

Sheet Metal Inspection -Testimonial

Company Profile

Company: Serra Laser & Waterjet

Size: \$4.3M

Location: California, USA

Machine: Planar P150.35 with SurfScan



Founded in 1994, Serra Laser & Waterjet Inc specialise in laser and waterjet precision cutting services for OEMs, sheet metal fabricators, steel suppliers and commercial industries. With two facilities in the Southern California region, 20,000 square feet of space and approximately 30 employees, customers span a wide range of industries, including companies such as SpaceX, Disney and NASA funded Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Serra works with over one thousand customers dealing in volumes ranging from 1-1000 parts per order.



Figure 1: Serra Laser & Waterjet Factory, Anaheim, California

Glenn Kline, President at Serra Laser & Waterjet, explained that the company needed an easier solution for sheet metal inspection which was consistent. They were using hand tools such as calipers and pin gauges for 2D part inspection and the process was both inconsistent and time consuming. "Checking dimensions by hand is only as good as the checker, and this information is time consuming to quantify for our customers. We are doing smaller volumes so needed a quicker way to check the accuracy, and prove the accuracy of the parts we are making."

Glenn had some knowledge of automated inspection systems as they had previously used a laser inspection scanner for quality control. They were introduced to InspecVision and their optical inspection system at FABTECH - the largest annual event for the metal fabrication industry in North America. Serra worked with InspecVision's North American distributor, Productivity Quality Inc, and made the decision to invest in InspecVision metrology equipment. They chose the Planar 2D -an automated system designed for sheet metal quality inspection and reverse engineering.

"I don't know how to quantify losing a customer and getting them back solely due to the InspecVision machine. To me that is priceless."

Glenn Kline, President, Serra Laser & Waterjet

Glenn commented that the main reason for purchasing the InspecVision Planar was because they didn't want to lose customers whose parts they were not inspecting and they wanted to win back customers they had lost due to inspection problems.

Glenn spoke of a customer who returned solely due to the InspecVision measurement system. "A week after it was installed we called the customer and told them about our new metal inspection machine. They had stopped doing business with us months before. The customer was actually excited about it and visited the factory, along with their inspection team. We demonstrated the unit, gave them the report, and they were ecstatic. We won the customer back and the InspecVision precision measuring equipment was the reason. This customer had smaller parts with off angle measurements, and + or - .002 on hole sizes. Once we installed the Planar we were able to prove the holes sizes and part dimensions in a easy format, and now any questions on part issues are solved. I think the customer had a problem inspecting their parts too and the InspecVision automated measurement solution proved to be a non argument system that made all parties happy."



Figure 2 : Employee measuring a part at Serra Laser & Waterjet

When asked how often the machine is used, Glenn replied they use it every day on every part requiring inspection. In terms of the time spent on inspecting parts, Glenn responded "I don't think you can compare. With manual inspection, first of all you have to do it and secondly, some parts were not possible to inspect due to the part configuration. With the InspecVision 2D inspection system the thought of doing it is taken out of the equation. The operator goes to the machine, scans a bar code and the part is scanned and qualified seconds later. Print the report and the operator completes the job."

Although the InspecVision Planar inspection system is a metrology tool, it is used by the laser and waterjet operators and the company now inspects twenty times more sheet metal components than before.

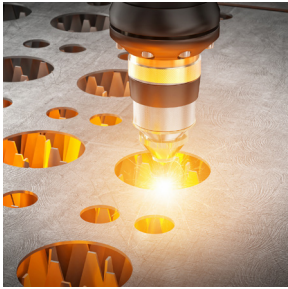


Figure 3 : Laser cutting



Figure 4 : Waterjet cutting

The optical inspection system is located on the shop floor and Glenn said he's had "no problems in any way" with the support they've received from the local distributor or InspecVision. They get support whenever they need it, maintenance is minimal and "takes almost no time to complete."

In summary, Glenn described the main benefits of the InspecVision 2D inspection system as "fast inspection, consistent and provable to our customers."

To find out more information about InspecVision 2D & 3D inspection and reverse engineering systems, please download our online brochure and contact our sales team at: sales@inspecvision.com.



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Glenn Kline, President, Serra Laser & Waterjet



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