

“Outstanding reliability, exceptionally good parallelism, and lack of downtime made our choice another Minster.”



*Joe Lauria
Superintendent, File Machine
Steelcase, Inc.
Grand Rapids, Michigan*

The Steelcase File Division produces over 2200 different metal stampings. Their presses are run 19 hours a day to keep up with demand.

A recent addition to the File Division's press capacity was a new Minster Series E2 HeviStamper. The E2-500-144 is the largest automatic, coil fed press at Steelcase.

This is the ninth Minster press at Steelcase File Division. The other Minsters include a 75-ton SuperStock OBI, a P2 Piece-Maker and six E2's of up to 400 tons capacity. (In total, Steelcase operates several Minster presses at plants in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Tustin, California.)

The history of the new E2-500-144 begins back in 1981 . . .

Steelcase was experiencing capacity problems in the manufacture of its popular Binder Bins. Production could not

keep up with demand. Research into the problem showed that a bottleneck existed in the manufacture of inner and outer end supports for the Binder Bins.

Joe Lauria, File Machine Superintendent, was the team leader of a Steelcase group that researched the problem. Says Lauria, "Production of the inner and outer end supports was a real problem. At that time, each end support went through 18 different operations. Not only did this present capacity problems that hindered increasing production, it also presented quality problems. These parts must be flat and without marks. That's a tough goal when a part is handled that many times."

The project group's conclusion was that the best answer was to consolidate all these separate operations into a single machine with high production capability.



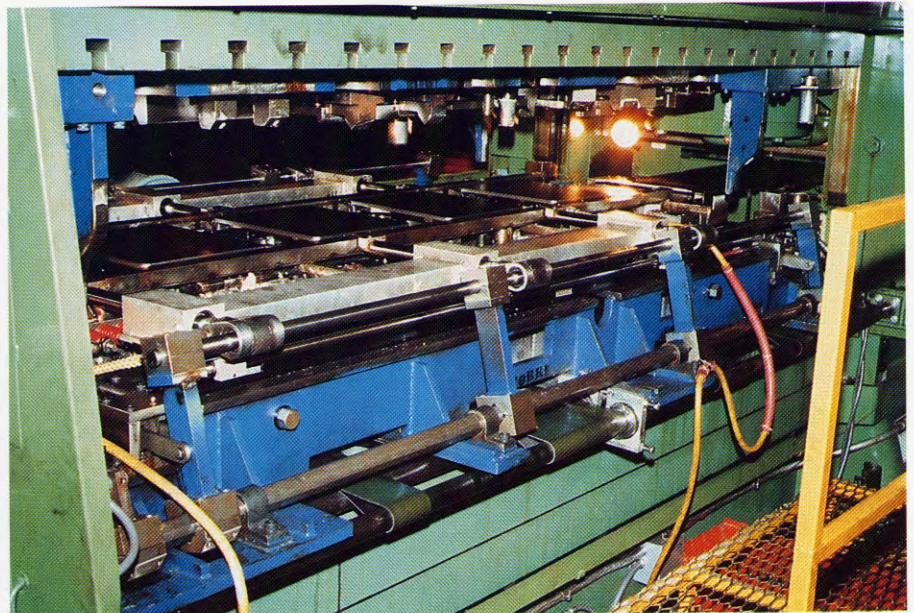
This new E2-500-144 is the largest automatic, coil fed press ever installed at Steelcase.

“The project has been an unqualified success,” says Lauria. “We can see many additional applications for this machine in the future, as well. It was purchased for today **and** tomorrow. When we bought the Minster, we knew we were getting a press that would hold up over the long run. We knew it would hold the tolerances we needed and give us maximum uptime. It’s an ‘A-Number-One’ machine.”

The Minster Series E2 HeviStamper has found wide application in many industries because it has proven, time and again, to be the best press to perform the toughest jobs, with greatest efficiency and benefit to the user. Ask for more information on the Minster E2 and learn how it can help you extend die life, improve close tolerance part accuracy and increase operating speeds.

Joe Lauria continues, “Our group wrote specifications for a press that could handle the job in one pass. We went to three different manufacturers with our specs. Our objective was to get as near as possible to an ‘apples-to-apples’ comparison. We picked Minster over the others because our experience with Minster equipment has been nothing but great. To put it simply, outstanding reliability, exceptionally good parallelism and lack of downtime made our choice another Minster.

With the new E2 installed and operating, end supports that previously required eighteen separate operations are now produced automatically from coil stock in one press at 35 strokes-per-minute. A production bottleneck has been eliminated, part cost has been reduced and part quality has been improved.



Inner and outer end supports for the Binder Bins are produced in coil fed transfer dies at 35 strokes per minute.

Steelcase