

FORMTEK-MAINE

CoilMate IOWA PRECISION B&K ROWE

News Feed

Factory News: New Equipment

Formtek Maine continues to invest in capital projects to improve efficiency and on time deliveries by investing in new machinery with enhanced operator controls, increased accuracies and performance. From left to right, we have recently installed the following machines (from left to right):



Chevalier precision cylindrical grinder which can handle 12" diameter by 40" length rolls. This machine will complete our roll cell as it will work in conjunction with our Okuma turn mills and our Ultraflex induction heater and our Ecotech large roll grinder.

JLH 16" diameter cut off saw with PLC control, 10" touchscreen, 100 job storage, automatic kerf loss compensation, and automatic multi indexing capability.

Chevalier fully automatic 16" x32" Surface Grinder with Smart iSurface controller, 10.4" high resolution touchscreen, 3 axes fully automatic surface and plunge grinding system.

26HD-48 Blanchard grinder was completely rebuilt, saddle, spindle and table re-surfaced.



New 5-Ton gantry crane was added in our fabrication department to service plate loading and unloading on the new Messer cutting table.

Messer Cutting Table with 8' wide x 20' long x 3" thick capacity. All axes are backlash compensated to provide a machine motion accuracy of +/- .002", travel speeds up to 1700 inches per minute, down draft table for smoke removal and automatic slag removal system below the cutting table.

Coming soon...

New Bridgeport for trade school students to utilize.
New 30 camera high-definition security system.

Factory News:

New Employees:



Doug Hillman
Machinist



Lukkas Whitman
Machinist



Richard Reed
Handyman/Saw



Venessa Languet
Shipping / Receiving



Tim Laplante
Handyman / Painter / Crater



Tyler Bishop
Engineering Intern



Lorelei Mason
Engineering Intern

Promotions:



Alyssa Barnes
Scheduler
Promoted from Engineering Intern



Jason Carter
Assembler
Promoted from Handyman



Cody Lasselle
Assembler
Promoted from Handyman

(3) 36' Wide Press Feed Lines for Simpson Strong-Tie, Stockton, CA

Formtek-Maine has recently shipped three press feed lines to Simpson Strong-Tie a leading manufacturer of building hardware and connectors to replace existing equipment in their Stockton, CA facility. Each system can handle cold-rolled steel up to 0.125" thick at 36" wide and 0.250" thick at 6" wide in coils weighing up to 20,000 lb.



The system is equipped with Allen/Bradley Kinetix controls with Compact Logix PLC and our **"Total System Control" package**. A full-color touchscreen HMI is provided at the straightener to control the back of the line and includes our "auto-ready" feature and a host of on-screen functions: digital roll position readouts, step-by-step thread-up instructions with illustrations, a maintenance schedule with diagrams, a lubrication schedule, and diagnostic fault messages with recommended remedies. A bar code scanner is used to scan incoming coils and call up the job associated with that coil bar code. A second full-color touchscreen HMI at the feeder allows storage of additional features by job number such as pass line height, width of coil, yield strength, and material thickness and will automatically set powered features such as the edge guides, feed cabinet, straightener rolls, and side guide rollers upon recall of the job.

The system includes a 20,000 lb. stock reel equipped with a spring-set brake, a secondary coil clamping arm mounted in a clock-spring guard for added safety, and powered side guide roller type coil keepers with push-button adjustment and automatic setup by job number. The coil car has a 180° rotating top to allow the operator to orient the leading edge properly when loading coils.



The powered straightener is equipped with our hold-down peeler station on the entry side for hands-free thread-up of coils and includes powered edge guides with push-button adjustment and automatic setup by job number. The straightener is equipped with automatic central lubrication for ease in maintenance and includes smooth chrome plated straightener rolls and our powered high lift head feature for ease in cleaning the straightener rolls between jobs.

The ServoMax feed has powered pass line height adjustment, a powered telescoping stock support table, and powered edge guides, all with push-button adjustment and automatic setup by job number. The feed is also equipped with automatic central lubrication for easy maintenance and anti-backup rolls for added safety. We also mounted the customer's Unist stock lubricator to the feed cabinet.

All three of the lines have been installed by our Formtek-Maine Service Department and are now in full production. A fourth feed line, 72" wide, was delivered last month and is tentatively scheduled for installation in the fall.

Dealer Spotlight: Oleska Industrial Equipment Sales



John Oleska began his career in manufacturing as a supervisor at a metal stamping facility. In 1998 he accepted a position in machine tool sales with Milligan & Fouts Company, a long-time ROWE distributor covering Northeastern Ohio.

