

Customized Cut-Off Machines Cut Costs

Zeman Manufacturing DDM Services Corporation

Bob Zeman is president of Zeman Manufacturing and DDM Services Corporation, located in Lisle, IL. These companies specialize in cutting and fabricating custom metal tubes in small diameters for all types of metals including copper, brass, steel, stainless steel and aluminum.

“We use our Continental Machine to roll grooves in tubing—either snap-ring grooves or O-ring grooves. When a tube is used as a shaft, we roll a groove to hold a snap ring, which helps position the shaft in its final assembly. An O-ring groove is used in beverage dispensing equipment. If you have a faucet that swivels, there’s an O-ring inside to keep the water in the pipe.”

Technical and production expertise

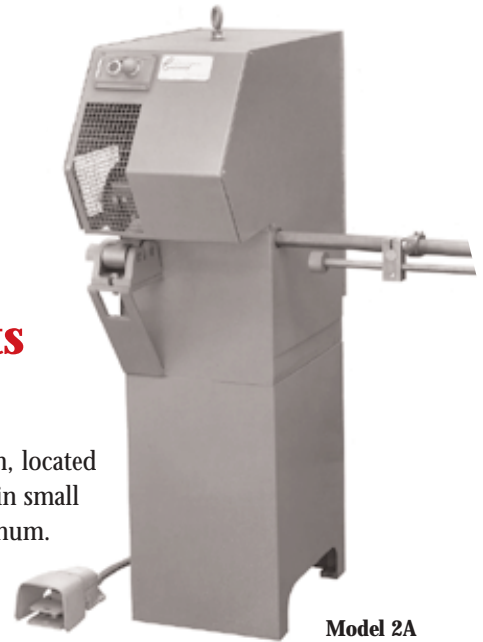
“We began using our Continental machine for cutting tubes 30 years ago. We discovered an additional use for the machine when we experimented with grooving. Recently, we bought a new machine strictly for grooving, which Continental made for us by customizing a stock machine. They visited our plant, reviewed our requirements and then modified a machine especially for grooving.

“Continental did a great job of taking our ideas and needs and applying them to modify their stock machine. They used their latest control systems to make the machine more accurate, and they added some modifications so that we could set the depth of the groove. In our fabrication business, we’re always striving for innovation. The new Continental machine has turned an innovation into a significant part of our business. We groove up to 10,000 parts a week.”

Significantly Increased Output

“The machine is reliable and consistent and has significantly improved our output. We’ve realized cost benefits in many areas; there’s less down time, better efficiency and labor savings. Plus, the machines are simple, durable and rugged. We still have the first one we bought 30 years ago.

“The other product we use from Continental is their support table to feed our other cut-off machines. It’s simple, easy to operate and a lot less expensive than the ones other manufacturers offer. We’re a job shop, so we have lots of different contracts. We’re changing over to different sizes daily. With the Continental table, this process is really easy. It’s very versatile. The changeover needs to be done quickly and easily, so it doesn’t cost us much in terms of time. Continental’s table does just that.”



Model 2A

Type of Company:

Contract Metal Tube Cut-off, Machining and Fabricating Job Shop

Location:

Lisle, IL

Concerns:

Technical knowledge and expertise

Customize for special grooving process cost effectively



Snap-ring and O-ring grooves