

Nachining Fundamentals



JOHN R. WALKER | BOB DIXON

Machining Fundamentals

by

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Publisher **The Goodheart-Willcox Company, Inc.** Tinley Park, IL www.g-w.com

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Manufactured in the United States of America.

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 2017046452

ISBN 978-1-63563-208-8

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 - 19 - 23 22 21 20 19 18

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Walker, John R., author. | Dixon, Bob (Bob A.) Title: Machining fundamentals / by John R. Walker, Bob Dixon. Description: 10th edition. | Tinley Park, IL : The Goodheart-Willcox Company, Inc., [2019] | Includes index. Identifiers: LCCN 2017046452 | ISBN 9781635632088 Subjects: LCSH: Machine-shop practice. | Machining. Classification: LCC TJ1160.W25 2019 | DDC 671.3/5--dc23 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2017046452

Introduction

Machinists are highly skilled men and women. They use drawings, hand tools, precision measuring tools, drilling machines, grinders, lathes, milling machines, and other specialized machine tools to shape and finish metal and nonmetal parts. Machinists must have a sound understanding of basic and advanced machining technology, which includes:

- Proficiency in safely operating machine tools of various types (manual, automatic, and computer controlled).
- Knowledge of the working properties of metals and nonmetals.
- The academic skills (such as math, science, English, print reading, and metallurgy) needed to make precision layouts and machine setups.

Machining Fundamentals provides an introduction to these important areas of manufacturing technology. The text explains the "how, why, and when" of numerous machining operations, setups, and procedures. Through it, you will learn how machine tools operate and when to use one particular machine instead of another. The advantages and disadvantages of various machining techniques are discussed, along with their suitability for particular applications.

Machining Fundamentals details the many common methods of machining and shaping parts to meet given specifications. It also covers more advanced processes, such as laser machining, waterjet cutting, high-energy-rate forming (HERF), cryogenics, chipless machining, electrical discharge machining (EDM), electrochemical machining (ECM), robotics, and rapid prototyping. The importance of computer numerical control (CNC) in the operation of most machine tools and its role in automated manufacturing is explored thoroughly. A new chapter expands coverage of geometric dimensioning and tolerancing (GD&T).

Machining Fundamentals has many features that make it easy to read and understand. The heads in each chapter are numbered to quickly locate specific information within a chapter. A chapter outline lists all chapter heads and subheads at the beginning of each chapter. Learning objectives are also presented in the chapter opener, along with a list of selected technical terms important to understanding the material in that chapter.

Throughout the text, technical terms are highlighted in bold italic type as they are introduced and defined. These terms are also listed and defined in the *Glossary* at the end of the text.

The extensive illustrations, photographs, and other visuals throughout *Machining Fundamentals* clarify and reinforce machining operations, procedures, and applications. A color key is used to indicate different materials and types of equipment. Features visually highlight and expand textual content by giving it practical value. *Workplace Skills* and *Career Connection* features introduce students to machining-related careers and the qualities employers are seeking. *Green Machining* features expose students to recent trends in environmentally friendly manufacturing.

Each chapter closes with a chapter review containing a summary and review questions. The summary reiterates and expands on the learning objectives given in the chapter opener. Review questions reinforce key learning objectives and offer students the opportunity to check their understanding.

Machining Fundamentals is a valuable guide to anyone interested in machining, since the procedures and techniques presented have been drawn from all areas of machining technology. Students will gain a strong foundation in machining to support practical skills.

About the Authors

John R. Walker is the author of thirteen textbooks and has written numerous magazine articles. Mr. Walker completed his undergraduate studies at Millersville University and has a master's degree in Industrial Education from the University of Maryland. He taught industrial arts and vocational education for more than 32 years, including 5 years as Supervisor of Industrial Education. He also worked as a machinist for the US Air Force and as a draftsman at the US Army Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

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The authors and publisher wish to thank the following industry and teaching professionals for their valuable input into the development of *Machining Fundamentals*.

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Acknowledgments

The authors and publisher would like to thank the following companies, organizations, and individuals for their contribution of resource material, images, or other support in the development of *Machining Fundamentals*.

3D Systems **3M** Company Alden Corp. American Foundrymen's Society American Society of Mechanical Engineers AMT—The Association for Manufacturing Technology Autocon Technologies, Inc. Baldor Bethlehem Steel Co. BIG Kaiser Precision Tooling Inc. **Bill Hannan** Bird-Johnson Company Bob Walker Bridgeport Machines, Inc. Buehler, a division of ITW Company C. & E. FEIN GmbH Carbolov Carl Zeiss, Inc. Carpenter Steel Co. Chicago-Latrobe Chick Machine Tool, Inc. Cincinnati Milacron CITCO Div., Western Atlas, Inc. Clausing Industrial, Inc. CNC Software, Inc. Coated Abrasive Manufacturers Institute Cogsdill Tool Products, Inc. Compositek Corporation **Dake Corporation** Dapra Corporation Delcam International DoALL Co. duMont Corp. DuPont Co. **Engis** Corporation EZFeatureMILL—Engineering Geometry Systems Fanuc Robotics North America, Inc. Federal Products Co. FEIN Power Tools, Inc. Flow International Corp.

