Game Changer: Hard Finishing With 100% Quality Inspection

Technology in Action
Forest City Gear Shapes Faster
Power Skiving of Larger Gears
Iwasa Tech Excels at Inspection
KISSsoft
Optimizing Manufacturability
GAMA 3.2
Inspection Gets Smarter
Dear Valued Customers:

These past months have been the most challenging and turbulent in a generation. The global economic environment has never been more unpredictable. In times such as these, with the unprecedented convergence of powerful social, political, health and economic forces, companies must rethink their strategies, and put tradition to the test.

Gleason is no different. While we have been proactive, for example, in the pursuit of the new technologies needed for eDrives, no one could have predicted the arrival of COVID-19 nor its impact on the way we interact with customers, suppliers and employees. It is a testament to the dedication of our global team, and their willingness to adapt to change, that we have swiftly adapted to many new ways of doing business, while at the same time working to make our customers’ lives as easy and convenient as possible. These new methodologies have included everything from virtual machine acceptances to live product demonstrations, to free services like our new Gear Trainer Webinars and support apps such as the Gear Calculator App.

Going forward, there is a sense of both urgency, and great optimism, in the work our company is doing to prepare for a future where a premium will be placed on innovation and adaptability to change. Our new manufacturing technologies are tailor-made to deliver much-needed design and manufacturing solutions for eDrive, aerospace, energy, construction and farming industries; always evolving with more efficient and more resource-saving technologies supported by cloud-based or local analysis and optimization. With Gleason’s Closed Loop and in-process inspection coupled to manufacturing, for example, we offer customers a real ‘game changer’ in terms of productivity and quality control – with optimization feedback in real time, accompanied by solutions for smart tooling setup and optimized machine performance.

These are difficult times to be sure, but if history has told us anything, it’s that amazing progress will be made as a result. We believe that 2021 reinvestment goals are critical to compete; we will be at your side with the broadest portfolio of gear solutions including design, manufacture and inspection. With our global footprint we strive to be your partner to help meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,
04  Cover Story: Hard Finishing with 100% Gear Inspection
08  Faster Shaping Lands at Forest City Gear
12  Power Skiving for Larger Gears
14  Inspection Never Gets Old at Iwasa Tech
18  Introducing: The Diff² e-drive
20  Best In Class: The New and Improved 280G
24  New Pitch Line Fixture Minimizes Runout
26  KISSsoft Connects Design to Manufacturing
30  GAMA™ 3.2 Inspection Software: Most Powerful Version Yet
32  Inspection Solutions for Quieter Gears
34  Introducing Gleason Connect Cloud
36  Now Streaming: Gear Trainer Webinar Series
38  Gear Design on the Go!
39  Gear Calculations: There’s an App for That
At the 2019 MPT show in Detroit, Michigan USA, Gleason unveiled its new Hard Finishing Cell (HFC) with integrated inspection of up to 100% of all gears in process. For the first time, the Gleason HFC combines the latest Threaded Wheel Grinding with revolutionary new GRSL Gear Rolling System with Integrated Laser Technology in a single system to finally address – and solve – the challenge of random gear inspection that has long existed in high volume gear production.

95% of Gears Go Untested

In conventional gear manufacturing, quality control is carried out only randomly. This is due to the significantly longer measuring times required in comparison to the actual production time and limited measuring capacity. It is not unusual in continuous generating grinding to measure only one or two components per dressing cycle. Depending on the dressing cycle, this corresponds to only about 5% of the...
components actually produced. In order to guarantee an almost 100% reliability, statistics are instead used to validate most of the gears produced. Typical measuring characteristics can be represented and statistically evaluated on a Gaussian bell curve. By deliberately narrowing down the tolerances on the actually measured components, it is possible to guarantee compliance with the actually required drawing tolerances with a sufficiently high probability (typically > 99.99%). This method is commonly used for machine and process capability studies and is recognized worldwide. The machine or process capability values cmk and cpk frequently taken as a basis are usually above 1.67. Statistically, the reject rate is only 0.57 components per 1 million manufactured components, but this means that only about 50% of the actually intended drawing tolerances are available as manufacturing tolerances.

A Better Way
In today’s world, that’s not good enough. The constantly increasing power density of gears and the growing importance of noise behavior are leading to increasingly tight tolerances. Clearly, the heavy reliance on statistics poses a significant problem for a growing number of gear manufacturers.

Gleason’s new GRSL roller testing device with integrated optical measuring technology opens up a world of new possibilities by reducing measuring time so that it can realistically be done within the actual production time. This provides the possibility of up to 100% inspection of all manufactured components. End result? There is no need for additional narrowing of tolerances and the 100% inspection of all manufactured components can be accomplished in-process.

Many Technologies, One System
The HFC thus offers significant added value. It’s a fully automated system with robot loading that integrates modules for auxiliary processes in order to meet specific customer requirements easily and flexibly. The complete process sequence includes gear grinding, washing, laser marking, measuring and part handling in a stackable basket system. The HFC approach can be
The Hard Finishing Cell is the world’s first fully-automated, closed loop manufacturing system including revolutionary in-line gear checking with real-time analysis and automatic feedback of corrections to the Threaded Wheel Grinding Machine.

