

Even more regrinding capacity for Atlas Machine Knives



Atlas Machine Knives is always keeping up with the times to ensure the best service for its customers, and now with the addition of its new Fanuc controlled CNC lathe, that service has just got even better. This new high capacity machine allows the company to deal with even greater quantities of circular knife regrinding without sacrificing its daily turnaround time. This machine, along with the vast range of its other CNC machines, allows Atlas to sharpen any type of machine knife quickly and to the highest quality in the regrinding market place.

Atlas Machine Knives has been in business for 34 years; it tests new machine knife blades for sharpening to determine the correct grades of coolants and grinding compounds for that material to give the perfect finish. The company can regrind straight blades up to five metres long, circular knives up to 600mm in diameter, and saw blades up to one metre in diameter.

Atlas also supplies new knives and offers advice in this area. Its large range of stock of commonly used machine knives means that customers are not left waiting around. All its new knives are of OEM quality or above and can be supplied in different grades of materials, such as high carbon and chrome (D2), high carbon (D3), high speed steel (HSS M2), tool steel EN31, carbon spring steel as well as powder metallurgy (CPM10V), and tungsten carbide (WC).

The company also holds a large stock of cutting accessories - cutting sticks, knife holders, hot cut holders, neoprene and

rubber seals, springs, pins, pneumatic accessories, bearings and spacers.

To add to all this, it has a collection and delivery service to take the hassle out of dealing with blunt knives. This service operates throughout the North of England directly from its workshop in Elland, West Yorkshire and it also has a courier service covering the rest of the UK and Europe.

Atlas's customer base ranges from bakeries to steel converters, and paper mills to rubber processing; this allows the company to advise customers on the correct material for their knives as well as proven regrind angles. Atlas states: "We regularly rectify problems for companies where others have left them stranded."

Atlas Machine Knives was founded in 1981, initially specialising in providing the converting industries with a reliable and comprehensive machine knife sales and sharpening service. In 2004, Gary France became the owner and director. Since then, the company has grown and it now provides services across the UK and beyond.

In 2006, the company moved to its new workshop in Elland and invested in a number of modern CNC controlled machines to increase sharpening capability. Two years ago, Gary stepped down and his son, Matthew France, took over; Matthew aims to grow the company further, and to put even more emphasis on customer service.

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New automated sheeter system makes material cutting easier



AZCO Corp has designed a custom automated sheeter system that is used to unwind, cut and stack a 29-inch wide roll of .003-inch thick aluminium material.

The process begins with the roll of material loaded onto a motorised single shaft unwind. The unwind is equipped with a dancer attachment and idler roller to maintain web tension and alignment. All rollers are urethane coated for uniform grip of the material. An end of roll sensor alerts the operator when the roll is out of material.

The aluminium is cut into 50-inch sheets. A set of grippers holds the material coming from the cut-to-length unit and this indexes the material; at the same time, the linear actuators move the material into position, over the stack.

The automated stacking system creates 12-inch high stacks, after which the machinery stops the operation and a visual alert is displayed on the light tower. An operator removes the completed stack and places a new tray onto the stacker.

PLC controls and a HMI colour touch screen are provided for easy entering of operator information, including cut length, run time, and number of cut pieces.



AZCO Corp's automated sheeter/stacker

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