

# The Sharper Edge<sup>®</sup>

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

FEBRUARY 1997

## Microblade expansion — *part two*

### The latest in robotics, water filtration, and heat-treating



*Our new furnace is sized to handle a full range of log saw blades*

Last issue, we told you about two innovations in Microblade's new plant: Pick and place robots that boost productivity and our coolant filtration system that has improved our blade's surface finish from an average 15 RMS to 5 RMS. In this issue, we'll talk about our new furnace.

First of all, the furnace is fully computerized. Working together with the pick and place robots, our heat-treating operation is fully automated. Our operator simply sets the equipment for a job, and the furnace does the rest.

This furnace is so sophisticated that

if it senses that something is wrong, it shuts itself down. The furnace also records the data from each of the cycles and stores it in a data base.

This exceptional reliability has allowed us to reduce manpower in heat-treating and shift our people to more productive areas in the shop.

**Energy efficient.** Reducing labor costs is only one of the many advantages of the new furnace. We also save 20% on the cost of the energy to operate it.

**Quickly reaches temperature.** Our old furnace took about 24 hours to reach temperature — now it's a half-hour to fire up the furnace.

**Adjusts temperature to loads quickly.** As the materials and jobs change during the day, the furnace adjusts its temperature in under 15 minutes.

**Better quality blades.** Most of all, the new technology of this furnace enables us to *exactly* control temperatures as the blades go through the heat-treating cycles. Comparing this furnace to furnaces 10-15 years old is like comparing it to wood burning stoves.

**The quenching process is also better.** Quenching is a critical step in manufacturing durable, flat log saw blades. The blades must be cooled from a temperature of 1850 degrees to room temperature with minimal warping and without harming the metallurgy of the materials.

As the blades come out of the furnaces, robotic arms place the blades between heavy, water-cooled plates. The pressure from these plates maintains the flatness of the blade as it cools, creating less work for the smithers. So our new quenching system saves us re-work time in the smithing area, too.

The benefit of these new systems are already paying for themselves. We are reducing ongoing costs, and you are benefiting from even better products. If you are ever in Sheffield, please stop in for a tour. We'd be proud to show you our new systems in action.

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Visit us on the Web at [www.knifemaker.com](http://www.knifemaker.com)

# Talk to us via the Net

Since more and more businesses are taking advantage of the efficiencies of Internet eMail, we thought we should publish a brief directory of Who does What at Kinetic, Microblade, and ORBITAL SAW. If you have questions about products or orders, this listing will direct you to the person with the answers.

The domain for all of our e-mail is  
**knifemaker.com**

The name of the person with whom you want to communicate precedes the domain. Type the person's name in all lower case characters, with a period between the first and second names. For example:

**joseph.masters@knifemaker.com**

## At Microblade

**Shipping questions**  
angela.clubb/sheffield  
lisa.mitchell/sheffield  
jane.smedley/sheffield

**Production or delivery schedules**  
mick.france/sheffield

**Production and Purchasing**  
trevor.wragg/sheffield

**Sales and Administration**  
david.fitzgerald/sheffield

## At Kinetic/ORBITAL SAW

**Product Information**  
**Dry end paper mill products**  
jerry.kedziora

**Paper cutting applications**  
jerry.kedziora

**Steel/Metals industry sales**  
dan.herrmann

**Veneer knives/chipper knives**  
mike.tolliver

**Tire shredding knives**  
**Oriented strand board knives**  
**Metal shear blade applications**  
mike.tolliver

**Sales and Administration**  
joseph.masters (*president/owner*)  
linda.wietrzychowski  
(*Joseph's secretary*)

**Computer/Data Processing**  
jill.buchholz  
jared.masters

**Order Processing**  
jeff.sangsland  
dan.shea  
diane.michor

**ISO 9002**  
bil.stingl

**Financial**  
jon.klahr

**Purchasing**  
john.demo  
ken.stolowski

**Project Engineer**  
paul.lewandowski

**Production Information**  
richard.dumke

**Accounts Receivable**  
teri.suderland

Send us a message and we'll get right back to you. We have found using eMail solves the game of "telephone tag" and working around time zones. We invite you to try talking to us via the Net.

Please take a minute to enter your contact's eMail address into your eMail address book.

If your company has an internal eMail system such as Lotus cc:Mail and you would like to be able to communicate with us using that

software, please have your network administrator contact Jill Buchholz at Kinetic. She will make it happen.

## Update ISO 9002

# ISO 9000

We're in the final stages of the application for our ISO 9002 certification — we submitted papers on November 1st, and the auditors arrive here in July, 1997. Here are two details you should know about our upcoming certification.

### 1. DNV will be our auditor.

We chose Det Norske Veritas of Norway to review Kinetic for several reasons but especially these two. First, with offices in more than 126 countries, we knew the name, DNV, would be easily recognized. Secondly, DNV has earned a reputation for rigorous standards in the audit process. Their stamp of approval on our work will heighten our credibility with new customers. (Among current customers, we hope our products speak for themselves.) DNV has a record for consistent, constructive assessment, and we look forward to their visit.

### 2. ISO 9002 is being developed electronically.

No manuals. No ring binders. As we continually audit the system, we want to be able to keep improving our procedures and instructions. Sending revisions throughout the company seemed easier to do via our computer network than continually adding and deleting pages. We'll share the results with you soon.