HFC’s 100% inspection capability results from the new Gleason GRSL analytical and composite inspection unit which is fully integrated into the system. The component to be tested is loaded by the robot onto the double-flank rolling test device. During the gear inspection, a laser scanner is used to measure all gear characteristics. Thus all relevant information for profile, pitch and runout and, if desired, lead measurement is available. This is done for each tooth and not, as is usually the case, only on four teeth distributed over the circumference.

Deviations are fed back directly into the production machine by means of a closed correction loop. Both fully automatic correction and real-time adjustment of the corresponding parameters can be achieved. Compare that to the conventional measurement process in the quality lab, where 45 to 60 minutes may well pass between removing the component from the machine and providing the measurement result. With HFC’s in-process inspection and Closed Loop, the desired correction ensuring optimum quality during the ongoing production process is much faster.

Components whose characteristics lie outside the tolerances are automatically rejected. It is also possible to create extensive trend analyses of individual features and perform further gear noise analysis.

4.0 Inside

In addition to the many analysis options that the system provides for optimizing workpiece quality, the Hard Finishing Cell is also equipped with the latest 4.0 functions. The Gleason Fingerprint™ Machine Analysis for predictive maintenance allows the user to keep planned machine availability at peak levels. Gleason’s “gTools” tool management system reduces operator errors and tool wear and optimizes the use of tools. Of course, the HFC is equipped with the latest Gleason accessories, including the Quik-Flex® Plus modular fixture, which allows changeovers in minutes, and Gleason dressing tools.

In Summary

HFC is indeed a highly desirable solution for many industries and applications where consistent high quality is important, such as the production of high precision e-drive gears with minimal noise characteristics. A single system for the fast and high-quality production with 100% gear inspection, long the dream of many customers, is now reality.

Dr. Antoine Türich
Director Product Management of Hard Finishing Solutions
Gleason Corporation
GRSL laser scanning now makes possible 100% part analysis and validation in seconds, with realtime feedback and advanced analytics including profile, lead and pitch measurement (chart shown at right) and gear noise analysis.

System or Stand-Alone: GRSL Delivers Unprecedented Speed and Flexibility

GRSL (Gear Rolling System with Laser) for the first time combines composite testing with advanced analytical non-contact laser technology in a single system. Cycle times for non-contact index, involute and lead inspection are up to 10 times faster than conventional systems for the analysis of cylindrical gears from .4 to 7.2 module, up to 250 mm (10") in diameter.

**Unprecedented Inspection Speed**
- Performs non-contact index and profile inspection up to 1600% or more faster than conventional machines.
- Performs composite testing and index and profile inspection in the same test cycle.

**Greater Flexibility**
- View profile characteristics for every tooth for spur and helical gears: fko, fHa, Fa, ffa, faHm, Vaf, others.
- View index: Fp, fp, Fr and runout Fu.
- View composite: Nick, TCV, T2T, Average DOP, Average Circular ToothThickness, Fi" and fi".
- Uses familiar Gleason GAMA™/WINROLL™ software interfaces.
- ISO, DIN and AGMA analysis charting.
- Easily integrated into a complete system or used as a stand-alone machine.

Watch the HFC in action
Faster Shaping Lands

Forest City Gear is boldly going where no gear jobber has gone before, with the first Gleason GP300ES Gear Shaping Machine featuring 40% faster cutter spindle speed.

The search for intelligent life on Mars will take a big leap forward on February 18, 2021 when NASA’s latest Mars Rover, called Perseverance, touches down. Its mission? To seek signs of ancient life and collect rock and soil samples for possible return to Earth – and pave the way for future human exploration. It’s the most ambitious of NASA’s Mars missions, with a larger, more sophisticated Rover that builds on the lessons learned by previous Rovers dating back to 1997.
Fortunately for NASA, "intelligent life" can be found a lot closer to home, at Forest City Gear. Gears produced by this well-known precision gear jobber in Roscoe, Illinois USA have been used on every Rover, helping ensure that these vehicles operate dependably, whether traversing the rugged Mars terrain or surviving in temperatures down to minus 130 degrees F.

NASA puts its trust in Forest City Gear, and Forest City Gear in turn trusts Gleason – this time for North America’s first GP300ES Gear Shaping Machine with a 1,500 strokes per minute cutter spindle speed that’s significantly faster than anything in its 300 mm diameter size range. The GP300ES is the company’s seventh CNC shaping machine, making Forest City Gear one of the largest and most productive shaping resource available for contract gear production. And now, with the GP300ES, one of the fastest.

“We are fortunate to be the first company in North America to put this new, faster GP300ES into production,” says Forest City Gear Director of Operations Jared Lyford. “It’s a versatile, highly productive machine that’s added throughput for our customers seeking faster turn-around and higher quality, particularly for gears that require a unique approach to standard cutting strategies via higher feeds and speeds.”

