

Looking Back, Looking Forward



Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
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For 29 years, Gear Technology has provided an unparalleled collection of knowledge on the art and science of gears—encompassing a depth and breadth of expertise you can't find anywhere else.

I've been exploring that collection a lot lately, because—for the first time ever—our complete archive of articles and back issues is now available to subscribers online. I founded *Gear Technology*—first and foremost—as an educational magazine. Our mission has always been to bring the best technical content to the engineers and manufacturers who needed it. The archive furthers that mission by making our past content more easily accessible.

And there's a lot of value there. Many of our oldest articles are as relevant today as they were when first published. For example, in our very first issue we published "Advantages of Titanium Nitride Coated Gear Tools" by Peter W. Kelly of Barber-Colman. The economics of that article are just as valid today as they were in 1984, when most didn't know what TiN coating was or why they should pay such a large premium for it. That's just one example. You can learn much about gear design, manufacturing, inspection or heat treating by studying our articles and back issues.

We've tagged each article with keywords to help you find exactly what you're looking for. We completely scrapped our old search engine and built a new one—tying into those keywords and emphasizing the extremely important technical content that you won't find anywhere else.

So if you're new to gearing and you want to learn more, go to the site and type "basics" into the search box. Need more specific results? Try something like "hobbing basics" or "inspection basics." You'll find plenty of excellent articles to get you started.

But the archive isn't just for newbies. Even the experienced gear engineer can find important, relevant technical information this way. Try searching for "tip relief" or "profile modification" and you'll see what I mean. Want to know more about gear rating? Try something like "ISO 6336." The archives have something for everybody.

Most importantly, none of this valuable information costs you anything. That's right; it's absolutely FREE, as long as you're a subscriber to the magazine (which is also free). By the way, if your magazine arrived with a subscription card attached to the cover, that means you *aren't* a current subscriber, and you need to fill out the form.

But our mission isn't just about looking backwards. It's also about looking forward, and exploring ways we can broaden our scope, deepen our coverage of the industry, be of more interest and bring even more value to you, our reader. With this issue, we've introduced some great new features and departments. The first of those is "Back-to-Basics," which takes the place of

"Addendum" on our back page. Although we've had a lot of fun producing Addendum, we've decided to give you something more practical and closer to our core mission. With Back-to-Basics, we'll provide you with a brief introduction to a particular gear-related topic, along with a list of additional resources where you can learn more.

"Gear Train" is a new regular feature that explores gear training and education, including an in-depth look at gear schools, seminars and other opportunities. You'll also learn what other companies are doing to find and retain skilled labor. "Job Shop Lean" is a new column that takes you, step-by-step, through an actual lean transformation in a job shop environment. Think of it as our own little reality series.

Of course, none of our changes will ever distract us from the heart and core of *Gear Technology*—our technical content. "Ask the Expert" will continue to provide you with practical, hands-on experience of experts in the field. We'll also continue to rely on our technical editors—Bill Bradley, Robert Errichello, Octave Labath, Joseph Mihelick, Charles D. Schultz and Robert E. Smith. Their combined hundreds of years of experience helps us choose the best articles and make sure they're the most relevant, accurate and up-to-date as possible. I would also like to thank Dan Thurman, who has recently retired from our roster of technical editors. His many years of service to the gear industry—and to *Gear Technology*—have been invaluable.

As you probably know, we employ more staff editors than a typical magazine of our size. Together, our in-house staff editors have more than 100 years of combined gear industry and overall manufacturing experience, which is unique in our industry, enabling *Gear Technology* to write and edit with the insight and accuracy you've come to expect.

In fact, in October, *Gear Technology* was recognized by Niche Media in an article entitled "Gear Technology - Content Kings!" The article cited the size of our experienced editorial staff and our focus on content as the key reasons for our success.

I couldn't agree more. Visit our archives at www.geartechnology.com/issues to see our legacy for yourself.