

INDUSTRY & MEMBER NEWS

DTC PRODUCTS' SLUG RETENTION MACHINE PREVENTS POTENTIALLY DAMAGING SLUGS FROM PULLING DURING STAMPING

Slugs that pull during a stamping operation can end up in the work zone and potentially cause damage to either the stamped part or to the very expensive die itself. DTC Products, a division of Dec Tool Corporation, has developed a patented device, the Slug Retention Machine, that prevents slugs from pulling back onto the die block.



The new Slug Retention Machine uses a pneumatically-powered grinder to precisely machine a small angled groove into the sidewall of the die cavity in a stamping die. A micrometer coupled to the drive of the machine's slide enables precise movement of the machine's carriage to enable the depth of the slug retention groove to be precisely controlled.

The groove is machined in at a precise depth and at a calculated angle to the die surface, which creates a precise amount of interference. During the stamping operation, slugs expand into these precision grooves, which prevents them from pulling back up to the top of the die block and onto the die surface where they can cause damage to the strip, final part or even to the die. This solution helps reduce downtime by eliminating the need to stop the press and remove slugs off the die and stripper surface, and also eliminates the significant costs associated with sorting parts looking for slug marks. The retention grooves can be machined into the die openings while the die is still in the press, resulting in even greater savings by eliminating the need to remove the die from the press, disassemble it and return it to the press.

The Slug Retention Machine measures less than 10 inches high, and features a magnetic base that allows it to be mounted temporarily but firmly in place on the die surface during the grooving operation. The machine can also be used to put grooves into die bushings and die inserts, as well as to vent guided stripper openings. At less than 10 pounds, this lightweight unit is easily transportable within a sturdy carrying case. The Slug Retention Machine can be used on dies in the tool room as well as on a die while it is in the press, requires only a compressed air connection to operate, and comes with multiple bits and accompanying tools. It can easily be set up and operated by a single person.

DTC Products is a division of Dec Tool Corporation, a leading designer and builder of tools, dies, jigs and fixtures located in St. Charles, Illinois. DTC Products manufactures tools, including DTC Ball Lock Holders and DTC True Bend, in addition to the DTC Slug Retention Machine. For more information and to order, contact DTC Products at 866-682-3602 or visit the company's website at www.dectool.com and click on the DTC Products menu tab.

TMA RELATED THEORY STUDENTS RECEIVE NIMS CREDENTIAL

TMA is proud to announce that the students currently enrolled in the first year class of Related Theory Apprentice Training have just completed the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) initial credential exam in Measurement, Materials and Safety. This was the first class in TMA history to sit for the exam. Each of the 20 students enrolled in this class passed the exam and have now earned this valuable initial credential!

NIMS has created standards to set the bar for what on-the-job skills are expected from employees. NIMS certifies individuals' skills against these national standards. By earning a NIMS credential, these TMA Apprentice Training students are meeting the skills requirements set forth by industry.



Students completing the first year of Apprentice Training in August, shown here with their credential certificates.

TMA commends these students, as well as their instructor Jonathan Martinez, for their achievement!

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