

# SPRING 2018 NewsSheet

The latest news and views from Potters, fine limit sheet metal manufacturer and finisher



## Get into the Groove New graining machine at Potters

The latest investment made by Potters was in the Timesavers 22 Series 900 WW. It is a wide belt, dual roller graining machine. This new investment has increased the width capacity we can process components to by 50%.

Why Grain? Graining is a practical method to remove surface irregularities whilst imparting a quality directional finish. This process is often required for aesthetic reasons by many of our customers to provide a high level uniform finish across the entire surface area. Sometimes it is sensible to use pre-grained material, which does incur a higher upfront cost. However, due to a components blank size and intricacy, graining the cut profile instead, as a secondary operation, can prove in many cases to be more cost effective and provide better flexibility by avoiding paying for the scrap to be grained.

On our new Timesavers 22 Series 900 WW, components to be grained are placed on a revolving conveyor, which then passes under two rotating graining belts moving in opposite directions until

the desired finish is achieved. This kind of graining process is very clean, relatively silent, and results in a regular even grain. Depending on the thickness of material being processed, the roller heights can be moved with very fine adjustment utilizing the latest technology in this machine, it has the ability to change position by 0.01mm ensuring a uniform finish across the entire component. The two graining belts used on the rollers are available in various grit finishes depending on what the customers specifications require.

When using our previous facility, depending on the starting surface of the material and design of the component, it was often necessary to pass the part through the graining machine several times using various settings and different grit belts in order to achieve the desired finish. With the new two roller system we now have the ability to use different grit belts on each roller allowing for the use of both coarse and fine belts during a single pass of the component ultimately providing a more efficient and flexible process with less wear on the belts.

**POTTERS**

INNOVATORS IN  
SHEET METAL COMPONENTS

## ISO 9001:2015

The ISO standards are reviewed every five years and revised if needed. This helps ensure they remain useful tools for the marketplace. The challenges faced by business and organizations today are very different from a few decades ago and ISO 9001 has been updated to take this new environment into account, changing from a 2008 standard to 2015, which must be implemented by September of this year.

Another major difference is the focus on risk-based thinking. While this has always been part of the standard, the new version gives it increased prominence.

As this newsletter goes to press I am happy to confirm after 12 months of working with BSI, LL Potter & Sons have successfully completed their transition to the new 2015 standard. A big thank you to Lea Bullen our Quality Manager who has been with the Company for 20 years in driving this transition through.



**Want to find out more?**

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## New Starter

**L** Lauren joined the commercial team at Potters in October of last year. She came to us from a payroll/administrative background and was looking to further her career by moving into a more customer facing position. She has a passion for football and until a few years ago played for Chelsea FC girls, and until quite recently assisted with training Windsor FC Ladies where her father is coach. Unfortunately for some in the office, she is a Manchester United supporter. However we can forgive her that, as her infectious laugh has added to the high spirits of the commercial team and she has become an integral part of the Potters team over the last six months.

### IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

★ Potters expansion,  
additional 8000 sq ft.

★ Powder coating  
plant upgrade and  
refurbishment.

★ Paint, powder, plate:  
what's best for you?

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# Carry on screening

**M**any Potters customers take advantage of the fact that we have our own "In house" silk screening facility. It enables us to offer the extra finishing process that enables Potters to keep up its long standing all under one roof philosophy.

Many customers require their components to have either a logo, control panel diagrams or operating instructions on the finished part. While transfers or labels can suffice these are liable to damage and degradation over the lifespan of the product.

Metal is used for its durability and if these text or graphical representations can be added directly to the metalwork, they can endure a higher degree of wear and tear and look far more effective.

Silkscreening is the process of passing durable inks through a porous fabric, creating a high-resolution sharp-edged single-color image created from a stencil. The metalwork is then cured in an oven ensuring the ink adheres to the finished metalwork. Multiple color images are

created by incorporating multiple stencils onto one surface, and cured after each process.

One graphic and screen for each color, it is ideal for flat graphics with a limited number of colors, as each color needs to be silk screened separately. The more colors used, the more time it will take to silkscreen. However this multi stage process is something we regularly undertake at Potters and it is not uncommon for a four or five colour process being undertaken in the silkscreen department.

Due to the self-levelling nature of applying silkscreen ink, it produces a smooth finish that is virtually indistinguishable by touch. Heavily textured finishes can degrade the screen print quality and are not advised. Small features, fine print and thin lines can look distorted on a rough surfaces. Best results are achieved on bare metal or smooth finish, lightly textured wet paint or powder coat, which are also both available as an in house process at Potters.

