

## Alpine Building on Success With Minster



*New manufacturing and office facilities for Alpine Engineered Products in Litchfield, Illinois.*

**A** division of Illinois Tool Works (ITW) Building Components Group, Alpine Engineered Products is a leading worldwide supplier of technology-driven products for the building component industry.

In recent years, one out of every four homes built in the United States used Alpine products. And it's a good chance those products would have included truss plates manufactured at the Alpine facility in Litchfield, Illinois.

Opened less than a year ago, the new manufacturing facility at Litchfield includes 19 Minster presses assisting in the production of metal truss plates used in the production of wood trusses for the building industry.

"We manufacture more than 250 sizes of truss plates in different gauges and strengths of steel," Plant Manager



*Minster P2H presses have helped increase production at Alpine.*



**Minster straightside presses at Alpine Engineered Products.**

Robbin Huffman said. "It is quite a challenge for us, because we have a lot of product coming through here."

Sophisticated manufacturing cells at Alpine use conveyor systems to move product out of the presses and directly into shipping containers destined for truss builders and other building component manufacturers.

"We have to keep the inventory moving, and we are very fortunate to have 19 Minster presses out there, because we need reliable equipment," Huffman said.

*"All of our straightside presses are Minsters and I wouldn't have it any other way. I've worked with different presses and I've been around different presses. With Minster the reliability is there -- no doubt about it. The engineering that goes into the Minster presses makes a big difference."*

**Tim Wirth**  
Assistant Plant Manager  
Alpine Engineered Products



Since 2004, Alpine has added five new Minster P2H presses to its manufacturing arsenal. Assistant Plant Manager Tim Wirth said the P2H presses have been instrumental in increasing production capabilities.

“We wanted the higher speed you can get with the P2H,” Wirth said. “Those presses also have a very well designed guiding system, and the fact that they are enclosed is very good for our galvanized applications.

“All of our straightside presses are Minsters and I wouldn’t have it any other way,” Wirth added. “I’ve worked with different presses and I’ve been around different presses. With Minster the reliability is there -- no doubt about it. The engineering that goes into the Minster presses makes a big difference.”

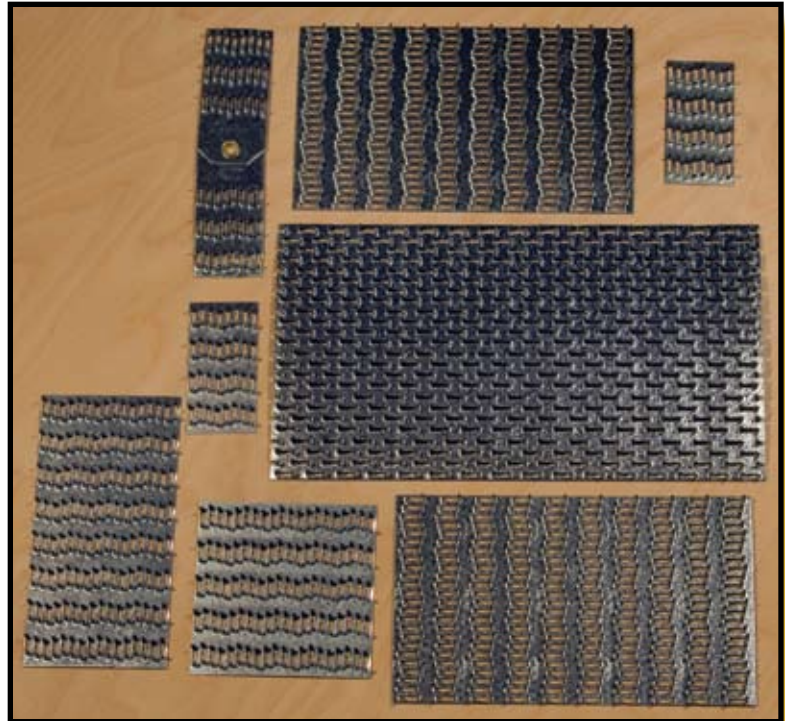


*Minster MEF2-CS bracket feeds help integrate production.*

Because Alpine produces so many different sizes of truss plates, quick and efficient tooling changes are important. Maintenance Manager John Gibb said that features on the P2H presses have saved valuable production time.

“The Quick Lift on the P2H’s is great.” Gibb said. “The time we’ve saved during tooling changes, roll changes, and clearing material jams is tremendous. It’s so nice to flip a switch and have the slide go up, and then you don’t have to worry about finding the shutheight again, because you flip the switch and it goes right back to where it should be.”

Some of the newer presses also include Minster MEF2-CS bracket mounted feeds.



“I wish all of our presses had the Minster feeds,” Maintenance Technician Bob Stratton said. “The integration and ease of use is there. Just one touch screen controls everything. The feeds are easy to work on and easy to use.”

Minster locates field service personnel regionally throughout the United States, and Huffman said she has been impressed with the response time from Minster.

“We get great support. There is a Minster service guy that lives in the area, and he always gets here right away if we need him,” she said. “In fact, sometimes a service guy just stops in to see how things are going.”

In addition to the Litchfield, IL facility, Alpine also has stamping operations in Haines City, FL and Sacramento, CA. To learn more about the products and services offered by Alpine Engineered Products, visit the company online at [www.alpeng.com](http://www.alpeng.com).