RoHS) for the permanent identifi-

fixtures for performing functional tests, cation of wire, cable, tubing and bundles are manufactured in and distributed from our facility in upstate NY. Plastic markers with heat embossed codes are available in many colors, multiple or single character letters, numbers, electrical symbols and icons. Also computer cable bands and clips (Cat 5 etc.).

> SONOBOND ULTRASONICS, INC. 1191 McDermott Drive West Chester, PA 19380 PH: 610-696-4710, Fx: 610-692-0674 E-mail: Sales@SonobondUltrasonics.com

Web: www.SonobondUltrasonics.com Sonobond Ultrasonics pioneered the development and application of ultrasonic technology, acquiring the first patent in ultrasonic metal welding in 1960. Its high-performance metal welders produce accurate

energy-efficient welds without consum-

ables and can weld tinned wire. They are

ideal for wire harnesses used in cars, air-

craft, appliances, and consumer electronics.







Continued from page 46

extended beyond the personal electronics segment and planning a transition of the UNIGARD TM RE brand into the Dow SUSTAIN family.

Dow Wire & Cable is offering samples of Dow SUSTAIN as part of its Dow Inside program of working with select wire and cable manufacturers to combine Dow's material and technology expertise with excellent manufacturing processes with an agreement that all wires and cables produced through such collaboration will meet key global standards. for more information visit www.dowwireandcable.com

Steve Wozniak to Keynote IPC APEX Expo 2011

Apple Computer Co-Founder Steve Wozniak will deliver the opening keynote address at IPC APEX EXPO™ on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at Mandalay Bay Resort & Convention Center.

Wozniak's theme, "How to Foster Creativity and Innovation in a Technical Environment," is a topic the Silicon Valley icon is uniquely equipped to discuss. Wozniak helped invent the personal computer with his design of Apple's first line of products, the Apple I and II, and contributed to the development of the Macintosh.

The keynote is free to all registered IPC

APEX EXPO attendees and exhibitors and will be followed by a book signing on the event's show floor. A published author, Wozniak will sign copies of his autobiography "From Computer Geek to Cult Icon", giving attendees an opportunity to meet the legend face-to-face. Wozniak will also attend the PCB and EMS Executive Management Meetings dinner on April 11.

"We are delighted to welcome Steve Wozniak," says IPC President Denny McGuirk. "When we invited him, he said he had a special place in his heart for electronics manufacturing and was looking forward to meeting the people in our industry. Having a legend like Wozniak kick off our event adds another wow factor to our show, along with the technologies and equipment on display, and should be a big thrill for our exhibitors and attendees."

For his achievements at Apple Computer, Wozniak was awarded the National Medal of Technology by the President of the United States in 1985, the highest honor bestowed on America's leading innovators.

In 2000, Wozniak was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame and was awarded the prestigious Heinz Award in Technology, the Economy and Employment for "single-handedly designing the first personal computer and for then redirecting his lifelong passion for mathematics and electronics toward lighting the fires of excitement for education in grade school students and their teachers." Wozniak founded the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and was the founding sponsor of the Tech Museum, Silicon Valley Ballet and

Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. He is currently co-founder and chief technology officer for Acquicor Technology, Inc.

Registration for IPC APEX EXPO opens in early November. The IPC APEX EXPO conference and exhibition will run April 12–14, 2011; standards development meetings, professional development courses and other show activities will take place April 10–14.

Visit www.IPCAPEXEXPO.org to sign

up for show notifications. Silicon Valley Legend Adds More Sparkle to Las Vegas

The keynote is free to all registered IPC APEX EXPO attendees and exhibitors and will be followed by a book signing on the event's show floor. A published author, Wozniak will sign copies of his autobiography iWoz: From Computer Geek to Cult Icon, giving attendees an opportunity to meet the legend face-to-face.

