

# Ritz punches out benefits with Amada press

by Jerry Cook

Installing an Amada EMK 3610NT turret punch press has not only enabled Ritz Technologies Inc., New Dundee, ON to upgrade the technology it is using and increase production capacity, but has also opened up new opportunities for business for the custom sheetmetal fabricator.

“Our previous Amada Pega turret press could only handle a 40 in. wide sheet. There were many times when we were using the older press that a machine (capable of handling) a 60 in. sheet size would have been good for us,” says Gary Ritz, general manager with Ritz Technologies.

Adds Ritz, “When we were deciding on getting the new machine and compared the 48 in. model width to the 60 in. machine, we decided that for the extra price the 60 in. machine would offer more advantages for us and it has in terms of getting an increased number of parts, as well as larger sizes, out of the machine. The EMK 3610NT with the larger sheet size has been a much greater advantage for us.”

Cynthia Tremblett, production manager with Ritz, also feels that the EMK 3610NT press has expanded business opportunities for the company. “There were jobs that we had to turn down because we needed that larger sheet size,” she says. “When we told those customers who we had turned down that we had a new machine that could handle a larger sheet size they were right back with us.”

Ritz Technologies ([relco-ritz.on.ca](http://relco-ritz.on.ca)), which began operations in 1971, has 13 employees at its 15,000 sq. ft. facility. The firm specializes in custom sheetmetal fabrication and assembly for customers in various markets including general industrial and small appliances. In addition to CNC punching and bending, Ritz provides a variety of other inhouse services including MIG and TIG welding, shearing, powder coating, silk screening, and more. “We also do value added electronics,” says Ritz. “Typically, a customer will give us a metalworking job and want us to take it a step further and do the electronics.”

The company is working with a variety of sheet material including mild steel, stainless steel, galvanized, aluminum, brass, and bronze. Typically, Ritz is dealing with material thicknesses ranging from 24 ga up to 1/8 in. The firm’s part runs range from one-offs and prototypes up to 2,000 pieces. According to Ritz, the firm’s production typically involves a variety of different products in small lot sizes.

Ritz Technologies manufactures a wide range of products including heavy and light duty racking components, drawers/panels, computer enclosures (rack mount) and custom displays. “We have a diversity of customers for different materials and finishes including powder coating, silk screening, and metal finishing. Basically, we can handle the entire process from design to production run,” says Ritz.

Wayne Hunt, sales manager with Ritz Technologies, singles out the company’s high level of diversification as a major reason for the firm’s continuing success. “One reason that we’ve been around so long is that



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we are so diversified. We didn’t get involved with the automotive sector.”

Continues Hunt, “We have a lot of different customers that form part of our family. We have a lot of repeat business with longstanding customers. That is one of our philosophies—to develop a relationship with our customers on a longterm basis.”

The EMK 3610NT turret punch press features a 30 ton punching capacity, NT direct twin drive ram, and a 58 station turret with two 4 1/2 in. auto index stations and two 2 1/2 in. auto index stations. The EMK 3610NT turret punch press can accommodate a 60 in. x 98 in. sheet size without repositioning and a maximum sheet thickness of .126 in.

As well as the EMK 3610NT press, Ritz has an extensive range of Amada equipment including a Pega 344Q turret punch press, an RG 80 8 ft. x 80 ton press brake, an RG25 4 ft. x 25 ton press brake, an M2545 shear, and an Amada notcher. All of the Amada equipment was supplied by Amada Canada Ltd., Mississauga, ON ([amada.ca](http://amada.ca)).

“We have tried to standardize on Amada equipment. Another reason why we went with Amada for the new turret punch press was that we already had a lot of specialized punches for the old turret press that can be used with the new press. We can interchange the tooling. We do a lot of electronic cabinetry so we’re dealing with a lot of different knock-out sizes and special sizes for venting that requires specialized tooling. The programming is also similar for the machines,” says Ritz.

Amada’s EM Series of machines saves on electricity by minimizing the stroke, storing and reusing energy generated while decelerating the ram, and eliminating the need for a cooling system. The EM also contributes to environmental conservation through the introduction of an oil-free system.

“The EMK doesn’t use hydraulic oil whereas the previous generation of Amada hydraulic presses used approximately 50 gallons of specialty oil which had to be changed yearly. That was another consideration in that we as a shop were looking at getting more ‘green,’” says Ritz.

Given the company’s previous experience with Amada equipment, training on the new EMK 3610NT turret punch press was relatively simple and straightforward, adds Tremblett.

According to Ritz, the Amada EMK 3610NT turret punch press is definitely meeting the company’s expectations in terms of performance.

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