

Park Manufacturing Corp. Inc.

Customer Success Story

Autodesk® Inventor®
Autodesk® Vault Workgroup

It's not just that we're able to do things more efficiently with Digital Prototyping, like reducing rework by 70 percent. We are now able to do things we couldn't do at all before.

—George Radcliffe
Manufacturing Engineer
Park Manufacturing Corp. Inc.

Autodesk®

Tools for success.

Park Manufacturing surpasses competitors with Autodesk® solution for Digital Prototyping.

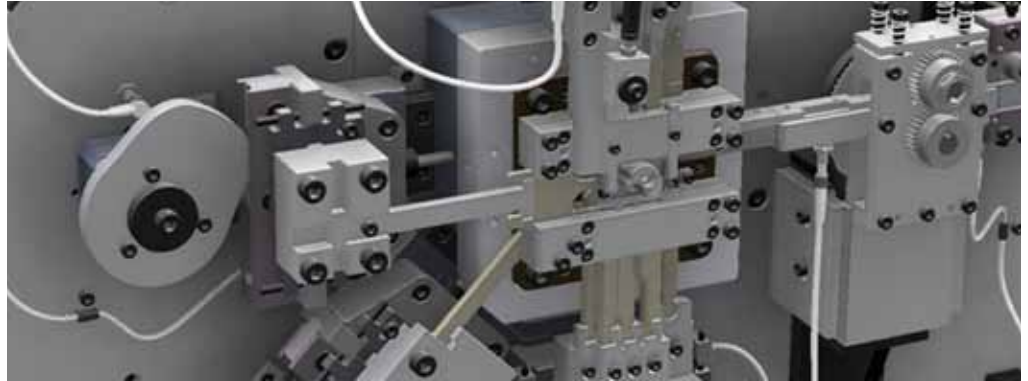


Image courtesy of Park Manufacturing Corp. Inc.

Project Summary

Located in Melrose Park, Illinois, Park Manufacturing Corp. Inc. makes small metal structural components and electrical contacts and springs. With Cooper Industries, Illinois Tool Works, and Zimmer Patient Care among its customers, the company has found a niche in the lighting, medical, and window frame industries.

The trust of these customers is essential to Park Manufacturing's business. Because it churns out millions of an identical product, the ISO 9001-certified company faces emerging global competition. It combats overseas outsourcing by focusing on quality and communication.

"Customers look to us for a level of quality and service they can't get from their other suppliers," says George Radcliffe, manufacturing engineer. "We never hesitate to offer suggestions like a simple way to change the design to save money on tooling or production—or to make a better product."

The company uses Autodesk® Inventor® and Autodesk® Vault Workgroup software to:

- Develop an in-house machine at 95 percent less cost than buying a new one
- Engineer precise fits between parts, reducing rework by 70 percent
- Communicate better with customers and help win more bids

The Challenge

Among other things, the company makes retaining clips for plastic wheels, like those on garbage cans. More than 60 percent of production time for the company's Bihler machine was taken up manufacturing one customer's steady and voluminous

production of these clips. "We found we were less aggressive in quoting new work for this machine because we didn't have the capacity," says Radcliffe. "We needed to design and build a strong, simple machine that could free up time for more lucrative jobs on our Bihler machine."

The Solution

The company had two options to address the problem. One was to buy another Bihler machine at a cost of \$600,000. The other was to design and build something in-house that could make the clips just as well. Using Inventor software, company engineers designed and built a new piece of equipment for \$30,000 to shift the production of the retaining clips. Moreover, Autodesk Vault Workgroup made it possible to collaborate on the project without using a single piece of paper.

The Result

Now the entire production of retaining clips can be run on the new machine. It was designed to use tooling from the existing machine, so if a problem develops or a part breaks, the company has a backup.

"Instead of buying a \$600,000 machine, we built one for \$30,000. Now we've opened up 60 percent of the capacity of our Bihler machine and can aggressively bid work for it," says Radcliffe. "It's not just that we're able to do things more efficiently with Digital Prototyping, like reducing rework by 70 percent. We are now able to do things we couldn't do at all before."

For More Information

To find out more about Inventor software's Digital Prototyping capabilities, visit www.autodesk.com/beyond3d.

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