A brief history of the four industrial revolutions, and the tooling that facilitated them:

The advances that fuel each revolution can be characterized by notable refinements in precision. A key innovation in tooling that fostered the first industrial revolution was precision machine tooling, and the master plane gauge; precision (hand-scraped) gauge blocks accurate to within millionths of an inch. The master plane gauge provided a reference with which to manufacture and calibrate machine tools with high precision. While machine tools existed long before the 1820s, this advance in precision vastly improved the quality and feasibility of machine production.

The second industrial revolution can also be considered in terms of an advances in precision, but the precision was not necessarily related to the fabrication of parts, but to the design of the manufacturing process itself.