Improving On the Legacy
According to Mr. Lyford, several important aerospace ‘legacy’ projects have already benefited from the new Gleason shaping machine. Most notable is a family of aerospace internal and external spur and helical gears, fine and medium pitch, and involute splines – all made from 440C stainless steel. 440C stainless is a grade known for its superior strength and hardness, making it ideal for many aerospace applications. According to Mr. Lyford, the material also can be a challenge to shape. “We could overcome the machinability issues we’d been encountering when shaping these 440 parts by increasing the feeds and speeds to the very upper limits of...
The new design adds leveling wedges with two-chamber air spring elements for greater vibration damping.

our shapers (all of which are the latest models with guideless helical capability) – but then lead integrity would suffer as a result,” recalls Mr. Lyford. “That’s the shaping conundrum in a nutshell: a process ideal for generating critical features against shoulders with limited clearance – but with inherent limits on how fast you can machine.”

With demand growing fast for not only aerospace parts of this type but other high precision work Forest City Gear went shopping for a new shaping machine – one that ideally could add capacity and shape at much higher speeds than traditionally possible with machines in the 300 mm size range. Fortunately, great minds think alike. Gleason had just improved on one of its ‘legacy’ shaping machines: the popular GP300ES. The new version is designed to address the long-standing shaping conundrum and deliver cutter spindle stroke speeds as high as 1,500/minute. This is 40% faster than the existing model, and anything else in its size range. In short order, Forest City Gear purchased the first of these new-series GP300ES machines ever to be installed in North America. To accommodate Forest City Gear’s ambitious delivery requirements, Gleason even arranged to have the machine, typically built at its Ludwigsburg, Germany facility, instead assembled at the Gleason headquarters in Rochester, New York USA.

The new design adds leveling wedges with two-chamber air spring elements for greater vibration damping.
Forest City Gear is applying feed rates twice those of its existing shaping machines to speed production of the precision fine pitch gears it’s known the world over for.

**Built for Speed**

Compare the earlier GP300ES and the new, faster model side by side and you wouldn’t see any obvious differences. While the enhancements made might be subtle, they are significant. Gleason began by developing a new balancing weight that minimizes unbalance for all cutter spindle stroke axis lengths and speed ranges. New control parameters for the stroke and tool back off axes were applied as well to achieve the higher stroke rates. The back off axis also features a new-design back off cam specially designed to operate more reliably at the higher stroke rates.

To accommodate the potential for more noise and vibration, Gleason also stiffened the housing sheet metal and added insulation. New leveling wedges with two-chamber air spring elements were added too for greater vibration damping.

**Increased Speed, Problem Solved**

Now, with the new GP300ES, Mr. Lyford reports that the problems experienced with the 440 stainless parts have been eliminated. “With the higher surface footages, we can slow the rotary feed enough to put less of a chip load on the cutter to get the required quality but without impacting cycle times,” he says. “In fact, we’ve about doubled surface feet per minute (SFM) for production of almost every part we produce on that machine, while at the same time reducing chip load. This results in improved quality and extending tool life. “I believe this machine really marks the beginning of a new chapter in shaping, both for the industry and Forest City Gear.”

For more information, contact:

Forest City Gear
11715 Main Street
Roscoe, Illinois 61073 USA
Tel +1 815 623 2168
info@forestcitygear.com
www.forestcitygear.com
Big Power Skiving at Work

Power Skiving proves its enormous value in the soft cutting of three different large internal gears: faster, higher quality, longer tool life.

The performance benefits of Power Skiving are particularly evident in the production of larger gears, where cycle time savings can add up quickly, and quality parameters have never been higher. To prove the point, we’ve used our largest Power Skiving Machine, the 600/800PS, to replicate the benefits a Gleason customer is experiencing using Power Skiving for soft cutting three actual workpieces. These represent the extreme working range of our machine.

**Two Steps: Roughing and Finishing**

Because the Power Skiving process is inherently much faster than the alternative processes used for soft cutting parts of this type and size we
Power Skiving

Gleason Roughing Cutter: carbide inserts, AlCroNite® Pro coating, quality class B.

Gleason Finishing Tool: G70 substrate, AlCroNite® Pro coating, quality class AA.

can optimize the process using two steps: roughing, with a cutter with interchangeable carbide inserts for maximum productivity and long tool life; and finishing, with a solid PM tool, designed to produce exceptional quality over its particularly long tool life. Without going into too much detail on the machine itself, it’s important to note that the 600/800PS is equipped with automatic tool changing.

A universal workholding system is also used, designed for automatic load and clamping. The system is particularly rigid. The three different families of gears all are radially aligned on their outside diameter and supported on the face with a supporting ring. Additionally, the machine’s fixture is designed to efficiently evacuate the large volumes of chips produced in the roughing stage.

We first achieve very high roughing speeds of between 120 and 135 meters per minute with a highly productive carbide-insert tool. With the finishing tool, we make three finishing cuts at similar feedrates: the first in double-flank cutting mode to remove most of the material from both flanks simultaneously, and then the last two single flank cuts, removing minimal material for the best possible quality.

Built-In Deburring

We also deburr these gears completely in the machine. For deburring of the lower face, we use the back side of the teeth on the finishing cutter. With that we remove the burr with a cutting motion away from the tooth gap in direction of the tooth so that no burr remains bent back into the tooth gap.

For deburring the spring ring grooves, we use a disk located directly under the cutter with radial infeed to feed the disk into groove.

These deburring techniques deliver a completely deburred part with limited effort and no additional tool costs.

