

Little Things Mean A Lot

"God is in the details," says the philosopher. What he meant was that on the scale of the universe, it's not just the galaxies, the planets, the mountain ranges, or the major rivers that are important. So are the subatomic particles and the genes. It's the little things that make all the difference.

That's true on other scales as well. It's certainly true in magazine production, and, I believe, it's equally true in gear manufacturing. The small stuff does matter. It's not enough to have a good design. The right materials are important as well. So is the proper handling of those materials.

Even a good product alone is not enough to make a successful business. The financial planning, the labor/management relations, the advertising and marketing, all need to be carefully managed to make any business successful.

In this issue of *Gear Technology* we are focusing on some of the "little things" that are important to your gear business. Heat treating, for example, is not the whole story in gear manufacturing, but failure in this small area can mean all your hard work and careful planning in design and production will come to naught. In heat treating, it's what you don't see, what happens beneath the surface on the molecular level, that makes the difference between a good and a bad gear. Therefore, we have included three articles

"...No circumstance, however trifling, is too minute..."

-Oliver Goldsmith

on heat treating, covering some of the basics as well as new technologies, to help you look more closely at this important detail of the gear manufacturing process.

Gear testing is also not the whole story on gear quality, but it too is an important detail, so we have included an article on advances in surface measurement technology. Again, in gear testing, accuracy in terms of millimeters can

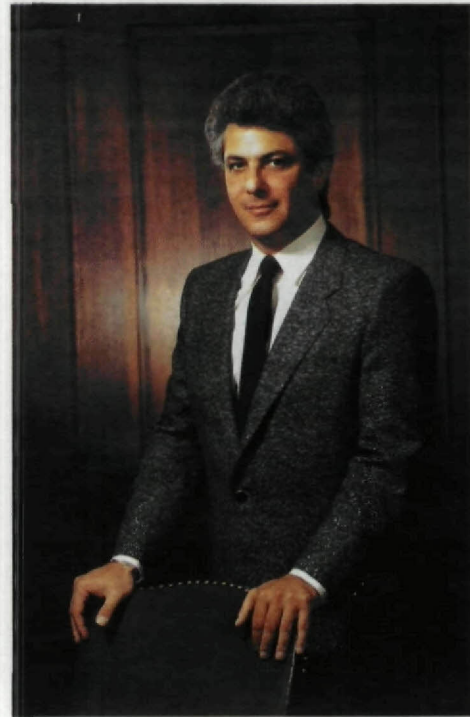
make all the difference.

Likewise, while not every reader will have occasion to use the technology discussed in our Gear Fundamentals feature, "Introduction to Worm Gearing," as the author points out, careful attention to detail can make this "old fashioned" gear system just the right one for particular applications.

Not all the details that need attention relate to what happens in the design offices or on the shop floor. In today's economy, what happens across the globe may have as much impact on your business as what happens in your plant. For companies thinking of becoming part of this global market, we have included the first article in a series on exporting. This story covers the basics of getting started: what do you need to do, know, and think about - the details to be considered before making this important business move.

The little things do matter, whether in philosophy, science, or gear manufacturing. While it's true that one can run the risk of missing the forest because of the trees, one can also forget that without the twigs, leaves, roots and subsoil, there's no forest at all.

PUBLISHER'S PAGE



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