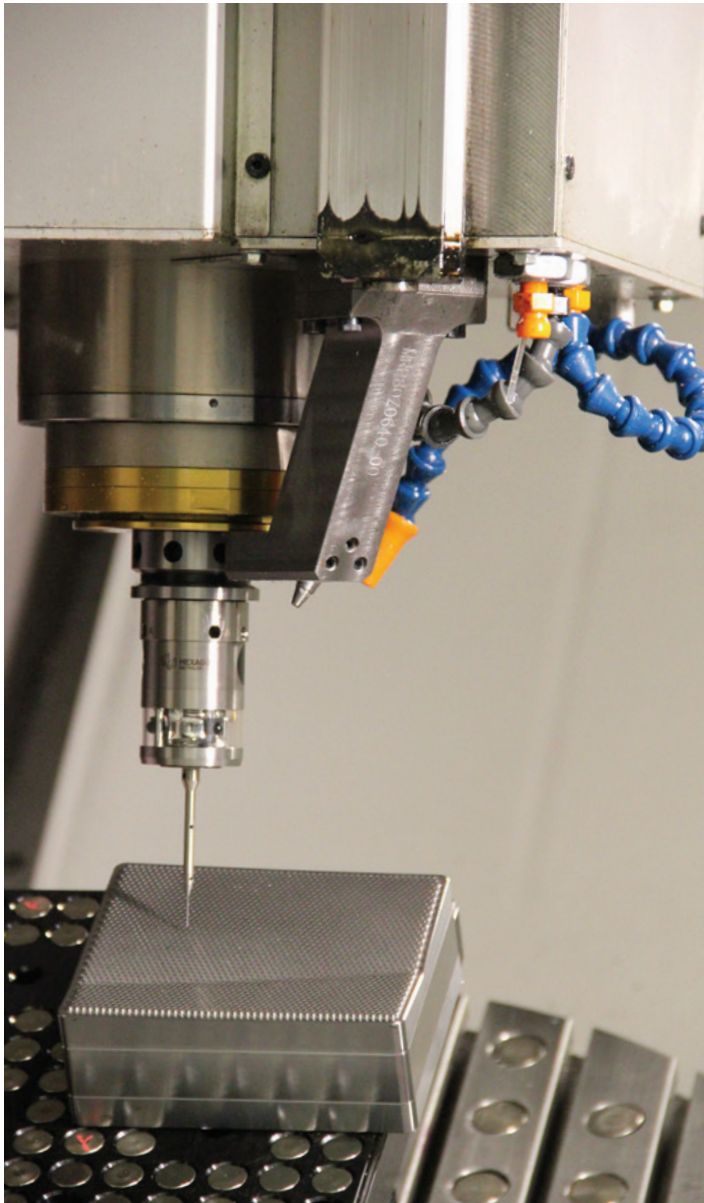


# PGI Optics



In the past month there has been a lot of talk about process improvement. To take a look at how we currently do it, and how can we improve the process. I have found that YouTube has been a big help, take a look at some of the videos on there From the machines and cutter manufactures, some pretty mind blowing thing on there.

A few examples are, faster cutting times, improved surface finish and expanding the use of the FCS Work holding System using their Guide Line Software. Currently the FCS mounting holes Are primarily used in the larger components of a mold. So why not use them in smaller components, One example is lifters, as it is now once the tops are cut of the only way to hold and pick up the lifter Is by using the lifter bar. Next time you walk by a CNC or EDM machine and they are setting up a lifter for an engineering change, just ask the operator and I'll bet they will say that it is not the highlight of their day. Putting FCS in that lifter in the design phase will dramatically improve efficiently and accuracy.

Although I/we haven't tried all situations, but the ones that have been tried and tested worked excellent. Again, with any change in process there will be trial and error. Rev A, Rev B, etc...

Currently, depending on the complexity of the block (2d, water, ejection) the designer must visually look for interferences when adding FCS. That's where The Guideline software comes in. It takes that down to a few minutes. Once done in guide line, the locations with cutting object can seamlessly be put into the master design and model file. Eliminating the need for "Hey, did you put the FCS in, where's the file?"

Last week the software was rolled out into the Lifter Cell and the HM600's for further testing. Additional Cam software's are being tested. CamTool, PowerMill, Tebis and soon Cimatron V13. A few key points be evaluated are, Program calculation times, Surface Finish quality, ease of use and the learning curve.

**Brian Hoppe**