

# ITAMCO

## OFFERS INDUSTRIAL BLUETOOTH TRANSMITTER

Indiana Technology and Manufacturing Companies (ITAMCO) has released iBlue—the first handheld bluetooth transmitter that gathers crucial production data and sends it to bluetooth-enabled smartphones, tablets and computers. iBlue replaces several tools, including hardness testers, micrometers and temperature readers. When iBlue is paired with a bluetooth-enabled device, it gathers, records and sends data through its three ports: a K-type thermocouple port—iBlue comes with a K-type thermocouple probe; a 3-pin metal hardness probe port; and a USB Human Interface Device (HID)-enabled port that connects with a wide range of non-proprietary tools including keyboards, micrometers, calipers and barcode scanners. No special software is required, and data from iBlue can be sent as a text email or placed into Microsoft Excel and Notepad. iBlue is compatible with the most common operating systems including Apple's iOS, Android, Blackberry, Windows and Linux.

### Expanding Mobile Technology

iBlue isn't ITAMCO's first foray into mobile technology; the company has launched several free smartphone apps for industrial applications. Two of their apps, Hardness Tester and Convert Temperature, extend iBlue's capabilities. Hardness Tester calculates approximate hardness conversion numbers between

popular Rockwell, Vickers and Knoop hardness scales for non-austenitic steels. The Hardness Tester smartphone app converts data acquired with iBlue and a hardness probe. (iBlue accepts D/DC, D+15, E, C, DL and G hardness probes.) The Hardness Tester will graph results, and previous tests (Max, Min and Average) can be recalled with the touch of a button. The data can be sent to any compatible Air Print printer from the app. The app is in conformance with ASTM A956-06 and ASTM E140-07.

The Convert Temperature app converts different scales of temperature, such as Fahrenheit, Celsius and Kelvin. Temperature readings can be emailed, printed and graphed, the same as the Hardness Tester data. The app works seamlessly with iBlue and its K-type thermocouple probe (included). The apps are available for Apple, Android and Blackberry smartphones.

### iBlue and the Technology-Driven Shop Floor

iBlue and smartphone apps are part of ITAMCO's overall initiative to bring technology to their own shop floor. Joel Neidig, an engineer at Indiana Gear (a division of ITAMCO) and one of iBlue's developers, said, "We're in the process of connecting our machine tools to a plant monitoring system, so it just made sense to have an electronic method of gathering and distributing the temperature, dimensions and hardness data of our gear products." iBlue is used by machine operators, engineers and quality control staff at Indiana Gear. "iBlue is saving me a lot of time on the shop floor because it's an all-in-one tool," said Michael

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Blum, one of Indiana Gear's quality control specialists. "It's easy to carry around and it's accurate. We're already using data gathered from iBlue to electronically track and analyze production processes." iBlue has worked so successfully at Indiana Gear that the ITAMCO staff decided to market it worldwide.

### iBlue Is Bundled and Priced for Economy

iBlue comes with a USB charger cable, OtterBox belt clip and a K-type ther-

mocouple probe. The iBlue package is priced at \$499 and can be ordered online with Google wallet at <http://www.itamco.com/iBlue> or by calling ITAMCO at (574) 936-2112. The Hardness Tester and Convert Temperature smartphone apps can be downloaded from the Apple App Store, Google Play, Windows Marketplace and the BlackBerry App World. Search "ITAMCO" to locate the apps. iBlue is easy to pair with bluetooth devices and simple to use. ITAMCO has

provided how-to videos and a FAQ page at their website below.

### For more information:

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## Polygon Solutions

### DESIGNS ROTARY BROACHING BRAKE

Rotary broaching can be utilized for making small forms like hexagons and squares in soft materials like aluminum, brass and mild steel. However, when it comes to aligning multiple holes using a rotary broaching tool, the operation becomes extremely challenging. Most rotary broach holders have a free-turning spindle which does not allow for alignment of the holes. The rotary broaching brake is a new mechanical solution for aligning broached forms in machined products.

Polygon Solutions Inc. designed the



broaching brake to be used as an attachment to its innovative GT Series rotary broach holder. The brake mounts to the tool holder using set screws. Additional screws are included at the opening of the brake to gently tighten against the spindle. The broach is fastened into the spindle, and must make contact and be aligned at the first hole.

When the broach is engaged with the part, the brake is loose enough to allow the spindle to turn without interfering with the broaching operation. Unlike typical rotary broaching operations, turning must stop before removing the broach. When the broach is removed the brake screws are tight enough to hold

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