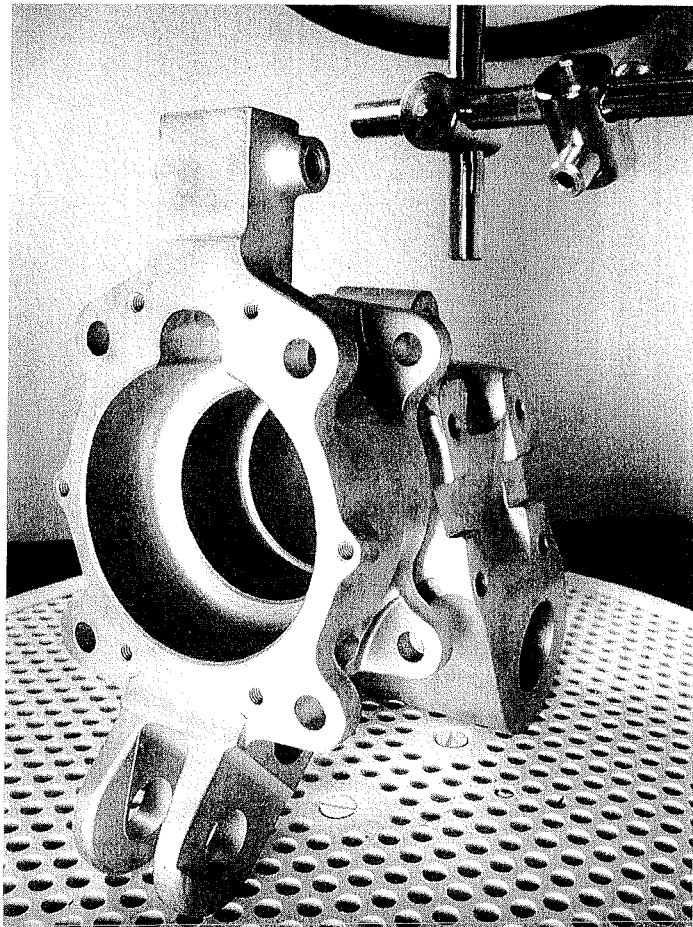


News Release from Vacu-Blast International

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A standard option on Vacu-Blast's new Ventus AXT range of automatic cabinet machines is a twin axis blast nozzle manipulator, as shown here, which can be programmed to process even the most complex components.

Vacu-Blast Introduces New Range of Automatic Machines

In response to increasing demand from the surface treatment market for a versatile automated blast cabinet suitable for repetitive, higher throughput production tasks requiring optimum precision and consistency of results, Vacu-Blast has developed a range of standard automatic cabinet machines.

Typical applications for the new machines include the cleaning of complex components, tools and moulds, precision surface texturing and etching operations, and selective shot peening for combating fatigue failure. Aerospace and automotive component manufacturers, in particular, are significant users of the latter process.

Designated the **Ventus AXT** range, the machines currently come with two basic blast enclosure sizes:

- 1250 mm x 1000 mm x 950 mm (125-AXT)
- 1500 mm x 1400 mm x 1200 mm (150-AXT)

Both versions are available with either a single or twin axis blast nozzle manipulator as standard, together with a variable speed turntable which can accommodate tailored work fixtures. All processing parameters are programmable to suit different component dimensions and topography: these include nozzle

path, manipulator velocity and component rotation speed. Once entered via the machine's keypad, component programs can be selected and repeated at will or modified when required. There is also a facility for manual processing.

Robustly constructed, the machines are offered in powerful pressure-fed versions for the more demanding production tasks, such as heat scale removal from castings, or with suction feeding for 'gentler' applications like cleaning delicate mould surfaces. All types of blast media can be used, including plastics for paint stripping and MIL-SPEC steel shot for precision shot peening. Both pressure and suction fed variants have high-efficiency media recovery systems which automatically separate and collect dust, debris and degraded media and recycle only optimum grade media.

The new cabinets can be fitted with multiple blast nozzles, and additional options are available for particular needs. These include a selectable stop/start position, and full interpolation of axis drives for components with especially complicated profiles. For certain shot peening applications, in-cycle shot classification is also offered.

Full technical details are available on request from:

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