

Black & Decker produces saw blades a cut above thanks to WinSPC



Background

Black & Decker [NYSE: BDK] is the world's #1 producer of power tools and accessories with annual sales of \$4.56 billion. The Black & Decker Tampa plant manufactures saw blades and accessories for the global market. The Tampa plant has gained significant benefits using WinSPC.

Challenge

In order to maintain their lead against growing international competitors, Black & Decker Tampa was searching for ways to improve productivity and product yield in the process of manufacturing jig, reciprocal and hole saw blades. It was also imperative that any solution must support their Six Sigma initiatives.

Two stages of the manufacturing process were creating the highest PPM defect metrics:

- the setting of the teeth on the blades
- reciprocal blade coating process

Implementation

Black & Decker Tampa chose WinSPC for the following reasons:

- WinSPC is easy to use and easy to administer
- WinSPC can collect data in many different forms from different sources and export to databases and spreadsheets
- WinSPC works with legacy systems and allows them to correlate data for a wider picture of their plant's performance
- WinSPC can help them meet Six Sigma standards and goals
- WinSPC will automatically alert the operator and plant manager when the process gets out of control

"The SPC system fits well into our Six Sigma initiatives and goals. WinSPC is intuitive and easy to follow. Data can be extracted from the WinSPC database very quickly without long report building."

**Simon Barrett,
Quality Engineer
Black & Decker, Tampa**

Results

WinSPC works with Black & Decker's existing systems to collect, monitor and analyze data producing reports vital to their Six Sigma goals, initiatives and compliance.

WinSPC enables Black & Decker to collect and analyze process data to pinpoint critical adjustments required for maximum output. As a result they were able to control the saw tooth setting as well as the curing and coating processes to significantly increase yield and reduce scrap and reworking.

Benefits

Black & Decker is maintaining a competitive stance by increasing yields and reducing scrap. Black & Decker specifically cited the following benefits achieved with WinSPC:

- Reduced their PPM defect metrics and rework by 20% to date
- Optimized process conditions achieving higher yields
- Attained ROI in six months
- Was recently presented by the Tampa plant to all of Black & Decker as a "Best Practice"