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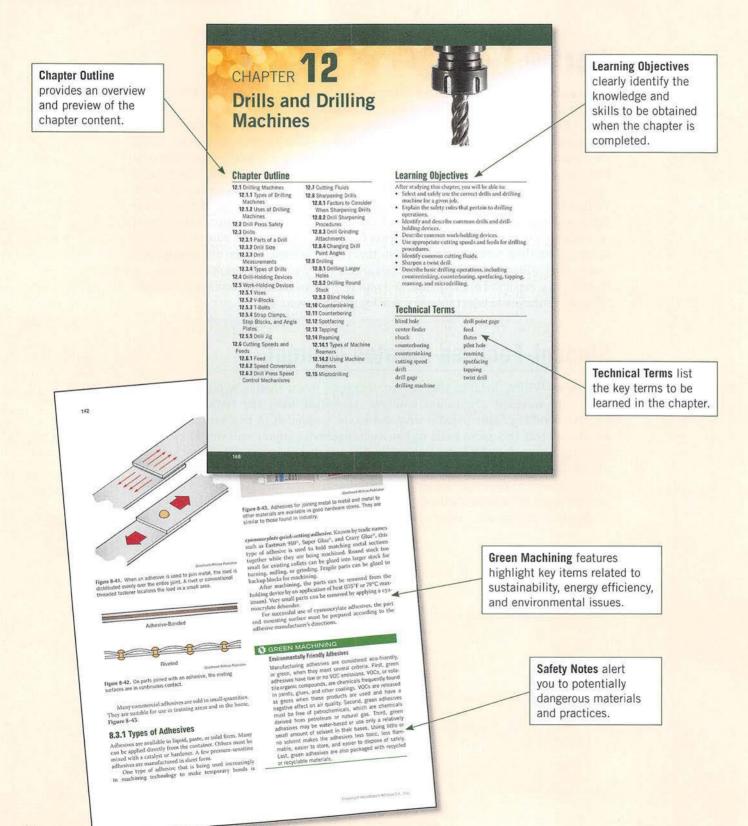
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Student-Focused Curated Content

Goodheart-Willcox believes that student-focused content should be built from standards and accepted curriculum coverage. Standards from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) were used as a foundation in this text. *Machining Fundamentals* also uses a building block approach with attention devoted to a logical teaching progression that helps students build upon their learning. We call on industry experts and teachers from across the country to review and comment on our content, presentation, and pedagogy. Finally, in our refinement of curated content, our editors are immersed in content checking, securing and sometimes creating figures that convey key information, and revising language and pedagogy.

Features of the Textbook

Features are student-focused learning tools designed to help you get the most out of your studies. This visual guide highlights the features designed for the textbook.





- Use the depth stop on the drill press if a number of simi-lar holes must be countersunk. 3.

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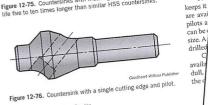
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Figure 12-75. Countersinks with indexing carbide inserts have a life five to ten times longer than similar HSS countersinks.



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Workplace Skills highlight the professional behaviors and traits that employers want.

12.11 Founterboring

Chapter 15 Other Lathe Operations HAROINGE

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Figure 15-39. The Hardinge Super Precision HLV-DR toolroom

A cross-slide unit is fitted for turning, facing, forming, and

A cross-slide unit is fitted for turning, facing, forming, and cutoff operations, Figure 15-41. The *automatic screw machine* is a variation of the lathe that was developed for high-speed production of large num-bers of small parts. The machine performs a large number of operations either simultaneously or in a very rapid sequence. Increasingly, industry is relying on automatic turnings centers to produce tiny precision parts in quantity. These centers, referred to as "Swiss-type" machines because they were originally used in the Swiss watchmaking industry, use computer control to perform a number of operations in sequence, producing a finished part. See Figure 15-42.



WORKPLACE SKILLS

Creativity and Brainstorming

The ability to "think outside the box" to come up with workable design solutions is an important skill for

The ability to "think outside the box" to come up with workable design solutions is an important skill for machinists, machine designers, and most other professionals involved in machining. Creativity is therefore some people are creative by nature. Even if you are not one of these people, you can learn to be more not—and write down as many solutions as you can think of. Do not worry at first about whether your solutions are probable or even possible. There are no right or wrong answers when brainstorming. Just list everything list and evaluate all of your ideas. By practicing brainstorming, you will become a more creative thinker.