Three Gears, Similar Results

As compared to the traditional processes typically used to soft cut larger gears of this type, the results are apparent, as you can see from the table below. Most impressive are the productivity gains that are possible with a two-step Power Skiving process ensuring the highest possible quality. Floor-to-floor times were far less than the competitive processes, while achieving the longest tool life, lowest tool cost and best overall gear quality.

Comparison for Different Processes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Shaping</th>
<th>Profile Milling</th>
<th>Power Skiving (1) Tool</th>
<th>Power Skiving (2) Tools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cycle Time (hrs)</td>
<td>4.56</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Cutters</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parts/Cutter</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>40/80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tooling Cost/Part</td>
<td>$55.25</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
<td>$24.80</td>
<td>$16.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Best</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Watch the latest Power Skiving Webinar

Dr.-Ing. Edgar Weppelmann
Manager Application Engineering
Gleason-Pfauter Maschinenfabrik GmbH
Large Gear Inspection Never Gets Old

The first-ever Gleason 3000GMM Gear Metrology System for large gears is going stronger than ever at Iwasa Tech.

Success for many manufacturers hinges on a handful of monumental periods in their history. For Iwasa Tech, a leading Japanese manufacturer of large cylindrical gears and straight and spiral bevel gears, that time was 2009. That year the company celebrated its 90th Anniversary at a brand new facility in the port city of Chiba just outside Tokyo. The new facility would become the site for Iwasa Tech’s revolutionary approach to producing coarse pitch bevel gears with diameters up to 2,000 mm in low volumes: cutting and hard finishing them on a 5-axis machining center.
Iwasa Tech is a major supplier of very large bevel gears, internal and external cylindrical gears for the planetary systems found in wind power turbines and mining equipment, and double-helical gears.

with end mills, and thus eliminating the need for multiple dedicated bevel gear production machines and expensive tooling. The method has enabled Iwasa Tech to react faster to customer demand, whether complete gearsets or a special-design ‘one-off’ gear or pinion to match an existing gearset, without the development time and cost typically required. Another significant 2009 milestone: installation of a second Gleason 3000GMM Analytical Gear Metrology System to join the first-ever 3000GMM installed a few years before.

The Iwasa Tech Method

According to company officials, achieving the Iwasa Tech ‘method’ would have been difficult, if not impossible, without these two Gleason 3000GMMs. The systems seem tailor-made to meet the challenging inspection requirements demanded of this large bevel gear production process. Most obvious is their robust design. The 3000GMMs feature a solid granite base, providing considerably more stability for gears weighing as much as 19,500 kg (42,900 lbs.), as compared to competitive models typically built with cast-iron bases. Their
Meehanite® cast iron slide assemblies also provide vastly better damping characteristics. The systems are also equipped with heavy duty rotary tables giving them exceptional stiffness and rigidity for workpieces with diameters as large as 3,000 mm. This is capacity to spare for Iwasa Tech bevel gears, and enough to meet the inspection requirements of another significant Iwasa Tech product: the internal ring gears for planetary systems found in wind turbines and mining equipment.

New GAMA Software and Probes

GMM’s are equipped with GAMA™ operating software to simplify programming and completely automate the inspection process. This is the same software suite now in use on the latest generation of GMS systems. GAMA is a powerful Windows® based application that puts a host of features right at the fingertips of the operator in a simple, highly intuitive graphical user interface (GUI). For Iwasa Tech’s operators, GAMA makes life easier, whether recalling and loading existing parts programs or creating new parts programs to meet the considerably different inspection criteria of both bevel gears and internal ring gears.

GAMA also enables Iwasa Tech to connect inspection results to its 5-axis bevel gear machining centers in a Closed Loop. CNC parts programming can be modified and machine corrections made based on actual inspection results – including Tooth Contact Analysis (TCA) – thus speeding the development and production of completely new gears or pinions.

In addition to their periodic software upgrades, Iwasa Tech’s GMMs have been equipped with a series of Renishaw SP80H 3D scanning probes, with various stylus sizes and configurations. They can acquire data much faster and more accurately on even the most complex gear tooth profiles, and versions are available for every inspection requirement, including surface finish and noise analysis.

Iwasa Tech gives credit to the years of close service and support provided by Gleason Asia Co., Ltd. for the success they’ve had with these two GMMs – still going strong today with many of the same capabilities as the latest Gleason inspection technologies.
We’ve achieved great things in recent years with the help of these Gleason systems.

Dr. Eng. Isamu Tsuji
President
Iwasa Tech
Hypoids) create high sliding velocities, thus reducing efficiency and increasing the risk of surface damage and premature failure as input increases.

Double Differential, Multiple Benefits

A new solution is needed – one that’s very compact, with easily produced components and predictable operating conditions. With development of the Diff2, Gleason has achieved those objectives. The Diff2 transmission features a double differential: an outer differential unit wrapped around a differential center unit. Both units rotate around the same axes with different speeds. The potential of double differentials as ultra-high reduction speed reducers is extraordinary. Only the tooth count of the spiral bevel gears in the outer differential unit has to be changed in order to achieve ratios between 5 and 80 – without a noticeable change of the transmission size.

The fact that the carrier rotates with about half of the input speed reduces the relative motion and with it the sliding velocity to 50% as compared to two conventionally meshing bevel gears which roll with the same input speed.