_Continued on page 50





An Eye for Innovation

Bringing Precision, Flexibility and Experience to Wire Processing

NEW UniStrip 2300

- Fully programmable benchtop wire stripper
- Strips wire from 10 32 AWG and jacketed cables up to 0.22" in diamter
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Continued from page 49

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New 48-Hour Service Program speeds Subassembly Prototype Production

Tyco Electronics, a leading global provider of electrical components, connectors, network solutions and specialty products, announced a new 48-hour delivery (shipping) program to TE direct customers on certain commonly used molded parts, including straight boots, right angle boots and transitions.

TE molded parts (and other harness components) protect cable and equipment from corrosion and mechanical abuse. These boots, ordered under the new 48-Hour Service Program, will be

provided without adhesive lining, allowing customers to add their own preferred adhesive tape or epoxy for sealing. The boots can be ordered in increments of five (5) pieces, up to 20 pieces per order. Multiple styles of parts can be ordered together on one purchase order. There will be a slight price premium for this packaging and shipping method.

"The Tyco Electronics advantage that our company is built upon goes far beyond our robust, high quality product offerings, to include service, resources and support that help our customers take the lead in highly competitive market-places," said John Kuster, product manager, Tyco Electronics. "We believe that this special quick-turn process on small quantity, commonly used molded parts will greatly assist our customers in producing and delivering subassembly prototypes to their clients in a speedy manner."

Parts ordered under this program will

be identified with a special "CS48HR" designator at the end of the normal description (see list on following page). In order to participate in this program, customers must be registered as a direct customer and have shipping and billing information available in the TE order processing system. TE distributors are exempt from this program.

For more information and to follow all the latest product news, visit www.tyco-electronics.com or follow us on Twitter @TycoElectronics. TE (logo) and Tyco Electronics are trademarks.



BT 3500 Battery-Hydraulic Hand Tool

More Than a Ton of Portable Power in a 1.4 Pound Hand Tool

Tyco Electronics introduces the BT 3500 Battery Hydraulic Hand Tool!

The BT 3500 Battery-Hydraulic Hand Tool is designed to provide the ultimate in flexibility, modularity, and powered efficiency in a lightweight, ergonomic, powerful crimp unit. It's compatible with SDE dies and CERTI-CRIMP II heads, using the appropriate adapters.

Finally, a lightweight tool that delivers the power required for crimping! The small head offers incredible flexibility and the ability to reach into tight spaces. As an added convenience, the crimping head can be rotated to nearly any angle, allowing the operator to identify the most comfortable position for the job.

Despite the lightweight of the power unit, the tool can produce over 200 10 AWG crimps between charges. This is made possible through a ten ounce, 10.8 Volt Lithium-Ion battery that can re-charge in only 25 minutes, thereby giving plenty of time for production.

We are NOW accepting orders for the BT 3500 Battery-Hydraulic Hand Tool.

Call Us - We're Well Connected!

For more information, visit www.heilind.com/tyco_whn or call us at 866-887-2189

Carry Options



Easy portability and use with the harness, strap and belt accessories



BT 3500 Port with multiple storage pockets



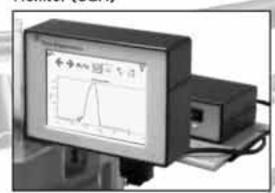


Authorized Distributor

Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expc May 18 & 19, 2011 Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Tyco Electronics New Crimp Quality Monitor (CQM)



The AMP 3K/40 and AMP 5K/40 accepts the New Tyco Electronics Next Generation Applicator Series



AMP 3K/40 Terminator



The AMP 3K/40 Terminator is based upon the field proven AMP-O-LECTRIC Model "G" Terminator and is the latest in the series of machines for terminating wire using reeled terminals and contacts. As a value oriented terminator, the AMP 3K/40 is designed for customers that require the increased output and quality of a semiautomatic machine at a competitive price. By incorporating the most commonly requested features as a standard and offering a long list of optional equipment, this terminator offers flexibility to meet the specific needs of various applications at the lowest possible cost.