In 1994 John decided to venture out on his own and in December of 1994 he registered Oleska Industrial Equipment Sales with the state of Ohio. He had developed considerable knowledge of metal stamping and coil handling and wanted to share that knowledge with the customers in his area. He also wanted to see if he would be successful in taking on the responsibility of being self-employed and providing for his family. Months away from his 30th anniversary, I'd say he's done just that. In his own words "I enjoy going to work everyday. Not too many people can say that about their jobs."

With him from the beginning was his wife and Office Manager Lorie. Despite her storied history with Oleska Industrial (she's quit 27 times and John has fired her 11 times) she keeps coming back. John handles all outside sales. At one time he had 3 outside salespeople but that ended with the economic downturn in 2008.

Shortly after John took on the ROWE product line and sold the first two ROWE lines built in Maine to his long-time customer Broshco Fabricated Products in Mansfield, OH. He said it was a natural transition for him from ROWE to selling all of Formtek-Maine's brands. He chose Formtek because "The Formtek equipment is a very diversified product line that covers the smallest light gauge feed lines to the largest heavy duty coil lines, in addition to that we have CTL lines and Levelers for special applications."

When I asked him what his plans were for the future, he stated "Right now there are no special plans here at world headquarters, we are a small business. We will make necessary adjustments if business conditions dictate a change."

I for one am glad that John decided to represent Formtek-Maine. When he calls our office I know I'm going to laugh until I'm sore. If Nancy or Reggie is in the office I have to hand the phone over to them so they can say "hello". And of course what I look forward to the most is when John ends our conversations by calling me a "cesspool of knowledge."

When John isn't pounding the pavement selling our equipment, he's pursuing his other passion: chasing big bucks. We wish you luck with this one in 2024.



18" Cut-to-Length and Recoiling Line for Mead Metals, St. Paul, MN

Formtek-Maine shipped a Cut-to-Length and Recoiling Line for processing HSLA to Mead Metals in March of 2024. Mead Metals is a St. Paul, MN based service center that specializes in providing coils of specialty, rare, and exotic metals in small quantities. Using a combination of standard machines and custom engineered equipment, we were able to provide a system that is as unique as the materials Mead Metals processes.



The system had to be robust enough to uncoil and straighten coils ranging from 0.135" thick at 80,000 psi yield to 0.070" at 160,000 psi yield and at line speeds approaching 200 fpm. Their existing line had a special edge conditioner to remove burred edges that could also be used to correct for camber on their narrower materials. It also had a small cartridge-style set of vertical and horizontal rollers they could adjust on the fly to remove twist that was inherent in some of their narrow coils. The over arm on their recoiler had a unique roller separator system with nylon sleeves of various sizes they could swap in and combine to match the widths of any of their coils. A stock table located between the cutoff shear and recoiler could be rolled into position to support blanks in cut-to-length mode or rolled out of the way for recoiling.



Our system includes our 4R series stock reel with powered side guide rollers to prevent telescoping of coils and an adjustable sub-base to adjust coil alignment to ensure centered coils.

The coil processor consists of a hold-down peeler station w/ clamping thread-up table, a model HDC straightener head with individual roll adjustment, a combination edge conditioner /camber compensator, a (2) roll ServoMax servo feed with cartridge-style twist compensator, and hydraulic cutoff shear.

The fixed runout table has a rolling base to manually move the table in line for running in cut-to-length mode, or to move out of line when recoiling. A fixed edge is provided on the table for a quick camber check on cut parts.

The recoiler has a full-radius drum mandrel with a manually actuated lead edge locking device on one arm and clearance for fork truck tines cut into the arms to allow loading or unloading of coils. The over-arm roller has a quick release mechanism to allow easy removal of the roller. The operator can switch out the polyurethane spacers and guide plates to the desired coil size to ensure a tight finished coil. A hydraulic powered pusher plate is included to push coils off the spindle for removal.

The line was installed in the spring and is currently running production.

Summer 2024

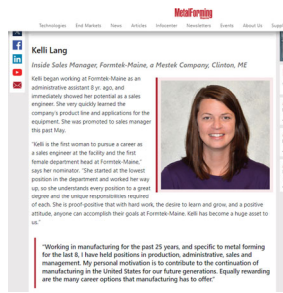
Advertising:

One of my goals last year was to try and increase our presence online and in our industry periodicals. I realize we have a long way to go but we're definitely taking steps in the right direction. Links to the issues are included below.

