

Installation of 3000 ton molder is piece of cake

Vibro/Dynamics Isolators replace broken anchor bolts

How much do you think about the installation of your injection molder? Randy Baker thought about it a lot when his Cincinnati 3000 ton injection molder was pulling its anchor bolts out of the floor.

Baker is Plant Manager at Drake Molding Corporation in Greenville, MI, which makes functional and decorative parts and assemblies for a wide variety of customers. When the original anchoring leveling pads collapsed and broke loose, he called for help before any major problems occurred.

This was a smart move because it's easy to see how things tend to get sloppy when anchors pull loose. The wear plates get worn out quickly, the machine growls and squeaks through its cycle, and the molds have excessive wear and tear. And, if you're real unlucky, your molds become scrap.

What is not so obvious at the surface is that a machine is always affected by the way it is installed; whether it is a 3000 ton machine or a smaller, more common-sized molder.

Since no floor is level, especially over the considerable distance a molding machine covers, the precision alignment built into the machine is lost when not properly supported under all the mounting points. Any misalignment from floor irregularities can cause needless wear and tear on the machine and molds, which can affect the quality of the parts produced. The solution for Baker's instal-

lation was free-standing mounts engineered by Vibro/Dynamics for precision leveling, precise alignment of machine components, uniform support, and effective absorption of horizontal energy without walking.

Baker's original call for help went



Randy Baker of Drake Molding gives the thumbs up for the installation of his 3000 ton molder installed on Vibro/Dynamics Isolators.

to his rigger, Gelock Heavy Movers of Grand Rapids, because he trusted their experience. Gelock's advice was to install the machine on Vibro/Dynamics' isolators. Gelock based this recommendation on their experience of installing hundreds of machines a year all over the Midwest. From

this, Gelock learned that Vibro/Dynamics Isolators are easy to use, precisely adjustable, and make for a quick installation.

Baker decided to go with Vibro/Dynamics' Isolators and he reaped the benefits almost immediately. It took less than two hours to level Baker's molder even though this 526,000 lb. machine is installed on 26 isolators. Comparing this to the time-consuming conventional method of coring holes, grouting, and leveling, Baker said, "That old method had to cost us 25% more than this."

The benefits continue each day as the machine operates. "The platen rides much more consistent and smooth," said Baker. "We used to adjust the wear plates every day, but we haven't had to touch them since we installed it on these isolators."

The one question that remained in Baker's head was put to rest shortly after the installation of the new mounting system. His concern was what would happen when the platens slammed shut. This was tested after a new valve had been installed and the machine was cycled without reducing the speed. The machine slammed shut at almost full velocity and Baker's question was answered. "We have gauges in the floor to monitor if the machine walks," Baker said. "It didn't budge at all. The mounts absorbed all the shock."

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The isolators not only handle the severe operating forces of the machine, but also the harsh manufacturing environment as well. “They’re in a bath of hydraulic oil,” said Baker, “and they haven’t been affected by it at all.”

Vibro/Dynamics strives for this kind of quality in all of its mounting systems. “Engineering is everything,” said Greg Young, Vice-President at Vibro/Dynamics. “You can’t make a one-size-fits-all machinery mount. It won’t work. It will either be too stiff or too soft. Either way, the machine loses its level and, more importantly, its critical internal alignment.

This is why Vibro/Dynamics’ Isolators are chosen based on specific operating characteristics of each application. The isolators selected by our Application Engineers will provide a long-lasting, quality installation. In fact, all the isolator components are extremely durable. “We’re not in the spare parts business,” said Young. “We build them to last. I’ve inspected some that have been in place for 22 years and nothing has changed. They maintained all their dimensions, they’re fully resilient, and are still adjustable through the entire range.”

So what’s the bottom line? Your molder will operate almost any way you install it. But for faster installations, longer machine and mold life, precision leveling and alignment, machine stability, and better cycle times, install your machines on Vibro/Dynamics’ Isolators. Ask Randy Baker, he’ll tell you, “No problems whatsoever; I’m very happy.”

**For more information or a free quotation, call toll-free
1-800-842-7668 or visit us on the web at
www.vibroynamics.com**

Vibro/Dynamics makes a full range of machinery mounting systems for hundreds of industrial applications. Our products are designed to make machine installation faster and easier, and to increase uptime and profitability by maintaining proper machine alignment, extending die and mold life, and keeping machines level.

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