The AMP 3K/40 Terminator was designed with speed, convenience, and ease of use in mind. The design accepts the **New Next Generation Applicator Series** and has the crimp force capacity of 3,000 pounds and is capable of crimping 32-14 AWG wire.



An AMP 5K/40 Terminator is also available with a 5,000 pound crimp force and is capable of crimping 32-10 AWG wire.

For a quick, effective response whether you need a quote, expert advice or product information, contact us at: 1-888-777-5917 or 1-717-810-2080 or e-mail us at toolingsales@tycoelectronics.com.

To learn more call us or visit: http://tooling.tycoelectronics.com/bench_equip.asp

www.tooling.tycoelectronics.com/europe www.tooling.tycoelectronics.com/china Tyco Electronics
Our commitment, Your advantage.

Custom Cable Receives its first Telcordia GR-326 Certification for Fiber Optic Connector

Custom Cable Industries, Inc., (http://www.customcable.com) a leading connectivity company with national presence and global distribution, has successfully completed GR-326 certification for SC ultra physical contact (UPC) singlemode fiber optic connector assemblies, with certification given for the latest issue 4, dated February 2010.

The current GR-326 CORE standards update, compared with the September 1999 issue 3, is aimed at increasing the overall reliability of products for the demands of today's bandwidth-intensive network infrastructure. Most significantly, optical performance is measured at additional wavelengths including 1490nm and 1625nm in order to certify performance at the limits of current fiber optic networks. As network technology, capacity and density increase, it is essential to comply with the latest optical connectivity certification requirements to maximize investment and ensure long term reliability.

"Not many U.S. manufacturers of fiber optic assemblies can claim the product will perform as well in 20 years as it did the day it was assembled. The GR-326 CORE requirements have been designed to certify fiber optic connectivity suppliers in this regard," says Gregg Stewart, Custom Cable general manager. "As a value-added assembler, we are extremely pleased to receive this significant certification."

The certification enhances Custom Cable's U.S. fiber assembly manufacturing capabilities that include simplex/duplex

> WIRE, CABLE & TUBING CUTTERS INFRARED HEATING EQUIPMENT

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jumpers and distribution fiber trunks utilizing bend insensitive (BIF) singlemode fiber and OM1 through OM4 laser optimized (10-Gigabit) multimode fiber. Such assemblies are used in central office, data center, outside plant (MDU/RT) and customer premise (CPE) applications.

To receive the certification, Custom Cable successfully completed all Service Life and Reliability requirements. Service Life testing consists of a concise sequence of mechanical tests that simulate the stresses that fiber optic connector assemblies may be subjected to while in service within a telecommunications plant. Reliability testing establishes long-term reliability of the fiber optic connectors via rigorous environmental conditions designed to simulate the entire life of a product in all types of conditions.

"Compliance with the reliability portion of GR-326 is quite difficult to achieve due to extensive environmental aging," says Stewart. "We continue to invest in our internal environmental testing capabilities to ensure that all our products meet rigorous reliability standards. This is a valued requirement for fiber optic networks."

Founded in 1980, Custom Cable Industries, Inc. is a leading connectivity company with national presence and global distribution. Custom Cable is both TL 9000:2008 and ISO 9000:2008 certified.

New Catalog #39 from Micro Plastics

Micro Plastics, Inc. introduces a new product Catalog #39, which details their extensive inventory of plastic fasteners. With 290 pages, this catalog contains thousands of fastener items.

> Made in Syracuse, NY. Used around the world!

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solution for your processing needs

sample of your material and

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Micro Plastics new product catalog offers 500 new items.

This years' publication features 12 new product lines with over 500 NEW items

Contents include: standard and metric machine screws, cap screws, nuts, washers, spacers, insulators, grommets, bushings, rivets, hole plugs, clamps, printed circuit board accessories, suspended ceiling hooks, wire routing kits and many other hardware items.

