

New Graco RS Gun allows easy transition from wet-out to chop



CASE STUDY

Challenge

Though pleased with their GlasCraft® proportioner and GlasCraft Formula Dispense Gun, economic conditions prompted Carlson Engineered Composites to seek ways to increase manufacturing efficiencies. A great deal of time was being spent switching from wet-out to chop, changing blades, and adjusting the chopper. Because of a recent workforce reduction, the company needed to do more with less by improving manufacturing speed and by reducing production downtime.

Solution

Graco distributor, Progress Plastics, proposed that Carlson incorporate the newly developed Graco RS Chop Gun on their current GlasCraft 11:1 proportioner to gain efficiencies.

Results

With the new gun, Carlson Engineered Composites saw improvements immediately. The gun's dual trigger feature allowed operators to change from wet-out to chop without physically turning the chopper off. This was especially beneficial if the operator wanted to add more resin after applying the fiberglass.

The gun's blade cartridge made it easier and safer to change blades since blades are molded directly into the cartridge. Operators no longer needed a tool to remove blades and they didn't need to touch individual blades either. Carlson liked the gun design since the tension between the blade and anvil could easily be adjusted without removing the cover. Carlson felt that the Graco RS Chop Gun contributed to improved manufacturing efficiencies and overall safety.



Carlson Engineered Composites manufactures fiberglass reinforced plastics (FRP) components for manufacturers of agricultural equipment, transportation and recreational vehicles.

SPECIFICATIONS

END USER

Carlson Engineered Composites Inc.

INDUSTRY

Fiberglass Reinforced Plastics (FRP)

APPLICATION

- Open mold polyester resin application

MATERIAL SPECS

- Stypol®
- Type Of Resin CCP ISO DCPD Polyester Resin
- Fiberglass Gun Roving Single and Double Strand - 213 Yield

Material Supplier

- CCP (Cook Composites & Polymers)

Distributor

- Progress Plastics

GRACO EQUIPMENT

- GlasCraft 11:1 proportioner with Graco RS Chop Gun



The tool-less blade design allows operators to change blades in less than a minute. Because blades are pre-loaded in the cartridge, operators never have to handle individual blades.