Adding an Input for Greater Efficiency

A particularly interesting design configuration is a version with two inputs.
The Diff2 with two motor input stores kinetic energy, which can be used for rapid acceleration and extending range.

The Diff2 allows the storage of kinetic energy during gentle driving periods as well as deceleration and breaking actions for greater energy efficiency.

In Summary

Diff2 offers a number of tantalizing possibilities for EV manufacturers seeking to accommodate the extremely high input RPMs of the very near future. It’s compact, highly efficient and easy to manufacture and assemble.
Best in Class

Whether fine finishing low-noise EV transmission gears in higher volumes or meeting a multitude of jobber versatility requirements, the new and improved Gleason Phoenix® 280G Bevel Gear Grinding Machine outperforms at every level.

Imagine developing the perfect bevel gear grinding machine for today’s automotive gears. You want it more reliable than anything on the market, so you start with a simple, extremely rigid monolithic column design cast out of an advanced polymer rather than using cast iron, thus achieving very high thermal stability and damping. Then you create a remarkably clean work area with no visible rails or flat surfaces and free of pipes, wiring and clutter to optimize swarf containment and evacuation. Even the integrated dressing unit retracts completely out of the work zone during grinding.

Your operators have a lot on their hands so you cut their workload and setup times to an absolute minimum with tool-less workpiece, grinding wheel and coolant pipe changeover. You further reduce non-productive time with automatic stock dividing done in parallel with wheel dressing.

Consistent, repeatable quality is paramount. You mount an automatic stock divider in close proximity to the work spindle for automatically determining the tooth slot position of the pre-finished gear for accurate and reliable stock division. You also design
Simple by Design

The Phoenix® 280G eliminates pipes, wiring and clutter from the work area so that swarf containment and evacuation is extremely efficient.

your machine with coolant headers that can be set up without tools in seconds, with nozzles that deliver high pressure coolant exactly where it’s needed. Header positioning is easily repeatable to achieve exactly the same results on the same parts downstream.

To save on first-part inspection time, you add a wireless, removable probe for fast, convenient checking of flank form, tooth size, pitch error and balancing.

Finally, you want one machine to do it all: Coniflex® grinding of straight bevel gears; Coniface™ grinding of face gears; grinding from solid; and the ability to produce Super Reduction Hypoids and Hypoloids…

It’s the perfect machine for today’s bevel gear fine finishing requirements. We call it the Phoenix® 280G.
Now, Better Than Ever

The 280G has been a proven solution for several years, employing all of the many features and benefits described above. New users routinely report index quality improvements of 2-3 classes, and the need for far less random parts checking. Now a host of new capabilities is taking the 280G to an even higher level. These include:

- Automatic compensation for workholding runout: 75% less.
- Polish grinding: for low-noise, less fuel consumption.
- UNIMILL™ Universal Milling Method: ideal for prototyping and front hub cutting.
- Next-generation grinding wheels: less wheel wear per part to reduce dressing.
- Automation solutions to increase throughput.
- Closed Loop connectivity with inspection for corrections on the fly.

All types of face and straight bevel gears, SRH, Zerol®, spiral and hypoid gears, couplings and even straight bevel gears with front hubs can be produced.
Bevel Gear Grinding

Automatic stock divider for a consistently high part quality; simultaneously with dressing.

Integrated workpiece measuring for simple and fast inspection of the first workpiece.

Quick-change tooling for workholding and tools.

Different models of Gleason bevel gear grinding wheels cover the widest range of applications, including grind from solid.

Meet the 280G

Uwe Gaiser
Dipl.-Ing (FH)
Director Product Management
Bevel Gear Solutions
Gleason Corporation
Perfect Pitch

Gleason’s new Pitch Line Fixture design minimizes runout and helps ensure greater accuracy for hard finishing and inspection.

Gear manufacturers are turning to workholding to help reduce cost without compromising quality. Pitch Line Fixtures, for example, can be used to provide a more precise relationship between the pinion/gear member datums and the gear teeth, thus reducing the amount of runout on those datums relative to the pitch diameter (pitch line) of the gear or pinion. Since undesirable runout results from the heat treatment and other manufacturing processes that can cause distortion, Pitch Line Fixtures are particularly well-suited for hard finishing and inspection applications.

A Better Mousetrap

Gleason has developed a Pitch Line Fixture that will average gear member runout to within 0.0005” (0.0127 mm) to the pitch line – and can be as accurate as 0.0002” (0.005 mm). The application determines the required accuracy. If used in a grinding application where normally 0.004” (0.1016 mm) of stock is removed off each gear flank, then the runout to the bearing journals of 0.0005” (0.0127 mm) would be sufficient. However, if used for hard turning with no subsequent finishing applications or lapping applications, then 0.0002” (0.005 mm) would be more appropriate.