Micro Plastics' manufactures millions upon millions of fasteners daily. They offer over 20,000 items and maintain an inventory of over 250 million parts. See details at https://secure.microplastics.com.

Model BTS1 Thermal Wire Stripper from Eraser Company

Eraser's Model BTS1 Thermal Wire Stripper is a bench mounted thermal stripper for solid and stranded wire and cables up to 1/2" OD (12.7mmø). The temperature of the stripping elements is infinitely variable up to 1400°F (760°C).

The unit has an infinitely adjustable strip length stop from 0 to 1-1/2" (38mm) and has a self-contained fume extraction system. The optional 90° element kit is available to provide infinite strip length or window stripping.

The Eraser Company, Inc., celebrating its 99th anniversary in business, manufactures a wide range of industrial products

including wire, cable and tubing cutters, wire and cable strippers, wire twisters, wire brush wheels, dereelers, infrared heating equipment, measuring tools, and fybRglass® erasers.

The company is ISO 9001:2000 certified. The company offers Free E.S.P. (Eraser Sample Program). Send a 10-20 foot sample of your material and Eraser will recommend the best solution for your processing needs from its line of more than 200 products. For unique processing needs, Eraser will custom design a solution for you.



Eraser's Model BTS1 Thermal Wire Stripper

For more information on Eraser's entire product line visit www.eraser.com or call 315-454-3237.



ATLAS WIRE CORPORATION

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Delphi Working to Make Electric Vehicle Wireless Charging a Reality

elphi Automotive has reached an agreement with WiTricity Corp., a wireless energy transfer technology provider, to develop automatic wireless charging products for hybrid and electric vehicles. The collaboration between the two companies will help establish a global infrastructure of safe and convenient charging options for consumer and commercial electric vehicles.

"This is groundbreaking technology that could enable automotive manufacturers to integrate wireless charging directly into the design of their hybrid and electric vehicles," said Randy Sumn-

er, director, global hybrid vehicle development, Delphi Packard Electrical/Electronic Architecture. "Delphi's expertise in global engineering, validation and manufacturing coupled with WiTricity's patented wireless energy transfer technology uniquely positions us to make wireless charging of electric vehicles a reality."

Sumner said the wireless charging system would involve no plugs or charging cords. Drivers would simply park their electric vehicle over a wireless energy source that sits on the garage floor, or is embedded in a paved parking spot. The system will automatically transfer power to the battery charger on the vehicle.

According to Eric Giler, chief executive officer, WiTricity, their wireless system can already transfer over 3,300 watts - enough to fully charge an electric car at the same rate as most residential plug-in chargers.

"Charging an electric car should be as easy as parking it in your garage or parking spot," Giler said. "WiTricity's high efficiency wireless energy transfer technology is ideally suited for electric vehicle charging, and our partnership with Delphi will help to quickly get this technology deployed in OEM vehicles and infrastructure projects worldwide."

"Delphi can bridge the gap between the laboratory and the highway by providing E/E systems integration expertise, a global manufacturing and engineering footprint and highvoltage, high-power com-

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ponents specifically engineered for the hybrid and electric vehicles of today and tomorrow," Sumner said.

Wireless charging technology will need to co-exist with plug-in charging solutions, Sumner added, so that electric vehicle drivers have the ability to charge their vehicle when they are away from their wireless charging source.

Delphi also makes a Portable Electric Vehicle Charger that fits conveniently in the trunk of an electric vehicle. The userfriendly, UL-listed charging system plugs into any standard 120-volt outlet to enable safe electric vehicle battery charging at home or away. The charging unit can also be integrated into stationary charging applications.

