

Working Smarter, Not Just Harder

It's a buyer's market these days on solutions for our country's economic problems. Everybody with access to a t.v. camera or a publisher is telling us what we need to do. Usually their solution involves either buying their book or tape or electing them to office.

Without dismissing any of these proposals out of hand, it might be wise to remember that some approaches to the changing economic realities of the 90s lie in simple home truths - the kind that are not necessarily glamorous or "new and improved," but which work. One of these is the old standby of working "smarter." These days it's not enough to be "lean and mean" or "state of the art." You also have to be using every resource you have to the best advantage - in short, you have to work smart as well as hard.

The articles in this issue of *Gear Technology* are all variations on this theme of working smarter. Ken Gitchel titles his discussion on computers in gear manufacturing, "Doing it Right & Faster..." two techniques bound to appeal not only to the toughest cost accountant, but also to the "smart" worker. The second part of John Dugas' article on gear finishing and Robert Endoy's on the fundamentals of gear blanking, both provide important information for determining which processes are the best and most economical for your particular needs - which has always been the "smart" approach. Paul Sagar's report on the effects of temperature variation on the accuracy of gear measurement is another variation on the theme of "working smarter."

Our columns in this issue are also a reflection of this theme. "Management Matters" offers an alternative accounting method that may help to reveal hidden costs in your operation and ways to lower them that do not necessarily involve draconian cutbacks or layoffs. In "Shop Floor," Bob Errichello lists the 10 books no gear engineer should be without, vital sources of information for "working smarter," no matter what the economic climate.

By now, it should be obvious to everyone that no one, quick, painless solution to our current economic woes is anywhere in the future. We will need every resource at our disposal to cope with the present situation - including multiple ways to work smarter. At *Gear Technology* we will continue to bring you articles that one way or another will help you increase your supply of smart approaches to your gear design and manufacturing challenges.

PUBLISHER'S PAGE



Michael Goldstein

Michael Goldstein,
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief