

The Sharper Edge[®]

Keeping the paper and metals industry up-to-date on the latest happenings at Kinetic, Microblade and ORBITAL SAW

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Major North Carolina fine paper mill reduces slitter usage by 64% with Kinetic regrinding program

It's true. Fred Hodges, our agent in Eastern Tennessee and North Carolina, got a note the other day from a mill he services for us. In it, the Superintendent for the Number 5 Paper Machine had great things to say about Kinetic slitters. But before we tell you what was in the note, you have to understand the story behind it.

This fine paper mill had started out using some of our blades. Because Kinetic blades gave the mill great performance gains, the mill began expanding its orders until we were supplying all of their blades. However, the mill was having a problem: everytime their personnel reground our blades, performance dropped. The mill thought that perhaps the hardness of the material was deteriorating so they sent some blades to Jerry Kedziora, here at Kinetic, for evaluation. We measured the blades and examined their edges and discovered that the problem was in the regrinding process.

These are very sophisticated blades and the customer's equipment wasn't up to the task in 3 areas:

1. It couldn't hone the edges sharp enough.

2. It couldn't grind the blades to the required lateral run-out tolerances (so the slitters wobbled).

3. It couldn't finish the blades to the superfinished edge we had put on them at our plant.

Once we had established that the problem lay in the regrinding process, we gave the mill two options:

One, we told them what was needed to regrind the blade in-house: everything from recommendations on equipment and tooling fixtures to grinding stones and operator training. We even invited their people to visit Kinetic and observe our regrinding operation. While they were here, we'd give them an informal workshop on regrinding.

Or, they could send their slitters to us and we would regrind them.

The mills chose the second option. They felt that the regrinding process was too complicated and too exacting for their operation. Now they send their blades to us, and we return them in a matter of days.

The results? Like-new perfor-

mance after every grind. Here's what the letter to Fred said:

"Everyone at the mill comments on the great job Kinetic is doing....The 3rd shift mechanic told me that when they [the mill] did the grinding, he had to try 3 or 4 slitters until he found one that would run, and he would have to change it again before the shift changed. **They [slitters] now last for weeks.** He had forgotten the last time they had changed one."

So what's the benefit of working with Kinetic? Blades that deliver a superior performance. Troubleshooting in those rare instances when results don't meet your standards. And support in blade maintenance: we'll teach you how to regrind in-house or we'll do it for you. If you think you could use any of these things — superior products, problem-solving, or support services — give us a call. We're always happy to help you produce a better product. With less trouble and less waste.



Look what we can do with *unique* steel mill knives

Only 2 steel mills in the country use these plate shear knives, (see photo) so that's not why we're printing this article.

We're writing this article to let you know that we're capable of very intricate work. Some parts-makers may tell you that they are the only ones in the country with the machine capable of cutting your parts, sculpting a particular lug, or providing you with the cutting angle you need.

That's not so: there's more than one way to produce a part. Very few really unique parts exist — we can adapt and alter our manufacturing approach so that you get exactly the tool you need. There may be other benefits. It may be a better tool than the one you're using now. And it may even cost less.

Call Dan Herrmann. He and our engineering department can tell you how we can help your unique part perform better. Quality and creativity is what we're about.

Superfinishing: one reason Kinetic shear slitters are great

Our superfinishing process delivers results. Longer service life. Less dust. The best edge quality on today's market.

Generally speaking, superfinishing is the best way to eliminate roughness in manufacturing shear slitters. The concept is simple: you polish the heck out of the surfaces until you minimize the peaks and valleys that occur naturally on the surface. However, while the concept is simple, the actual polishing takes skill, and just as importantly, the right equipment.

The diagram shows a microscopic view of surface irregularities — the invisible-to-the-eye peaks and valleys that create dust and hinder edge quality. Our superfinishing process polishes both the edge face of the slitter and the bevel or the edge to minimize the effect of these irregularities on your slitter line.

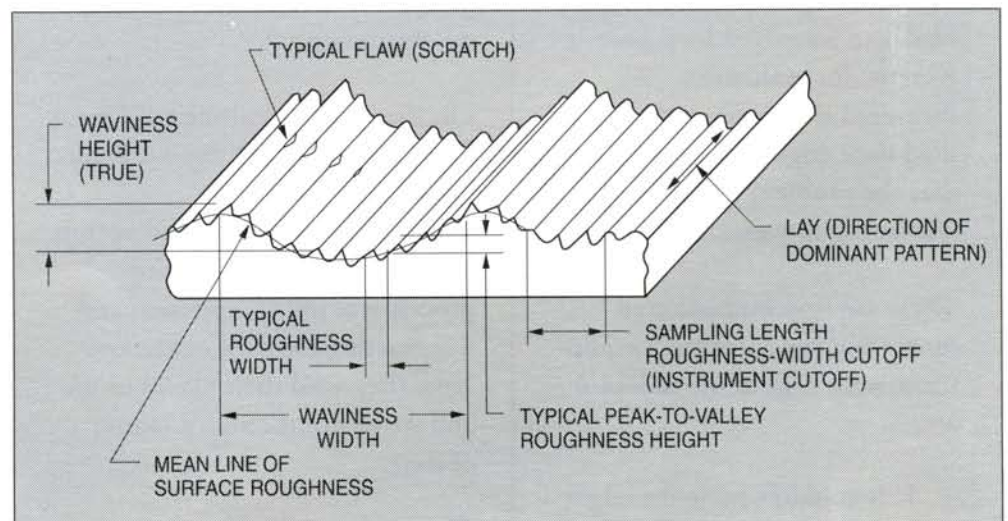
The grinders used to superfinish slitters are very rigid and vibration-

free; superfinishing is the result of holding the slitter steady against the grinding wheel to make continuous contact against its surface.

What's the difference between finish-grinding and superfinishing? Back in the days when we finish-ground slitters, we aimed for a range of 24-32 RMS. Today, our superfinishing process has brought slitter surface smoothness down to 4 RMS — or better.

That's why our lateral run-out is so low, and our concentricity is so good. That's why our slitters produce less dust, and why they last so much longer. When a Kinetic superfinished shear slitter cuts, it shears with minimum friction, which gives you a cleaner cut and a better product.

So if you're looking for a way to get cleaner edges on your product, call us. We'll give you a smoother shear slitter which will give you a smoother running operation — in so many ways.



Surface texture characteristics