Delphi is a leading global supplier of electronics and technologies for automotive, commercial vehicle and other market segments. Operating major technical centers, manufacturing sites and customer support facilities in 30 countries, Delphi delivers real-world innovations that make products smarter and safer as well as more powerful and efficient. Connect to innovation at www.delphi.com

WiTricity Corporation designs, devel-

ops, manufactures, and markets patented technology for wireless energy transfer. Founded in 2007, the company is commercializing technology invented by a team of MIT physicists in 2006. This technology utilizes magnetism to transfer energy without wires in a way that is safe, efficient, and that works over distance. WiTricity is developing wireless energy transfer solutions for a broad range of consumer electronics, electric vehicle, medical, industrial, and military applications. For more information, visit www.witricity.com

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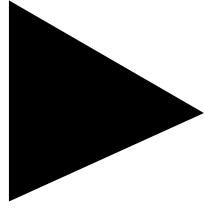
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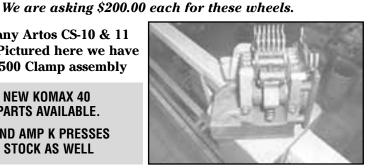
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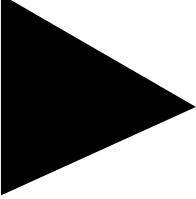
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Mexitronica October 19-21, 2010

Expo Guadalajara Centro Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

National Electronics Manufacturing Conference and Expo, Mexitronica, is Mexico's number one source for information on products, suppliers, service providers, and new technologies for the electronics and precision manufacturing industries. *For details see www.mexitronica.com.*

Printed Electronics USA December 1-2, 2010

Santa Clara Convention Center Santa Clara, California

Printed Electronics USA 2010 will reflect the huge momentum building in the industry as the market moves from RD to commercialized product and the wealth of new market opportunities beginning to be realized. Focused on the commercialization of printed and flexible electronics Printed Electronics USA is the key platform for end users to source suppliers from across the value chain.

Visit www.IDTechEx.com for attendee information.

Electronics West February 8-10, 2011

Anaheim Convention Center Anaheim, California

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Wiring Harness Manufacturer's Conference (WHMA) Westin San Diego March 2-4, 2011 San Diego, California

Once a year WHMA sponsors a conference that offers members the opportunity to participate in committee sessions, attend educational programs and check out the industry's latest at the suppliers' technology exhibits. For further information visit www.whma.org or call (952) 253-6085.

Aircraft Electronics Association Annual Convention Grand Sierra Resort March 22-25, 2011 Reno, Nevada

The 54th Annual AEA International Convention & Trade Show is a unique opportunity to connect with manufacturers, distributors, technicians and business leaders as we shap the future of avionics together. For more information visit www.aea.net/convention.

IPC/APEX Expo 2011 April 12-14, 2011

Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino Las Vegas, Nevada

The largest show for the electronics interconnect industry. You will see everyone from designers and printed circuit board companies to electronics manufacturing service companies to OEMs to suppliers. This even includes a premier comprehensive technical conference, professional development courses and networking activities specifically for designers, engineers, manufacturing personnel, managers and senior officers. *Contact MaryMacKinnon@ipc.org for details*

Electronics East April 21-22, 2011

Boston Convention Center Boston Massachusetts

Electronics New England brings you fact to face with the technical experts who can help you streamline your electronics manufacturing process and stay competitive. Electronics New England is one of the high-level pioneer discussion forums for the electronics sector. *Contact Canon Communications at 310-445-4200 for details.*

Del Mar Electronics Show May 4-5, 2011

Del Mar Fairgrounds Del Mar, California

A high value design and manufacturing show, this event serves the electronics, medical and biotech industries. The Del Mar show's technical program offers key insights to manufacturers who have serious concerns over advanced electronic components in the medical dvies. In addition, the show will play host to an impressive list of exhibitors.

Interwire 2011 May 3-5, 2011

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MEDCon – Medical Electronic Device Conference/Expo Navy Pier, Chicago May 16-18, 2011 Chicago, Illinois

The Medical Electronic Device Conference & Expo focuses on specific needs of electrical and design engineers for medical devices. The conference addresses key challenges in designed next generation devices. *See www.medicaldevicesexpo.com.*

National Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo May 18-19, 2011

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