

Linear Motion Platform



The SIMO® Series linear motion platform from PBC Linear (Rockford, IL) offers low-profile rail heights for tight spaces, or a tall version for greater structural integrity. Each aluminum base rail is qualified with the SIMO (Simultaneous Integral Milling Operation) option for less bow and twist, and better flatness. Three bearing tribologies are available: self-lubricating FrelonGOLD® plain bearings for contaminated environments, V-wheel roller bearings for high-speed applications, and profile rail linear guideways

with recirculating ball bearings for rigidity and precision. Three drive types are offered: lead screw with machined nut or anti-backlash nut, ball screw, or two versions of belt drives.

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Bearings and Wear Rings

Graphite Metallizing Corp. (Yonkers, NY) offers self-lubricating, non-galling GRAPHALLOY® bearings and wear rings for pumping problems caused by low-viscosity, light hydrocarbon liquids such as Natural Gas Liquids (NGL), LNGs, and CO2. The bearings are used in horizontal and vertical pumps to eliminate operational problems



due to the poor lubricity of these liquids. The bearings allow pumps to continue working even when experiencing run-dry, flashing, or cavitation. The bearings and wear rings allow tighter clearances, and lower vibration in vertical and horizontal pumps. GRAPHALLOY materials are self-lubricating, impervious to temperature extremes from -400 to +750 °F, and operate in harsh environments. Special grades provide service up to 1000 °F and higher in non-oxidizing atmospheres.

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Wireless Coupling Devices

Pepperl+Fuchs (Twinsburg, OH) has added flat-pack-style transmitter coupling devices to the WIS (short-range wireless inductive coupling system) product family. The new devices allow power and signal coupling to be transferred across an air gap of up to 20 mm. These wireless devices allow sensors to be connected to moveable platforms without twisting and rotating cables. Applications include rotating tables, moving pallets, modular tooling platforms, and sliding fixtures.

Sensors can be placed on an exchangeable machine cartridge element and electrical signals are passed across an air gap to the control system auxiliary or main control panel. The WIS transfers both power and signal without the use of batteries by using two transmission elements that allow transfer when they come within the required proximity range. The WIS system can interface to eight PNP sensors via a single interface block. Multiple secondary modules can be connected to a single primary, whether they are being used for inductive, capacitive, ultrasonic, or photoelectric sensing. They are side-powered by 24 VDC.

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Automated Laser Scanner



NVision (Coppell, TX) has introduced the RoboScanner, a lightweight, turnkey laser scanning system that offers fully automated scanning with 3D analysis for measuring components in a production environment. The scanner weighs 50 pounds and is touch-sensitive, eliminating the need for a safety cage required by large, immobile, high-force robots. The RoboScanner uses a high-resolution digital blue-light scanning system, and can capture over 500,000 points in less than

 $0.2\,\rm seconds.$ Multiple scans are automatically registered, and the resulting file is compared to a nominal CAD model to receive an instant go/no-go decision.

The scanner utilizes 6 axes with an optional turntable for 7 full axes of movement. All of these axes can be controlled to ensure smooth and fast movement around all of the points to be measured, even on difficult-to-measure horizontal geometry. The scanner offers accuracy to $\pm.002"$ or ±0.050 mm. The resolution can be as fine as .0005" or .012 mm. The scanner was designed with integrated software, which can capture scan positions manually or with a mouse click. It then moves automatically to the next scan position. It detects path interference in real time to avoid collisions. All travel paths are logged and can be cut and pasted into script files.

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Pneumatic Torque Wrenches

Snap-on Industrial (Kenosha, WI) offers pneumatic torque wrenches for applying torque to fasteners using a dual-speed gearbox and pneumatic technology that controls input air pressure. This design provides a rundown gear with



speeds up to 100 RPM for fast rundown of fasteners, and a torque gear with a much slower RPM for control. The wrenches feature a sealed housing to prevent water, dirt, and debris from entering; a variety of reaction arms; and a safety paddle that requires two-handed operation of the tool to keep both hands away from pinch points near the reaction arm.

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Linear Encoder



The LC 200 linear encoder from Heidenhain (Schaumburg, IL) is designed for linear measurement on long machine tool axes. Available with a Mitsubishi interface, the encoder is an absolute-type encoder that measures lengths of up to 28 meters. It ensures that the

absolute position value is available immediately upon switch-on. It is suited for high-speed machining applications using linear motors. The housing sections feature an integrated seal on the face, and a tongue and groove system makes it possible to slide the housing sections together. System accuracy is $\pm 5~\mu m$.

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