

RETHINKING FIXTURES

utilizing Additive
Manufacturing

82%

Overall Cost Savings

\$68.30

Total Material Cost

83%

Reduction in Lead-time

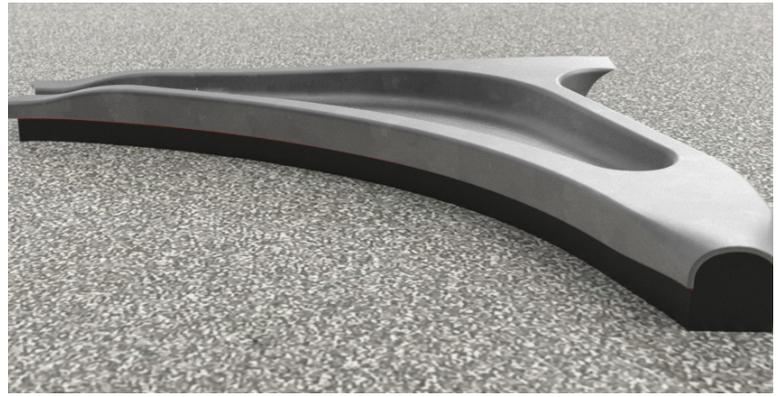
Additive manufacturing produces fixtures that are low-cost, reliable, and quickly manufactured which decreases time-to-market.

Build chamber size is not a limitation.



One of the first questions we get from people interested in 3D printing is, “How big of a part can you print?” While this is a very straightforward question, the answer is not so clear-cut. We often come across parts that are larger than the build chamber of our printers and we have developed a number of ways to address this; one of our stamping customers was in this exact situation. They asked if we could help with some blank development challenges they were having. We designed and manufactured a trim line gage that would help them develop the correct shape for their stamping blanks. The new gage gave them immediate feedback and saved countless trips to the quality lab, which – according to the customer – cut their development time in half.

Switching gage fabrication from traditional to additive manufacturing results in faster turnaround, reduced costs, improved performance through greater design freedom. Although the gage was too large for one print, we were able to modify the design in-house and deliver a truly unique solution.



Traditional Check Gage

- Heavy fixture limits handling and portability
- Requires physical inventory
- Layout and assembly work required
- Premium cost for complexity



3D Printed Check Gage

- Light weight increases ease of handling
- Virtual inventory
- Print right from CAD export
- No premium for complexity

AS STRONG AS ALUMINUM

Utilizing a unique combination of composite material with continuous carbon fiber reinforcement creates fixtures and gages that are strong enough to withstand the harsh shop floor environment.