Gleason Pitch Line Fixtures are designed with the pitch pins perpendicular to the gear tooth pitch diameter for optimized strength, accuracy, and wear. This offers significant advantages over conventional design, where the pins in a pitch line fixture point straight up (parallel to the axis of the part). This can result in a reduction in radial accuracy and stiffness of the centering function. For example, in pinions with a slim pitch angle of, say, 20° the forces on the balls and the pins are not directed in the axial pin direction, thereby reducing the force perpendicular to the pitch angle to only 34% (sin20°) in the axial pin direction and 94% (cos20°) perpendicular to the pin. This high perpendicular force will ultimately wear the pin sleeves and also bend the pins. In the case of ring gears this effect is smaller, but the same accuracy and wear issues will occur over time.
Workholding

Application Versatility

Pitch Line Fixtures can be designed to meet the needs of a wide range of customer applications: mechanically or hydraulically actuated, tailstock driven, compatible with quick change base equipment, incorporating a spring loaded pre-centering mechanism, and including mechanically activated holding jaws.

The recommended clamping method is determined by the application. For example, a pinion being held in the Pitch Line Fixture by a tailstock would not require clamp blocks on the pinion head for holding the pinion in place.

For a gear member, straps are often used on the back angle if the process requires that the bore be machined as well as the mounting surface. These pitch line features would be incorporated as required into the design of the fixture.

For more information on how Gleason Pitch Line Fixtures can be used to help reduce cost and improve accuracy in your operations, contact your local Gleason representative.
The Power Skiving / KISSsoft Connection

Design engineers naturally focus on finding the best possible gear layout, while leaving the manufacturing department to determine the most efficient manufacturing process downstream. Whether a very cost-efficient gear manufacturing process such as Power Skiving can be applied or not depends on certain gear and pinion geometry conditions / interference contours. In many cases, even a small change in the macro geometry at the design stage would permit its use – and lead the way to a much more productive, less costly manufacturing process.

With the KISSsoft 2019 release, it’s much easier now for gear designers to estimate the manufacturability of gears using Power Skiving: the tooth geometry is checked regarding machine and tool limitations; the gear can optionally also be checked for collisions with the tool.

Here’s how it works:

Checking Manufacturability of a Single Gear

The checks are activated as part of the manufacturing tab in KISSsoft individually for each gear.

The latest KISSsoft release takes the guesswork out of estimating gear manufacturability, and helps facilitate the use of highly efficient processes like Power Skiving.
In the dialog, the tool and limitations given by the Power Skiving machine can be specified. Main input values are the minimum and maximum tool diameter and the cross-axis angle. The cross-axis angle can also be defined using the helix angle of the tool.

The number of tool teeth has a default value of 20; an optimal (as large as possible with regard to tool life) can be calculated using the layout button. In case any collision checks are activated, they will be considered here as well.

Collisions scenarios which shall be checked can be activated and parameterized in the section below. In addition, it is also possible to export the corresponding tool-gear helical calculation as a KISSsoft file which can then be opened separately and may be used for visualization or debugging purposes.
The manufacturability is then evaluated during each calculation and the results are written into the report:

Checking for Collisions Behind the Gear (Inner and Outer Gear)

For both inner and outer gears, some space behind the gear is required for the tool over-run. This is mainly depending on the tool diameter and the cross-axis angle. In KISSsoft, a critical diameter and corresponding groove width can be specified and will then be checked against possible collisions.

Checking for Collisions with the Tool Backside (Outer Gear)

For outer gears, an estimate of possible collisions with the tool backside can be performed. This check is based on some qualitative assumptions regarding the tool geometry. In KISSsoft, a critical diameter and corresponding groove width can be specified and will then be checked against possible collisions.

Checking for Collisions with the Tool Shaft (Inner Gear)

For inner gears, the most critical risk for collisions is between the tool shaft and parts of the gear body. In KISSsoft, the risk of such collisions can be estimated based on qualitative assumptions regarding the tool geometry. A critical diameter and distance to the gear is specified and will then be checked against possible collisions.
Considering Power Skiving Manufacturability During Fine Sizing

The fine sizing option in KISSsoft is a very powerful tool. For given overall restrictions, mainly as center distance, face width and reduction ratio, this tool proposes many possible solutions by varying module, helix angle, pressure angle etc. in ranges defined by the user. The checks as specified in the manufacturing settings are also evaluated during fine sizing and may be used as a decision criterion:

Both the teeth number of the tool and the result of the checks columns if not shown by default can be activated:

The value PSKᵢ represents the manufacturability result of the check; the PSKᵢ value the corresponding number of tool teeth. The values of PSK are defined as:

-2 invalid input
-1 not tested
0 not possible / collision detected
1 (currently not used)
2 Power Skiving likely (no collision checks activated)
3 Power Skiving likely (including activated collision checks)

In the fine sizing solution list, gear variants which can be produced by Power Skiving are clearly indicated in column PSK1 by a ‘3’.

Conclusion

The integration of manufacturing information into gear design software reduces cost during the design process by avoiding time-consuming back and forth between the design and manufacturing departments. The challenging task for such software is ensuring the design engineer does not need specific manufacturing expertise. Otherwise he or she would be overwhelmed and not use such a feature.
GAMA 3.2

The powerful, intuitive Interface to optimize every operator’s performance.

GAMA™ 3.2, the most powerful version ever of the popular Windows® based applications suite, opens a world of new options for growing requirements and greater profits with faster throughput.

Highlights:

• Supports the complete inspection of all types of gears, including bevel, internal, external, spur and helical gears, shafts and gear cutting tools.

• Supports every optional tactile probing and non-contact laser scanning application for index, lead, and profile analysis sold within GAMA 3.2.

