



...the Workhorse of Industry

Smart Automation

August, 2010

Industry Thoughts: Top Ten Reasons to be Optimistic about Manufacturing in N. America

1. **Americans are smart and industrious people** living in a free market democracy which encourages the pursuit of wealth. Mining, farming, fishing, and **manufacturing** are the only ways for an economic system to create wealth.
 2. **N. American demographics (birth rate) are favorable** into the future – alarmingly negative birth rates in China, Europe, and Japan. American people and market will demand jobs and productive engagement.
 3. **Economic trends are historically cyclic** – there are clear economic indicators we are beginning a new, leading economic cycle. Free markets naturally experience bull and bear markets to maintain a sustainable balance.
 4. **Peak oil production has been reached.** Economists predicting fuel prices to skyrocket with the global result being **more local or regional manufacturing** and sourcing.
 5. Increasing corporate awareness of the **inefficiencies and knowledge loss associated with the geographic de-coupling** (off-shoring) of manufacturing, product development, and other corporate functions.
 6. **Smart automation and industrial innovations are minimizing labor cost discrepancies** and realizing record manufacturing efficiency and output in N. America – realized efficiencies will minimize impact of labor cost.
 7. **Interest rates are at record lows** stimulating capital and growth investment . Business equipment industries are at a strong pace as firms spend on long neglected machinery and equipment and to offset labor costs.
 8. Strong Global Industrial Production Indices being reported with clear indication that the **American Industrial Sector is leading the recovery** from recession. July numbers suggest recovery slowed to a sustainable pace.
 9. Profitability is up for **major corporations building cash reserves** - which are available for future investment.
 10. **Cost of manufacturing in low cost countries is increasing** as economic standards/ expectations of workers are rapidly increasing. Strong threat of strikes and **labor discontent will compromise off-shore** supply chains.
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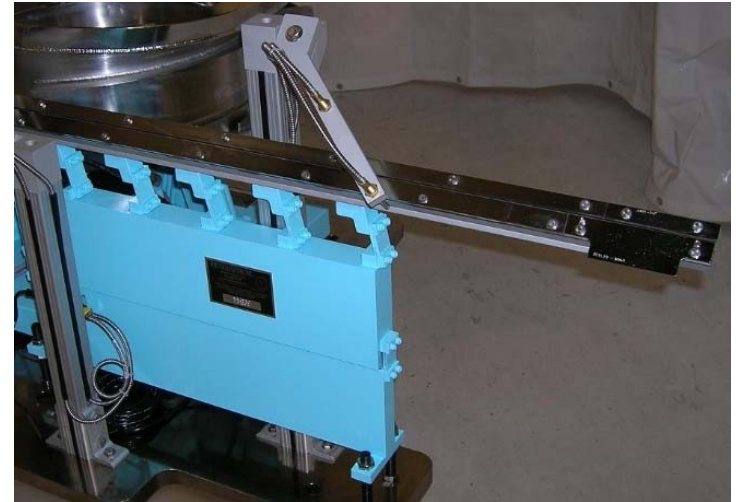
“Hope and strive for the best, but... be prepared for the worse.”

Each monthly update will include our reflections on the industry.

Product Highlight: Part feeding system for Medical Application



- 18" CCW feeder bowl with linear track and FDA compliant base table
- Bowl and track stainless steel details that were passivated and electropolished – FDA compliant.



- Feed Rate = 30 PPM
- Aluminum details are clear anodized
- Bolt on electro less nickel table top

FDA compliance for Medical Application

Company News: Michael Crouse: Industry Expert for Part Feeding

Fortville's position as one of the leading part feeding companies is no accident. Michael Crouse, Fortville's CEO and owner, has leveraged and developed his talents, knowledge, and experience to create some of the most innovative and efficient part feeding solutions in the world.



With over 30 years of hard work and dedication in the industry, Michael has personally been involved in the design and build of over 7,000 part feeding systems. The list of projects includes numerous examples of parts where others said, "it can't be done".

Leveraging an innovative spirit, an uncanny ability to envision dynamic part movements, a strong sense of curiosity, lots of energy and determination, and years of experience, Michael has been a key "go to guy" for many major corporations and automation integrators faced with difficult part feeding challenges.

Fortville's clear goal is to be viewed as a solution provider for your part feeding needs and to deliver the most efficient and effective solution for your application – for both the easy and difficult to feed parts.

Be a winner – use Fortville & Michael for your part feeding needs – that's smart automation.

Please contact us at ffi@fortvillefeeders.com to learn more.



Products and Services:

Products

Part Feeder Systems:



- **Vibratory Bowls:**
 - 6" to 70" in dia.
 - Feed rates to 600 ppm
- **Centrifugal Bowls**

Fortville is the recognized industry leader in large, high-speed vibratory feeder bowls. Challenge us with your part.

- System design and development
- System build and validation
- System remanufacture and rework
- On-site service and support
- Service part sales

Services

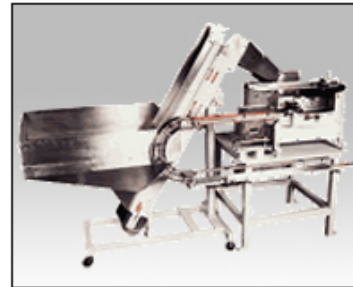
Material Handling Systems:



- **Track Feeding Systems:**
 - 6" to as long as required
 - In-line Vibratory Tracks
 - In-line Air Tracks
 - Conveyor Belt Tracks
 - Gravity Tracks



- **Automation Mechanisms:**
 - Isolation Escapements
 - Shuttle mechanisms
 - Sensor integration:
 - Vision and weight



- **Storage/ Transport Systems:**
 - Elevators and Gondolas
 - Bulk Storage Hoppers
 - Sound Enclosures

See: www.fortvillefeeders.com



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