

# Seventh Blanchard Grinder Added to the Dix Metals Fleet



Ever conscious of the demands on OEMs and job shop time and margins, Dix Metals has introduced a seventh Blanchard grinder to the shop, to complement the existing fleet of six Blanchard grinders, six double disc grinders and ten duplex mills already on their production line.

The Dix Metals production fleet offers a selection of rotary surface and double disc grinders. Each of their seven Blanchard grinding machines has the ability to offer dimensional tolerances to  $\pm .001$ ", parallelism to  $.001$ ", and flatness to  $.001$ " in order to meet exacting precision standards. Dix currently houses one 84-inch, one 66-inch, one 60-inch, three 42-inch, and one 36-inch Blanchard grinders to meet customer demand.

Best suited for single-sided material removal and grinding applications too large for double-disc grinding, Blanchard grinding, also known in the industry as rotary surface grinding, quickly removes stock from one side of a part. Blanchard grinding machines are most suited for standard surface grinding of large plates and offer parallelism and flatness tolerances to  $.001$ ", part-to-part thickness consistency, multiple part grinding ability and size versatility.

Ideal in the production of large parts like mold plates, rotary tables or vacuum chambers, Blanchard grinding can

also be an effective method for simultaneous grinding of multiple smaller parts.

The main feature of Dix Metals' Blanchard grinding operations is heavy stock removal rates for all magnetic or non-magnetic materials. In the event that a substantial amount of material has to be removed Dix Metals reports that they feel Blanchard grinding proves to be the more cost-effective solution. Using what a Dix Metals spokesman said is significantly greater horsepower (200hp) than other grinding methods, Blanchard grinding removes large amounts of stock quickly and efficiently. Dix Metals stocks a host of materials which can be ground using the Blanchard grinding method, but they

also welcome customer supplied material.

Some of the advantages of Blanchard grinding include: Parallelism and flatness tolerances to  $.001$ ", part-to-part thickness consistency, the ability to grind multiple parts for greater economy, size versatility and surface finishes to 32 Ra.

The Blanchard grinder is known for leaving its trademark cross-hatched surface finish pattern, typically within a 32-125 RMS range, though higher finishes may be possible on request.

Dix Metals uses their extensive fleet of machinery to square up blocks more efficiently and produce multiple pieces and two sides in one pass, so that your shop is ready to deliver on its projects that much faster. Company spokesman Jon-David Nutter said "Dix Metals prides itself on reducing production time and labor costs by supplying custom machine ready blanks direct to the customer. Machine shops are then able to eliminate fly-cutting and squaring up, as well as prep time, bit changes and fixture offset adjustments. Increasing throughput on the shop floor means parts ship out faster, increasing profit and customer satisfaction. Dix Metals Machine Ready Blanks offer their customers increased efficiency, reduction in costs and noticeable improvements in profitability."