• Multiple waviness analysis tools to help identify the root cause of gear noise.

• Supports connectivity with GEARNET and VDI/VDE 2610 GDE.

• Inspect multiple tip and root diameters at selected involute heights.

• Customizable helix and involute filter parameters for special test for latest ISO gear standards.

• Custom cylindrical gear lead and profile analyses.

Cylindrical Gear Surface Roughness Measurement

Charts are easily configured to meet AGMA, DIN, ISO, JIS, GOST, China GB, and other standards.

ENDREM Analysis

With ENDREM analysis, one measurement flank form can be divided into two parts for better analysis of areas prone to noise.

Bevel Gear Surface Roughness Measurement

GAMA accommodates Surface Roughness Measurement and clearance moves of a wider range of bevel gear types and sizes, through use of a 45° tilted surface finish probe.

CMM-Type Measurement

GAMA interfaces gear measurement software and Geometric Dimensioning and Tolerancing (GD&T) capability for integration of non-gear features into the common user interface.
• Expanded bias analysis.
• ‘Find Missing Teeth’ test option.
• ‘Follow Surface journal’ scan saves setup time.
• QC bottom center utility saves time for bottom center centering setup.
• Probe accuracy test determines whether a probe tip has a chip or other flaw.
• Probe pad detection for automatic probe changers.
• Automatic multi-tip probe calibration.
• Enhanced QDAS interface.
• Separate flank form deviation tolerances for concave and convex flanks of bevel gears.
• XZ45D surface finish probe can now be used on all bevel gear part types.
• Lead and profile analyses for both maximum and minimum bias tolerances.

**Transmission Gears**

Even transmission gears with irregularly shaped clutch teeth and particularly tight tolerances can be easily inspected for typical features such as roof, sides, symmetry, centrality and more.

**Power Skiving Cutter Inspection**

GAMA 3.2 expands the user’s ability to inspect a complete range of gear cutting tools, including hobs, shaper cutters, shaving tools – and now all types of Power Skiving cutters, even with a zero outside angle.

**Worm Shaft Inspection**

For single-start worm shafts, GAMA 3.2 now gives users the ability to specify the number of axial pitch locations.

**Closing the Loop**

With GAMA, Gleason manufacturing machines can be networked in a Closed Loop so corrective actions are fast and accurate.

**In Summary**

With GAMA 3.2, we’ve addressed the increasing inspection burden being placed on both operator and inspection system, in the lab and on the shop floor. With resources stretched thin and quality objectives raised even higher, there’s never been a better time for GAMA 3.2.

**GAMA 3.2 Technology Upgrade for Your Existing Systems**

GAMA 3.2 Upgrade Package with Windows® 10 operating system makes it easy to take your existing Gleason inspection systems to their highest performance level – all at a fraction of the cost of new equipment. Available for most models of SIGMA, GMM and GMS.

**Learn about the GMS Series with GAMA 3.2**
Quieter Gears

With the power of GAMA, Gleason inspection systems can apply the most complete range of gear analysis tools to help meet the challenge of producing quieter gears.

With the surge in electric vehicles and other noise-sensitive applications, gear noise reduction is now of paramount importance. GAMA applications software can apply multiple analysis tools to help identify the root cause of gear noise. The input to these tools is measurement data collected during the inspection of a gear. These tools save the GAMA user time with extremely user-friendly input requirements and mathematically optimized outputs for ease of interpretation.

New Analysis Tools
The GMS series are all capable of performing contact analysis, using the same GAMA software. The GMSL series offers additional benefits, due to its ability to capture high density data at speeds up to 800% faster than tactile probing.

Gleason brings a significant advantage to its customers by combining multiple analysis tools on one platform. With GAMA, you can benefit from any/all of these powerful tools:
1. Fourier Analysis
   Compares individual harmonics values of a production gear with a proven reference gear. Fourier Analysis of bearing surface waviness can determine one of the main causes of low-frequency noise in a gear box.

2. Tooth Contact Analysis
   GAMA tooth contact analysis software computes transmission error along the meshing path, generates ease off topographical charts and identifies misalignments help optimize gear surface geometry.

3. Surface Finish Analysis
   GAMA can analyze measurements up to 72 different surface finish standards with advanced filter methods to analyze high-frequency noise and micro-waviness.

4. GAMA/KTEPS
   KTEPS uses a revolutionary analysis approach for determining and diagnosing gear noise. GAMA’s unique ability to communicate with KTEPS puts this easy-to-use interface at your fingertips.

5. Loaded Contact Analysis
   Design engineers consider the effect of tooth bending under varying load. GAMA can write gear part parameters including tolerances and inspection test data that can be shared with KISSsoft for both gear and gearbox design optimization purposes.

6. GAMA Advanced Waviness Analysis
   Additional evaluation with FFT is also possible for each single measurement trace. This chart shows the profile, enabling the operator to see in which harmonic the gear will fail (red = out of tolerance).
Introducing: Gleason Connect Cloud

Your new online portal offering 24/7 service support with A/R conference and video functionality.

