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**Serving
industry
since 1971**

Case Study 20080918

by Gordon Reeves © 2008

Radiator fin forming requires dependable thin film of lubricant

Problem

Radiator fins are formed from thin aluminum stock that must be lubricated as it enters the fin former. Excess lubrication is costly and messy, but lack of lubrication causes the stock to stick to the dies resulting in scrap. The right amount of lubricant is critical.

First purchase

A spraying system was purchased from a supplier who promised “just the amount you specify”, “instant flow adjustment”, “no overspray”, “no mist”, and that a controlled consistent amount of lubricant could be sprayed from each nozzle. The spraying equipment included a lubricant pressure tank, and knobs and gauges for each nozzle.

It didn't work!

When adjusted to delivery small amounts, it often failed to start spraying after being shut off for a few minutes. Its nozzles caused a mist to cloud the area. It was frequently misadjusted and sprayed too much lubricant. Often, a nozzle would just quit spraying. Each operator had his or her own idea about how much lubricant to spray and how to adjust the sprayer. Necessary frequent readjustments wasted time.

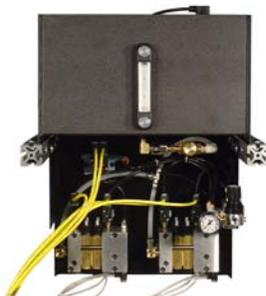
Eat Crow

It was difficult to admit to being cleverly deceived. The spraying system that didn't work was thrown out.

Final purchase

A replacement sprayer was purchased, but only after its manufacturer demonstrated it at the user's facility with the user's lubricant. The Reeves sprayer is controlled by a modern microprocessor with a two-line LCD display that allows the operator to select the volume of lubricant to be sprayed from each nozzle in pairs (left pair and right pair). Spray volumes between 0.50 and 8 cc per minute can be selected “on screen”. Because the sprayer uses repeat cycle volumetric piston displacement for measuring, selected volumes are accurate regardless of lubricant viscosity differences. The Reeves sprayer has a 2-gallon size non-pressurized reservoir that can be filled at any time even when the unit is spraying. The sprayer is wired into the fin former so nozzles spray only when stock is moving.

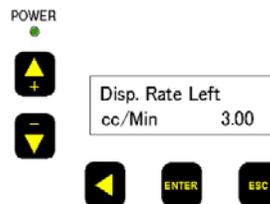
Reservoir and dispensers



Microprocessor



Lubricant amount



The display shows that a dispense rate of 3 cc per minute has been selected

Nozzles



Results

No mist cloud
Reduced lubricant usage
No more jam-ups. Stock moves through fin former without sticking.
Operators select lubricant nozzles and volumes for different fin sizes from a set-up sheet.
Increased radiator fin production (which is what it's all about)

What about you?

Do you have sprayers that don't work?
Are you ready to throw out the junk?
Would you like to select lubricant volumes “on screen” and know that you are getting exactly what you asked for?
Please call G. P. Reeves at 888-399-8893. Ask for Kevin Reeves