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Patents Issued To Area Firm

Harold Vanstrom Invented Devices

Vansteel Products Company of Oriental Park, near Bemus Point, has been issued two patents on inventions designed to facilitate grinding of small parts on reciprocating or rotary surface grinders.

The invention consists of three precision tool-steel rings and a screw jack which is used to set up small regular parts for end grinding on a surface grinder by containing the parts in a locked circle.

Rings are .240, .370 and .490 inches high and may be used for parts just higher than each dimension or in combinations for higher parts.

The locking jack has a square shank which is tightened up between parts arranged in a circle within the rings. It forces them to expand against the inside diameter of the ring being used. This holds them firmly during the grinding cycle, exposing their tops to the grinding wheel. The process is repeated again when the parts are turned over so the opposite end may be ground.

Harold J. Vanstrom, owner of the one-man company and a grinder at Marlin-Rockwell Corporation's Jamestown plant, said the unique feature of the setup is that it accommodates a diameter range from one fourth to one and one half inches and a length range slightly greater than the combined width of the three rings. This, he said, enables it to be used as a standard tool replacing three normal sets of rings.

The local inventor, who has had a machine shop hobby for 30 years, went to New York City six weeks ago at the request of American Machinist Magazine which took pictures of the parts and wrote up the invention in its Sept. 26 issue.

A year ago Mr. Vanstrom was issued a patent for a cam lock-holding fixture which he described as a unit for holding small parts in multiples for precision grinding.

He explained his latest invention has not been assigned to any company for manufacture, but he felt it would be found useful in any machine shop where small grinding is done.