

CUSTOMER TIP SHEETS



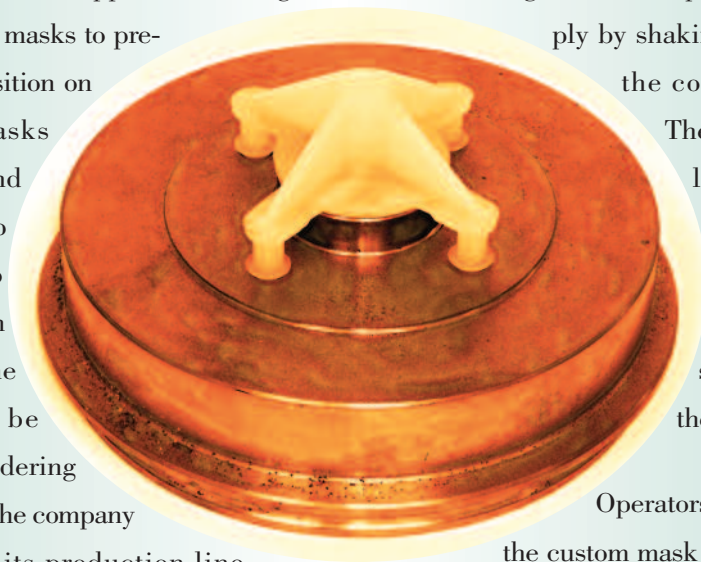
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Custom solution puts the brakes on masking problem

Problem. An automotive supplier was using heavy, expensive metal masks to prevent powder coat deposition on brake drums. The masks were hard to apply, and powder coat buildup meant the masks had to be cleaned or thrown away. At each step, the heavy masks could be dropped and bent, rendering them useless. Because the company did not want to alter its production line process, any new masking solution had to work in approximately the same way as the metal masks.

Solution. A custom mask molded from material stiff enough to install in almost exactly the same manner as the previous metal masks but

flexible enough to remove powder buildup simply by shaking the mask solved the company's problem. The custom mask was less expensive, easier to apply, easier to clean, less prone to damage, and safer to handle than the metal masks.



Operators simply "dropped" the custom mask into place and then applied pressure to create a perfect friction fit. A less-precise mask would not have worked. To create a mask that was durable enough to last many cycles yet flexible enough to remove deposited powder coating easily, the company chose a high-heat silicone compound.

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