



Solve Production Inefficiency with Innovative Workholding Solutions

Assisting customers with custom engineered solutions to increase productivity within their operation is a driving force at Kitagawa-NorthTech. This drive has propelled us to become consultants and partners in business with our manufacturing customer base.

Many situations flow through our engineering department, requiring custom-made workholding solutions to grip complex parts or to process multiple operations with one chuck. A customer contacted us in search of a solution for a family of parts that would require (2) machining operations consisting of both turning and drilling/sawing conducted on their (1) single spindle lathe. During the initial discussion, the customer requested a quote for (2) chucks that they imagined would be installed and removed for the two operations.

After reviewing the customer's family of parts, our engineering department developed custom top tooling for consideration based on a standard sliding jaw chuck. Through this process the engineering staff determined that custom top tooling could be manufactured to hold all the parts in a single chuck; which would eliminate the need to change over the top tooling for the two operations and would further enhance productivity. This is accomplished with one set of top tooling (per part) that would accommodate all machining to be done, completely eliminating downtime for top tooling change over and additional investments in unnecessary top tooling.

This custom workholding solution provided a higher level of efficiency and through put for the customer – above and beyond their initial communication. The savings in time and investment will continue throughout the life of the project. Ultimately, the customer will experience a sustainable competitive advantage.