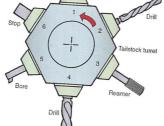
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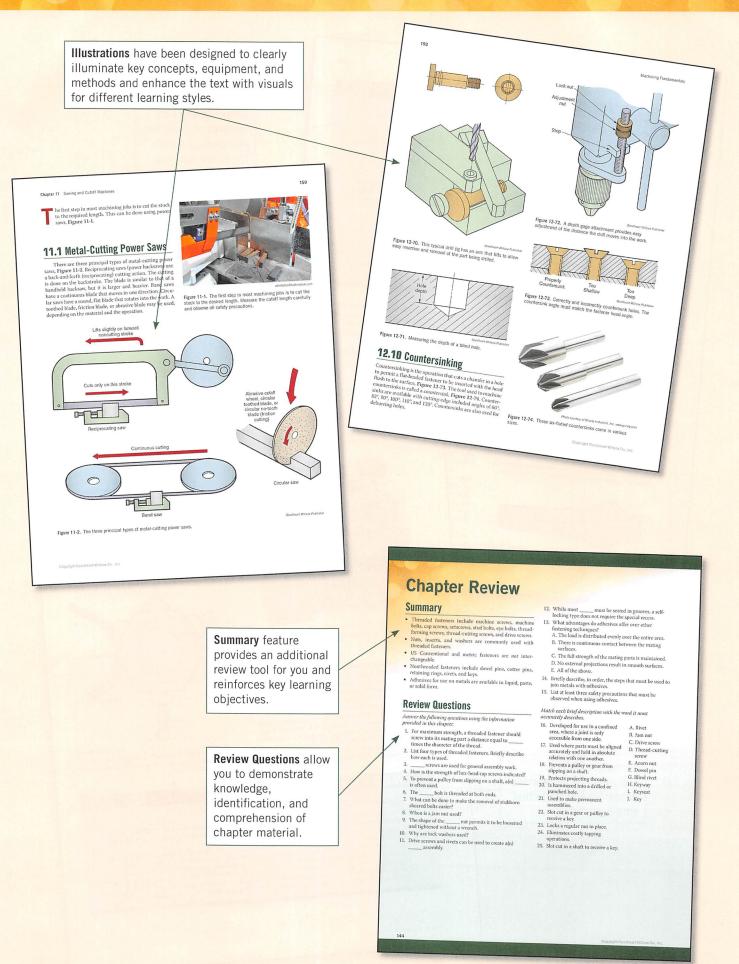
Career Connection

features and profiles can provide a path for career success.

> Facing + Turning HC finished Snotti drill Drill

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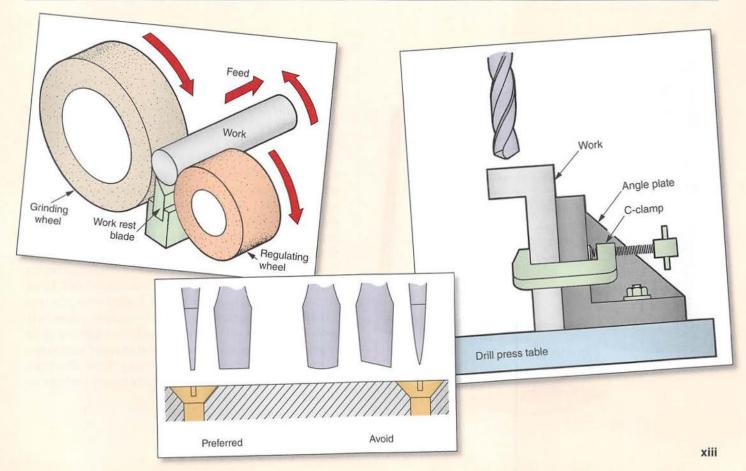




Machining Fundamentals Color Code

A consistent color code is used in the line illustrations throughout *Machining Fundamentals* to help you better visualize the machining operations and procedures. Specific colors are used to indicate different materials and equipment features. The following key shows what each color represents:





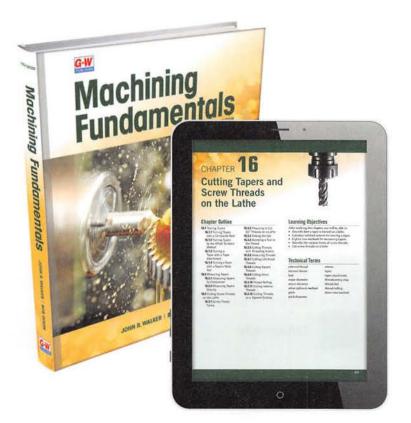
Student Resources

Textbook

The *Machining Fundamentals* textbook provides an exciting, full-color, and highly illustrated learning resource. The textbook is available in print and online versions.

Workbook

The student Workbook provides questions that reinforce and review textbook content. Organized to follow the textbook on a chapter-by-chapter basis, the Workbook assignments help you engage with the textbook content and aid in effective retention of key facts, ideas, and concepts.





Online Learning Suite

The Online Learning Suite provides the foundation of instruction and learning for digital and blended classrooms through any device with an Internet browser. All student instructional materials are found on a convenient online bookshelf and are accessible at home, at school, or on the go. The Online Learning Suite includes an interactive online textbook, student workbook with digital form fields, vocabulary activities, drag-and-drop activities, and a variety of other learning activities. The Online Learning Suite also contains 30 video clips that provide dynamic visual instruction of basic machining practices. Scripted by an expert machinist, shot in an actual manufacturing facility and loaded with practical hands-on demonstrations, these live-action videos help provide students with the essential knowledge and skills required for entry-level employment in today's manufacturing industry. The Online Learning Suite effectively brings digital learning to students and is easy for instructors to use.

