

Making the Most of Technology

LB Mold utilizes WorkNC for 5-axis and lights-out machining

For LB Mold, embracing technology isn't just par for the course, but an essential part of the recipe for sustained success.

"A distinct advantage that can easily get overlooked in manufacturing is not only having the best manpower or equipment, but the ability to intentionally and successfully integrate technology," says John Bodine, owner of LB Mold, an Edinburgh, Indiana-based wheel-mold manufacturing company.

Bodine says of his business philosophy, "We always have to be willing to take calculated risks — and perform calculated experiments — in order to be innovative and continue to push our standard upward."

LB Mold and WorkNC

LB Mold was established in 1996, after Bodine had accrued over 20 years of experience in the mold and pattern industry. Having been exposed to various lines of CAM software over the years, he knew that the WorkNC solution by Vero Software would be his system of choice. The solution was in place when LB Mold secured its very first customer.

"I would have had a lot more headache trying to run this business without WorkNC. It's very dependable software," Bodine says. "The wheel molds that we manufacture produce a very visual part of the automobile. There is no room for error."

LB Mold is a tier-two supplier that serves a customer base in North America. Despite being one of only a few American



About The Company:

Name: LB Mold

Business: Wheel-mold and component manufacturing

Benefits Achieved:

- Increase in automation by applying sequences from previous jobs
- WorkNC Auto 5 feature to generates collision-free 5-axis toolpath that based on existing 3-axis toolpath
- Saves time and increases efficiency

Comments:

"There is no other software out there that can compare to WorkNC."

John Bodine
Business Owner

Vero Software

2000 Town Center, Suite 1730, Southfield, MI 48075

Tel: 248-351-9300 Tel: www.worknc.com



wheel-mold manufacturers to survive the auto industry's instability in 2008 and 2009, Bodine concentrates less on world trends and more on business.

"Our work will speak for itself. There is a lot of noise that could easily distract you from doing your work," Bodine says. "We choose to stay focused. When we focus on our customers, we are more apt to support them as they grow."

With only a "couple small glitches" having occurred in their nearly two-decade working relationship with WorkNC, Bodine reports that ongoing upgrades paired with strong customer support have helped to ensure the software's irreplaceable role in his company. "There is no other software out there that can compare to WorkNC," he says.

Growing with WorkNC

In 2014, when LB Mold expanded its machining capabilities by adding two top-of-the-line 5-axis Mazak machining centers and acquired four new YCM 3-axis machines, it revisited how WorkNC could maximize its new equipment.

To test the company's options, CNC Programmer and Lead Engineer Darren Wright sent component files to a handful of CAM companies to gauge their ability to program LB Mold's most challenging components.

"WorkNC was the only one of the four or five companies that were sent part files that — a few hours after we sent the files — asked if we wanted to see a demo of the software with our parts," Wright says. "The attentiveness to the customer's needs (and our previous work history) made the decision easy for us."



The WorkNC Advantage

Two WorkNC features consistently utilized by LB Mold are its ability to apply sequences and its Auto 5 feature — a handy tool for a 3-axis shop integrating 5-axis capabilities.

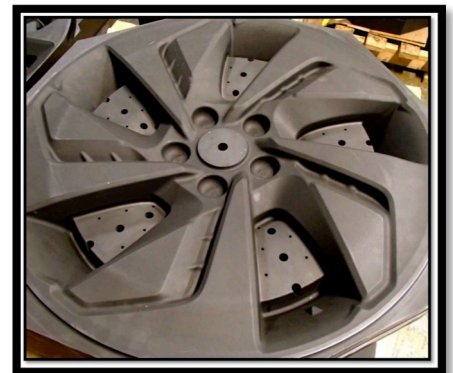
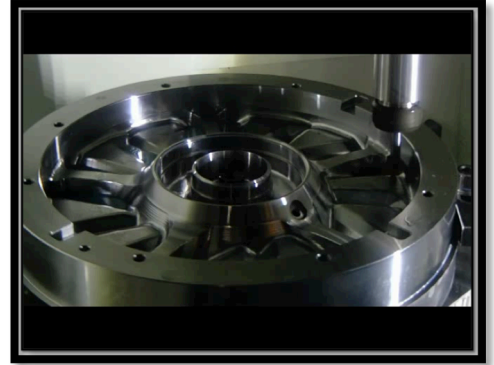
Designed to further automate the programming process, sequences can be easily established by utilizing data from previously machined jobs. Sequences can be loaded to designate multiple machining operations, including all parameters, at once. For instance, a sequence for “hard steel finishing” can be used again and again to streamline the programming process.

Machining parameters may include speeds and feeds, as well as all tool parameters attached to the sequence. Utilizing sequences in WorkNC also ensures consistent programming among multiple users, as sequences aid in the recording and implementation of best practices throughout the shop.

“The ability to bring in sequences is something that I use all the time,” CNC Programmer David Fredericksen says. “If the job is similar to a previous job, I just bring in the sequences and apply them.”

WorkNC’s 5-axis capabilities have also allowed LB Mold to eliminate a portion of lathe time previously required for some of its components. A component that previously required two operations on a lathe and one on a mill took two hours to machine. Those same operations can now be combined into one operation on a 5-axis machine, cutting machining time by 70 percent.

WorkNC Auto 5 enables programmers to automatically generate collision-free 5-axis toolpath that is based upon existing 3-axis toolpath. It also takes into account the kinematics of the selected 5-axis mill. The 5-axis toolpath supports the use of short, rigid cutters and allows more of the



Vero Software

2000 Town Center, Suite 1730, Southfield, MI 48075

Tel: 248-351-9300 Tel: www.worknc.com

worknc

job to be finished in one setup, reducing both machining time and human error.

“Ten years ago, when we would machine the cosmetic side of a component, it would take 24 hours,” Wright says, “and now have it down to seven.”

Most importantly, after all the employees have gone home and the lights have been turned off, all the machines continue to run. They are able to utilize WorkNC for lights-out machining because of its reliability, and the accuracy of its toolpath verification, simulation, and collision detection.

WorkNC pinpoints collisions and out-of-limit conditions in a global machining environment that includes the machine, workpiece, fixturing, and complete tool assembly.

“I’ve used a lot of software packages and WorkNC is the only package that, if it says it isn’t going to crash, it isn’t going to crash,” says Fredericksen. “We have an enormous investment in our equipment. When applicable, we have those machines running 24 hours a day. We can do this with confidence because of WorkNC.”

For LB Mold, lights-out manufacturing is a direct byproduct of making the most of its technology with WorkNC.

“When I can get technology working for me, I’ve got a competitive edge that allows us to sustain success. WorkNC empowers me to compete and succeed in today’s global market,” Bodine says.



WorkNC China Master Distributor
 Shanghai Qianghu Information Technology Co.,Ltd
 Tel:021-50304630 Fax:021-50307213
 Email:qianghu@qianghu.com
 www.qianghu.com



扫一扫二维码
 获取更多WorkNC最新资讯

Vero Software
 2000 Town Center, Suite 1730, Southfield, MI 48075
 Tel: 248-351-9300 Tel: www.worknc.com

worknc