Metalforming Magazine: December 2023

Our own Kelli Lang was nominated and was selected as one of [2023's Women of Excellence in Metal Forming & Fabricating](#).

In addition to her biographical profile in the article, she also appeared on the cover of the magazine.

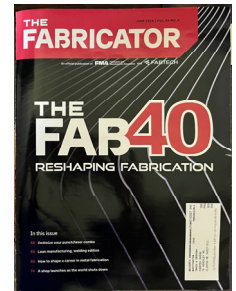


High-Speed Servo Feeds

This ad highlights our high-speed ServoMatic feeds. This ad appeared in the April issue of [The Fabricator](#) as well as on page 26 of the [Digital Fabricator's](#) April issue. This was also my first official ad submitted to one of our industry publications.

Multi-Blanking Systems

This ad showcases our Iowa Precision multi-blanking and flexible fabrication systems with one of our Formtek-Maine built roll formers. This ad appeared in the June issue of [The Fabricator](#). It also appeared on page 62 of the [Digital Fabricator's](#) June issue.



This ad also ran in the June issue of [Metal Center news](#).

Regional Trade Shows:

We have also participated (or will participate) in a number of regional table top shows and PMA events as well as the annual Fabtech show. The most recent are as follows:

Automotive Parts Suppliers Conference (APSC), Greenville, SC

October 26-27, 2023

Craig Derosby and Mike Roy attended. Formtek-Maine sponsored the Networking Lunch and included an ad placed in MetalForming Magazine's automotive eNewsletter

PMA New England Member Appreciation at Top Golf

Thursday, May 30, 2024

Sponsored drinks at the event.

PMA Twin Cities District Annual Golf Outing

Monday, June 3, 2024

Co-Sponsored a raffle item with our local distributor **Crane Production Systems**

Automotive Parts Suppliers Conference (APSC), Pontiac, MI

September 11-12, 2024

Kevin Enos will be in attendance. Formtek-Maine is sponsoring the Networking Lunch



Summer 2024

Fabtech 2024—Orlando, FL:

We've secured our spot in booth **S29059** for Orlando this year and are making plans for the booth and equipment and scheduling our staff to meet with you all. This being an off year, we are switching up the attendance a bit and will swing back to the norm in Chicago next year. Mike Roy, our Eastern Regional Manager, will host with both Kendra and Kelli for the duration of the show, with Tevin joining us for a few days at the front end of the show.



We are positioned on a peninsula and should be well within view for the Metal Forming visitors from all directions. We are looking forward to the event in October and hope to see as many of you there as possible.



From The Desk of: Kelli Lang, Inside Sales Manager

Work Anniversaries: We are celebrating two 2-year work anniversaries; Kendra Raven and Tevin Huff. How can it be?!? We call them our work babies, but they made it through years one and two and are going for gold (en). We've been fortunate to retain both Tevin and Kendra and want to wish them both a Happy 2-year anniversary.

Dennis Weymouth hit a different milestone this year, earning the additional weeks' vacation at his 8-year mark that came in April. Congratulations, Dennis, well deserved.

Kevin and Craig both have anniversaries in July, reaching 19 and 26 years respectively (and Kelli celebrates her 9th anniversary in August –cwd).



Price Guides: June 1st, 2024 brought us updated price guide equipment pricing. In efforts to maintain fair pricing with the continued rise in vendor and material costs, we have concluded our mid-year price review and adjusted accordingly. Please review outstanding proposals, specific to price guide equipment, and reach out as required for any projects that are outside of the quote validity period. The grace period ends with an expired quotation. As a reminder, quote validity periods are 30-days from receipt of quote.

Top Dealers for 2023: While we haven't made it through the alphabet yet with our dealer spotlights, our dealer representatives are surely a topic worth discussing. We are pleased to recognize our top dealers for 2023.

- Manufacturing Technology – Eastern Region
- Stamping Concepts – Eastern Region
- Crane Production Systems – Midwestern Region
- AMP Machinery Systems – Midwestern Region

There are countless attributes, each uniquely uniform with our dealer representation across the nation. With their contributions, we managed to pull a record breaking year in gross sales for 2023. We thank each representative that works tirelessly for those sales and want to extend a formal salute to our Top 4. We are truly grateful for our partnership and look forward to the continued business with many thanks to you.

-Kelli A. Lang
Inside Sales Manager, Formtek-Maine

Our Newsletters can be found at:

<https://www.formtek-maine.com/newsletters.html>