Online Learning Suite/Student Textbook Bundle

Looking for a blended solution? Goodheart-Willcox offers the Online Learning Suite bundled with the printed text in one easy-to-access package. Students have the flexibility to use the print version, the Online Learning Suite, or a combination of both components to meet their individual learning style. The convenient packaging makes managing and accessing content easy and efficient.



Video Clip Library

Live-action videos provide students with solid information on 30 machining topics. High-quality video footage and crisp narrations enable visual learners to clearly understand the content.



Instructor Resources

Instructor resources provide information and tools to support teaching, grading, and planning; class presentations; and assessment.

Instructor's Presentations for PowerPoint®

Presentations for PowerPoint[®] are designed to support instructors and visually reinforce the textbook content. These timesaving and customizable presentations include objectives, key concepts, terms, and images from each chapter. Instructors can customize each presentation by modifying and adding slides and images to better meet classroom needs.

ExamView® Assessment Suite

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Instructor's Resource CD

A variety of time-saving teaching support tools are provided in the Instructor's Resource for *Machining Fundamentals*. Answer keys are included for both the textbook and student Workbook. Customizable lesson plans provide chapter-specific instructional resources, tools for practice and assessment, and other resources available for teaching the chapter content. An overview of the products in the teaching package is provided, as well as correlation to NIMS Duties and Standards for Machining Skills Level I.

Online Instructor Resources

Online Instructor Resources are comprehensive, time-saving teaching tools organized in a convenient, easy-to-use online bookshelf. Lesson plans, answer keys, a correlation to NIMS Duties and Standards for Machining Skills Level I, Presentations for PowerPoint[®], ExamView[®] Assessment Suite software, and other resources are available on demand, 24/7 from home or school.

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	# 4 - Understanding Drawings
	# 5 - Measurement

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CHAPTER

An Introduction to Machining Technology

Chapter Outline

1.1 The Evolution of Machine Tools
1.1.1 Early Machine Tools
1.1.2 Power Sources
1.2 Basic Machine Tool Operation
1.2.1 Sawing Machines
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- Machining Process 1.4.1 The Development of
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- 1.5 The Evolving Role of the Machinist
- 1.6 Acquiring Machining Skills and Knowledge

Learning Objectives

After studying this chapter, you will be able to:

- Discuss how modern machine technology affects the workforce.
- Give a brief explanation of the evolution of machine tools.
- · Provide an overview of machine tool operations.
- List nontraditional machining processes.
- Explain how CNC machining equipment operates.
- Describe the role of the machinist.
- Explain how machinists are trained and certified.

Technical Terms

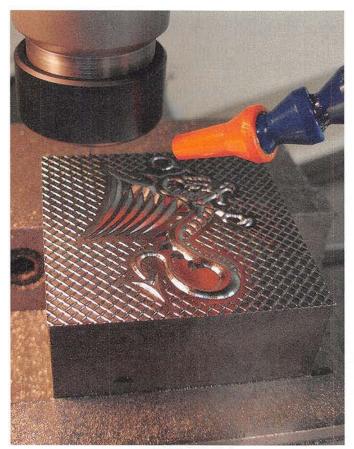
broaching machine computer numerical control (CNC) drill press grinding machine lathe machine tools machinist milling machine numerical control (NC) sawing machine skill standards turning

1

study of technology will show that industry has progressed from a time when everything was made by hand to recent advances resulting in the fully automated manufacturing processes used today. Machine tools have played an essential role in all technological advances.

Without machine tools, **Figure 1-1**, there would be no airplanes, automobiles, television sets, or computers. Many of the other industrial, medical, recreational, and domestic products we take for granted would not have been developed. For example, if machine tools were not available to manufacture tractors and farming implements, farmers might still be plowing with oxen and hand-forged plowshares.

It is difficult to name a product that does not require, either directly or indirectly, the use of a machine tool somewhere in its manufacture. Today, no country can hope to compete successfully in a global economy without using the most advanced machine tools available. No industry or country can hope to take advantage of the most advanced machine tools without the aid of a *machinist*—a person highly skilled in the use of machine tools and capable of creating the complex machine setups required for modern manufacturing.



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Figure 1-1. Machine tools have made it possible to manufacture parts with the precision and speed necessary for low-cost mass production. Without machine tools, most products on the market today would not be available or affordable.

These high-paying skilled jobs in manufacturing, such as tool and die making and precision machining, require aptitudes comparable to those of college graduates. Jobs that require few or no skills have almost disappeared.

1.1 The Evolution of Machine Tools

Machine tools are machines that can be used to manufacture other tools, including other machine tools. There are many variations of each type of machine tool, and they are available in many sizes. Tools range from those small enough to fit on a bench top to machines weighing several hundred tons.

The evolution of machine tools evokes the old question, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" You could also ask, "How could there be machine tools when there were no machine tools to make them?"