Stay Connected
Now, through the Gleason Connect Cloud, you can contact the Gleason expert assigned to your account directly through the ticket system or meet in a service chatroom. The integrated translation function supports a wide range of languages. Or, with Gleason Connect+, take advantage of an extended remote service communication package, including video live streaming featuring augmented reality. Call a virtual service assistant directly to your machine. Alone or in a multi-conference call.

Unlimited availability
Gleason Connect Cloud is available independent of time and place, anywhere and anytime. Via data glasses, computer or mobile device. All you need is an internet connection and appropriate browser software. Visit gleason.com to learn more.
Problems in the field can be evaluated ‘live’ by Gleason experts and resolved in real time with visual directions to the service technician, via Smart Glasses or existing smart device.

Gleason Fingerprint™ can be used to retrieve a direct comparison of the machine’s current condition and the ideal/normal condition. This can then result in faster, more detailed diagnostics and more proactive service actions.

Gleason Connect is also available for older machines, with installation of the Gleason Connect box.
Gleason’s “Home Trainer Webinar Series” was a big hit for many in the gear industry working from home during these COVID-19 times. Since the first Home Trainer Webinars began streaming in March 2020, almost 10,000 participants have attended Gleason’s Home and Gear Trainer Webinar Series. Now, this very successful series, renamed the ‘Gear Trainer’ Webinars, continues to provide an exceptional learning experience in response to design, manufacturing and inspection challenges facing the gear manufacturing industry today. The series covers a variety of topics on bevel and cylindrical gear manufacturing technology, including gear and transmission design and simulation, metrology, tools, workholding, software and 4.0 production systems.

Gear Trainer Webinars are moderated live by gear technology experts including the possibility to ask questions via the integrated Q&A function. New topics and presenters are added every week, as the live webinar series continues to grow. Both the new Gear Trainer Webinars and previous Home Trainer Webinars are now streaming at gleason.com. Register today for free access.
In addition to the Gear Trainer Series, visitors to the Gleason training section at gleason.com will find a wealth of resources to draw on. We have added direct curricula, scheduling, registration for gear technology seminars and training classes.

Classes now include Gleason and KISSsoft seminars and webinars conducted by Gleason Academy sites worldwide, at the customers’ facilities or virtually. The Gleason library features books, e-books and technical papers on everything from gear fundamentals to the most advanced technologies, and much more.
The new GEMS® Ecosystem connects gear producers to the powerful design and manufacturing tools they need — anywhere, all the time.

The GEMS Ecosystem is the foundation that supports Gleason 4.0 and provides a complete smart factory solution to the gear industry. It connects the discrete steps of design, manufacturing, and inspection into an integrated open system that delivers high quality and efficient gear/tool production in both manual and automated environments. It is vitally important to our customers, as they seek to speed development and production of exciting new products like electric vehicles. The GEMS Ecosystem consists of four major computing platforms:

GEMS Edge provides an industrial-grade edge computer for every Gleason 4.0 ready machine. This creates a platform for running gUptime, gTools, gProduction and gProcess software at the machine level and connecting them to other machines and software systems in the customer’s factory.

GEMS Enterprise provides a platform for running apps and services such as System Design, Gear/Tool Design, Gleason 4.0, and Manufacturing solutions on servers and workstations within the customer’s facility.

GEMS Mobile provides apps for Gleason 4.0 solutions, service solutions, and shop floor notifications and alerts, to name a few — all through consumer mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets.
As you might expect, the availability of the GEMS Ecosystem is welcome news to our customers. GEMS Connect, for example, has received very positive feedback from customers seeing demonstrations at our most recent tradeshows. We will be bringing you more information on this development in the months ahead.

GEMS Cloud provides apps and services such as System Design, Gear/Tool Design, Gleason 4.0, and Manufacturing solutions from the Cloud. This links with Gleason Business Systems and Data Analytics Systems to offer customers the potential for machine learning and artificial intelligence.

In the past, design applications such as CAGE™, G-AGE®, KISSsoft®, etc. have resided on servers and workstations in the customer’s facility. Now, with GEMS Connect, we can run those same applications from the cloud. All application services are available online including real-time software updates and upgrades.
Gear Calculations: There’s an App for That

Gleason’s new Gear Calculator App simplifies daily tasks, makes your day more efficient.

Gleason announces its new “Gear Calculator App”. This free mobile app bundles simple calculation tools to make the gear manufacturer’s daily tasks more efficient and productive. The Gear Calculator toolbox includes calculations for gear inspection values like Addendum Modifications, Base Tangent Lengths and Measurement Over Balls. It provides a hardness converter for tensile strength, Rockwell, Brinell or Vickers; calculates rotational speeds, deviations within gear quality standards, feed rates and chip thickness when gear hobbing; and even a twist calculator to determine the natural twist for Threaded Wheel Grinding.

The Gear Calculator App works both online and offline, and runs on PCs, notebooks and mobile devices with both Android and iOS. The App must be connected online to install future updates. Please note that you will need a current browser version to view the Gear Calculator App. When starting the App for the first time it is necessary to register and log into “MyGleason” (for both the PC/notebook version as well as the Mobile App).

Gleason, Genesis, GEMS, Combi Honing, Phoenix, GMS and AlCroNite are registered trademarks of Gleason. KISSsoft is a registered trademark of KISSsoft AG. GAMA is a trademark of Gleason. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.