



DEMAG KBK Crane handles large panels in Automotive Plant

Features and Benefits

Greatly Reduced chance for injury

Increased productivity

Industry Group: Ergonomic Assist Systems and Equipment (EASE)



An automotive manufacturer needed a safe and ergonomic way to handle stamped metal panels. The large size and awkward shape of the panel presented challenges that were fully met by the Demag KBK Enclosed Track Crane System supplied. First, a Lift and Tilt Table was used to present the panel to the operator in a comfortable position and greatly reduced the amount of reaching he needed to do. Next a custom designed Vacuum Device was used for lifting and lowering. Suction cups, angled to match the curves of the panel, quickly and securely attach without scratching or damage.

The “handle bar” grips, with conveniently located thumb switches, provide precise control and again, insure that the operator does not need to reach over the large panel. Since the Vacuum Lifter is flexibly connected to the overhead crane, the operator can easily lift, turn and manipulate the panel as needed. Next, to take the panel from the lift table to the weld fixtures, a ceiling mounted Demag KBK Enclosed Track Crane System was supplied. By suspending from existing building steel, the need for costly and obstructing floor columns was eliminated. The lightweight KBK steel track profiles, with extremely low rolling resistance trolleys, allow the part to be moved easily and precisely. The articulating design

of the KBK Crane Bridge and Runway suspensions insure free movement, without binding, even when the load is near the end of the crane bridge. Air and electric lines are festooned along the bridge and runway, and provide a safe and reliable method of power supply to the lifter.

When combined together, the three material handling devices, Lift Table, Vacuum Lifter and Demag KBK Crane System, provided a safe, ergonomic and economical solution for the work cell. Product damage and worker fatigue were reduced and productivity was increased. The ceiling mounted design of the crane resulted in no new obstructions to floor traffic.



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