1.1.1 Early Machine Tools

The first machine tools, the bow lathe and bow drill, were handmade and human-powered. They have been dated back to about 1200 BC. Until the end of the seventeenth century, the lathe could be used only to turn softer materials, such as wood, ivory, or at most, soft metals such as lead or copper. Eventually, the bow lathe, with its reciprocating (backand-forth) motion, gave way to treadle power, which made possible work rotation that was continuous in one direction. Later, machines were powered by a "great wheel" turned by flowing water or by a person or animal walking on a treadmill. Power was transmitted from the wheel to one or more machines by a belt and pulley system.

Boring Mill

When inventor James Watt first experimented with his steam engine, the need for perfectly bored cylinders soon became apparent. This brought about the development of the first true machine tool. It was a type of lathe and was called a "boring mill," **Figure 1-2**. The water-powered tool was developed in 1774 by Englishman John Wilkinson.

This machine was capable of turning a cylinder 36" in diameter to an accuracy of a "thin-worn shilling" (an English coin about the size of a modern US quarter). However, operation of the boring mill, like that of all metal cutting lathes at the time, was hampered by the lack of tool control. The "mechanic" (the first machinist) had to unbolt and reposition the cutting tool after each cut.

Lathe

The first lathe capable of cutting accurate screw threads was designed and constructed by Henry Maudslay, an English master mechanic and machine toolmaker, in about 1800. As shown in **Figure 1-3**, a handmade screw thread was geared

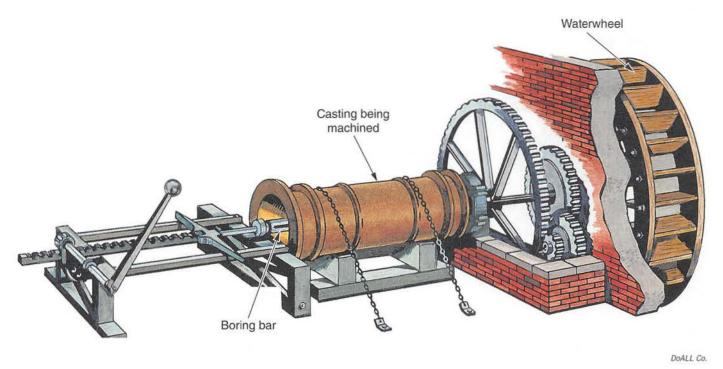
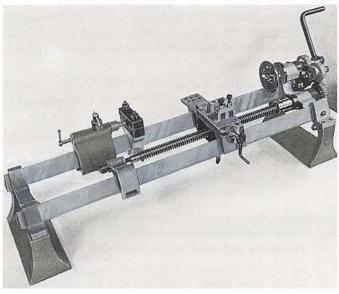


Figure 1-2. The first true machine tool is thought to be the boring mill invented by John Wilkinson in 1774. It enabled James Watt to complete the first successful steam engine. The boring bar was rigidly supported at both ends and was rotated by waterpower. It could bore a 36" diameter cylinder to an accuracy of less than 1/16".



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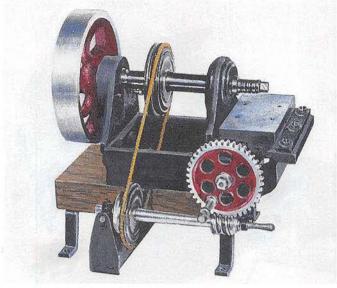
Figure 1-3. Henry Maudslay's screw-cutting lathe. This machine tool, constructed on a heavy frame, combined a master lead screw and a movable slide rest. The lead screw had to be changed when a different thread pitch was required.

to the spindle and moved a cutting tool along the work. Maudslay also devised a slide rest and fitted it to his lathe. This allowed the cutting tool to be repositioned accurately after each cut. Maudslay's lathe is considered the "granddaddy" of all modern chip-making machine tools. The Industrial Revolution could not have taken place if there had not been a cheap, convenient source of power: the steam engine. Until the advent of the steam engine, industry had to be located near a source of water power. This was often some distance from raw materials and workers. With cheap power, industry could be located where workers were plentiful and where the products they produced were needed. The steam engine, in turn, would not have been possible without machine tools. Until the boring mill and lathe were developed to the point that metal could be machined with some degree of accuracy, there could be no steam engine.

Milling Machine

The milling machine was the next important development in machine tools. It also evolved from the lathe. In 1820, Eli Whitney, an American inventor and manufacturer, devised a system to mass-produce muskets (guns). Whitney began using a milling machine, **Figure 1-4**, to make interchangeable musket parts. Until then, muskets were made individually by hand, so parts from one musket would not fit in another. Whitney's milling machine even had power feed, but it had one defect. There was no provision to raise the worktable. The part had to be raised by shimming after each cut. Since each machine was used to produce the same part again and again, this shortcoming was not a great problem, and it was soon corrected.

Whitney had another problem, however. His ideas were used in several armories producing gun parts. There was no standard of measurement at that time, so parts made in one



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Figure 1-4. One of the first practical milling machines manufactured in America. Eli Whitney used this and similar machines to mass-produce interchangeable musket parts.

armory were not interchangeable with parts made in another armory. It was not until the mid-1860s that the United States adopted a standard measuring system.

Shaper

Another early machine tool that was important in the early machine shop was the shaper. The operation of early shapers was relatively simple. A single-point tool, much like those used in lathes, was held in a toolholder. The workpiece was clamped onto a table that was moved back and forth under the cutter. As the workpiece moved under the tool, the tool shaved material away from the workpiece. The toolholder was hinged so that, on the return stroke of the table, the tool was free to ride on top of the workpiece. When the tool cleared the workpiece, the toolholder dropped back into position. After the tool cleared the workpiece, the table moved sideways in preparation for another cutting stroke.

Later models used a hydraulic ram to move the tool in a linear motion for the cutting stroke. Another important innovation was the addition of electric limit switches that controlled the length of the stroke and the side-to-side indexing distance.

The primary use of the original shaper was to machine keyway slots and dovetails for linear slide control. It was also used to cut splines and teeth into gears. The addition of limit switches allowed the shaper to be used to clean up and reduce thicknesses of flat stock without direct supervision. This freed the worker to do other tasks while the shaper machined the workpiece.

By 1875, basic machine tools, such as the lathe, upright drill, and milling machine, **Figure 1-5**, were capable of attaining accuracies of one one-thousandth of an inch. This

proficiency in machining and manufacturing would help America greatly during World War II. Factories were rapidly converted to produce military hardware instead of consumer goods. Of special importance to the war effort was the opening up of heavy industry professions to women. This supplied the labor needed to produce the large quantities of guns, ammunition, tanks, planes, and ships necessary to win the war, **Figure 1-6**.

1.1.2 Power Sources

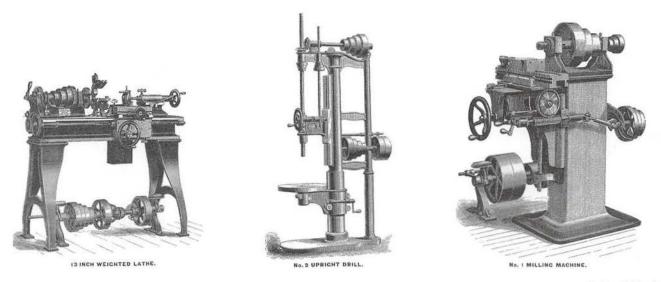
As machine tools were improved, so was the way they were powered. At first, the changes were very slow, occurring over hundreds of years. The greatest changes have come only in the last 150 years or so. The following are the various power sources used by machine tools throughout history in the order they evolved:

- **Hand power.** The bow lathe and bow drill are examples. The direction of rotation changed at each stroke of the bow.
- Foot power. A treadle or a treadmill made possible continuous rotation of the work in one direction.
- Animal power. Treadmills were used to power early devices for boring cannon barrels. Human foot power was not strong enough for this work.
- Water power. Not always dependable as a power source, because of lack of water during dry seasons.
- Steam power. The first real source of dependable power. A centrally located steam engine turned shafts and overhead pulleys that were belted to the individual machines.
- **Central electrical power.** Large electric motors replaced the steam engines. Power transmission to the machines did not change.
- Individual electrical power. Motors were built into the individual machine tools. Overhead belting was eliminated.

SREEN MACHINING

Renewable and Nonrenewable Resources

Renewable resources are resources, such as water, solar energy, wind energy, and wood, that are replaced naturally and fairly quickly. Humans can use these resources repeatedly because nature provides a steady supply. Nonrenewable resources take much longer to produce. Their rate of consumption (how quickly we use them) outpaces their rate of production (how quickly they are made). When possible, industrial applications now favor environmentally friendly renewables over nonrenewable resources like coal, natural gas, petroleum, and rare earth minerals. Renewable energy sources, such as wind or solar power, offer long-term environmental and economic benefits to manufacturing over nonrenewable fossil fuels.



Goodheart-Willcox Publisher

Figure 1-5. Illustrations of Pratt & Whitney machine tools from an 1876 advertisement. Built from heavy iron castings, the machines were driven by overhead pulleys and belting. A central steam engine or large electric motor powered the overhead pulleys in factories until the 1920s.



Library of Congress, Prints & Photograph Division, FSA-OWI Collection, LC-DIG-fsac-1a34951

Figure 1-6. Lathe operator machining parts for transport planes at the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation plant in Fort Worth, Texas.

1.2 Basic Machine Tool Operation

Almost all machine tools have evolved from the *lathe*, **Figure 1-7**. This machine tool performs one of the most important machining operations, *turning*. It operates on the principle of rotating work against the edge of a cutting tool, as shown in **Figure 1-8**. Many other operations—drilling, boring, threadcutting, milling, and grinding—can also be performed on a lathe. The most advanced version of the lathe is the CNC turning center.



Photo courtesy of Grizzly Industrial, Inc. www.grizzly.com

Figure 1-7. A modern lathe featuring chuck safety guard, foot brake, coolant system, inch/metric dials, and a universal gearbox capable of cutting inch, metric, and diametral threads. Except those tools that perform nontraditional machining operations, all machine tools have evolved from the lathe.

1.2.1 Sawing Machines

A *sawing machine*, Figure 1-9, or saw, makes use of a multitoothed saw blade to cut away material. Sawing machines come in a variety of forms. All sawing machines perform one of two basic operations:

- Cutoff sawing. Sawing and cutoff machines cut stock material into more manageable lengths in preparation for other machining operations.
- Band machining. A vertical band saw uses a continuous saw blade. Chip removal is rapid and accuracy can be held to close tolerances, eliminating or minimizing many secondary machining operations.

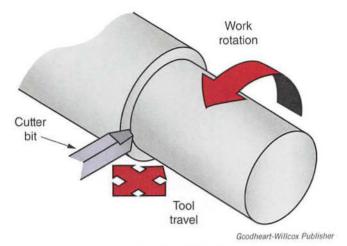


Figure 1-8. The lathe operates by rotating the work against the edge of a cutting tool.



Photo courtesy of Grizzly Industrial, Inc. www.grizzly.com

Figure 1-9. Sawing machines, like this horizontal band saw, make use of a continuous saw blade, with each tooth functioning as a precision cutting tool.

1.2.2 Drill Press

A *drill press*, Figure 1-10, rotates a cutting tool (drill) against the material with sufficient pressure to cause the tool to penetrate the material. It is primarily used for cutting round holes. See Figure 1-11. Drill presses are available in many versions. Some are designed to machine holes as small as 0.0016" (0.04 mm) in diameter.

1.2.3 Grinding Machines

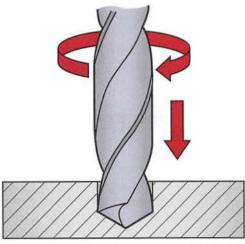
A *grinding machine*, Figure 1-12, or grinder, removes metal by rotating a grinding wheel or abrasive belt against the work. The process falls into two basic categories:

• Offhand grinding. Work that does not require great accuracy is handheld and manipulated until ground to the desired shape.



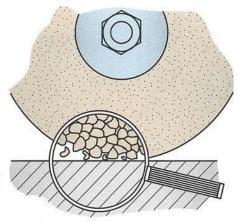
Willis Machinery and Tools Corp.

Figure 1-10. A typical 20" variable-speed gearhead drill press with power feed. It can drill holes up to 1 1/2" in diameter in cast iron.



Goodheart-Willcox Publisher

Figure 1-11. A drill press operates by rotating a cutting tool (drill) against the material with sufficient pressure to cause the tool to penetrate the material.



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Figure 1-12. Grinding is a cutting operation, like turning, drilling, milling, or sawing. However, instead of the one, two, or multiple-edge cutting tools used in other applications, grinding uses an abrasive tool composed of thousands of cutting edges.

• **Precision grinding.** Only a small amount of material is removed with each pass of the grinding wheel, so that a smooth, accurate surface is generated. Precision grinding is a finishing operation.

1.2.4 Milling Machine

A *milling machine* rotates a multitoothed cutter into the work, **Figure 1-13**. A variety of cutting operations can be performed on milling machines, including machining flat or

contoured surfaces, slots, grooves, recesses, threads, gears, and spirals. Milling machines are available in more variations than any other family of machine tools, **Figure 1-14**, and are well suited to computer-controlled operation. The most advanced version of a milling machine is the CNC milling center.

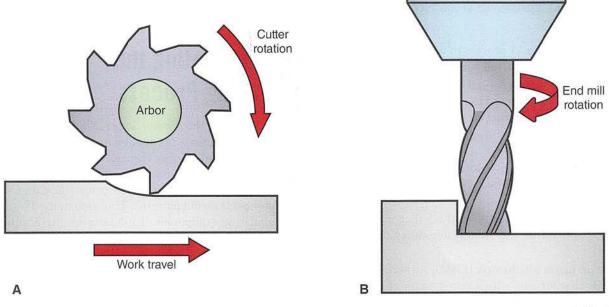
1.2.5 Broaching Machines

A *broaching machine* is designed to push or pull a multitoothed cutter across the work, **Figure 1-15**. Each tooth of the broach (cutting tool) removes only a small amount of the material being machined.

1.3 Nontraditional Machining Processes

A number of machining operations have not evolved from the lathe. They are classified as nontraditional machining processes. These processes include the following:

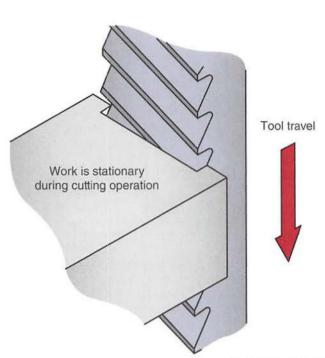
- Electrical discharge machining (EDM). An advanced machining process that uses a fine, accurately controlled electric spark to erode metal.
- Electrochemical machining (ECM). A method of material removal that shapes a workpiece by removing electrons from its surface atoms. In effect, ECM is exactly the opposite of electroplating.



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Figure 1-13. Milling removes material by rotating a multitoothed cutter into the work. A—In peripheral milling, the surface being machined is parallel to periphery of the cutter. B—End mills have cutting edges on the circumference and the end of the cutter.





Goodheart-Willcox Publisher

Figure 1-15. A broach is a multitoothed cutting tool that moves against the work. Each tooth removes only a small portion of the material being machined. The cutting operation may be on a vertical or horizontal plane.

Photo courtesy of Grizzly Industrial, Inc. www.grizzly.com

Figure 1-14. A modern milling machine featuring power feed, variable speed controls, an automatic stop function, coordinate display, and selectable resolution up to one micrometer.

- Chemical milling. A process in which chemicals are used to etch away selected portions of metal.
- Chemical blanking. A material removal method in which chemicals are used to produce small, intricate, ultrathin parts by etching away unwanted material.
- Hydrodynamic machining (HDM). A computercontrolled technique that uses a 55,000 psi water jet to cut complex shapes with minimum waste. The work can be accomplished with or without abrasives added to the jet.
- Ultrasonic machining. A method that uses ultrasonic sound waves and an abrasive slurry to remove metal.
- Electron beam machining (EBM). A thermoelectric process that focuses a high-speed beam of electrons on the workpiece. The heat that is generated vaporizes the metal.

• Laser machining. The laser produces an intense beam of light that can be focused onto an area only a few microns in diameter. It is useful for cutting and drilling.

1.4 Automating the Machining Process

In the late 1940s, the United States Air Force was searching for ways to increase production on complex parts for the new jet aircraft and missiles then going into production. The Parsons Corporation, a manufacturer of aircraft parts, had developed a two-axis technique for generating data to check helicopter blade airfoil patterns. This system used punchedcard tabulating equipment. To determine the accuracy of the data, a pattern was mounted on a Bridgeport milling machine. With a dial indicator in place, the X and Y points were called out to a machinist operating the machine's X-axis handwheel and another machinist who controlled the Y-axis handwheel. With enough reference points established, the generated data proved accurate to $\pm 0.0015''$ (0.038 mm).

1.4.1 The Development of Numerical Control

Parsons realized that the technique might also be developed into a two-axis, or even three-axis, machining system. With an Air Force contract to manufacture a contoured, integrally stiffened aircraft wing section, the Parsons Corporation subcontracted with the Servomechanism Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to design a three-axis machining system. MIT eventually took over the entire development project.

By 1952, MIT had designed a control system and mounted it on a vertical spindle machine tool. The system operated on instructions coded in the binary number system on punched (perforated) tape. Programming required the use of an early computer on which MIT was also experimenting.

Later in that year, MIT demonstrated the first machine tool capable of executing simultaneous cutting tool movement on three axes. Since mathematical information was the basis of the concept, MIT coined the term *numerical control* (*NC*). The first NC machines became available to industry in 1955.

1.4.2 Computer Numerical Control

In the mid-1970s, with the introduction of the microchip, the use of onboard computers on individual machine tools became possible. This led to the introduction of *computer numerical control (CNC)*, Figure 1-16.

CNC machine tools are much easier to use than manually controlled machines. They have menu-selectable displays, advanced graphics (the multifunction screen displays the full operational data as a part is being machined), and a word address format for programming. The program is made up of sentence-like commands. Programs can be entered at the machine or downloaded from an external computer. Programs on punched tapes are no longer used. A modern CNC machining center is shown in **Figure 1-17**.

WORKPLACE SKILLS

Joining Organizations

Belonging to a student or professional organization can help you reach your career goals. You will find student and professional organizations focused on almost every career topic. They will help you learn more about career options and meet other students and professionals who can help you establish a career. They will also help you learn teamwork skills that are needed in the workplace. Organizations that may help you prepare for a career in machining include the following:

- SkillsUSA is an organization for students preparing for technical, trade, and skilled-service occupations. Its goal is to create a strong American workforce. SkillsUSA programs include the Professional Development Program, which builds employability skills, such as communication and teamwork. The Work Force Ready System offers assessments for career and technical education, including areas such as technical drafting, residential wiring, and plumbing.
- National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) is an organization for students seeking training for a career in the machining and metalworking industries. NIMS accredits machining and metalworking programs and offers students credentials to prove their skills to future employers. NIMS offers credentials in manual milling, turning operations, and CNC machining among numerous other metalworking skills.
- Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) is a professional organization that supports manufacturing
 education. SME offers membership to students who have an interest in a STEM (science, technology,
 engineering, and mathematics) field or a career in the manufacturing industry. SME also recognizes
 and financially supports outstanding high school manufacturing programs.

Becoming involved in student and professional organizations now can help you land a job in your chosen field after completing your training. Your membership shows employers that you are already involved in the organization and serious about a career in a specific area.

Other professional organizations with student members include the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), American Society for Quality (ASQ), American Welding Society (AWS), and ASM International. To be a student member of these organizations, you must be enrolled in a certain number of courses that will lead to a career in the given area. There is also a fee, which is usually less than a professional membership fee.