Vacuum Clamping Systems

Solutions for Metal and Plastics Processing

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Schmalz: Vacuum Technology for Intelligent Automation and Ergonomic Handling

1800 employees
working hard for our customers.

29 locations
for outstanding customer service worldwide.

9 percent
of our revenue is invested in innovative ideas and new products.

590 copyrights
are proof of our groundbreaking innovations.

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Schmalz is one of the Market Leaders in Vacuum Automation and Ergonomic Handling Systems.

The wide range of products in the Vacuum Automation unit includes individual components such as suction cups and vacuum generators, as well as complete gripping systems and clamping solutions for holding workpieces, for example in CNC machining centers. The Handling Systems unit offers innovative handling solutions with vacuum lifters and crane systems for industrial and handicraft applications.

Our products are used in different applications for example in the logistics industry, the automotive industry, the electronics sector and in furniture production.

With comprehensive consulting, a focus on innovation and first-class quality, Schmalz offers its customers long-lasting benefits. Schmalz’s intelligent solutions make production and logistics processes more flexible and efficient, while also preparing them for the increasing trend toward digitalization.
Application example

An aluminum cuboid (AlMg4SiMn) with a clamping area of 300 x 200 mm is clamped onto a Matrix-Plate with friction pads (µ = 0.25) at a vacuum level Δp of 800 mbar.

Vacuum force:  100 mbar = 1 N/cm²
Clamping force horiz. Fh: 600 cm² x 8 N/cm² x 0.25 = 1,200 N

This allows a metal removal rate of approx. 400 cm³/min during roughing (assumption: end mill Ø20 mm with 3 teeth, ae = 14 mm, ap = 10 mm, fz = 0.15 mm, vc = 400 m/min).

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Advantages of the vacuum clamping technology

The modular vacuum clamping systems from Schmalz facilitate the machining of metals and plastics and can be used universally on all CNC machining centers. They are compatible with each other and can thus be easily combined to obtain the optimum setup for challenging applications.

As an alternative to mechanical clamping devices, they are ideal for fast and gentle fixing of thin and delicate workpieces in particular. Thanks to good accessibility from five sides, you can produce complex parts with fewer setups. Increase the productivity of your machining center by using vacuum clamping systems.

Shorter processing times
Reduction of the number of process steps through extended processing options

Lower setup costs
More flexibility through fast and efficient setup – less need for individual clamping devices

Gentle clamping with vacuum
Deformation and damage to the workpiece due to clamping forces are avoided

Vibration free machining
Particularly suitable for thin, non-magnetic workpieces made of aluminum or plastic

FUNCTIONAL PRINCIPLE OF THE VACUUM CLAMPING SYSTEM

The horizontal clamping force (\(F_h = A \times \Delta p \times \mu\)) of the clamping system depends linearly on the following factors:

- Clamping area \(A\)
- Evacuated area inside the seal
- Vacuum level \(\Delta p\)
- Pressure difference between clamping area and environment (according to manometer)
- Friction coefficient \(\mu\)
- Material-dependent friction between clamping device and workpiece

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Applications

Modular design of the Matrix-Plate clamping system allows multiple setups on one fixture without retooling.

Machining of aluminum with high chip volume on vacuum blocks CMB-HD.

Vacuum blocks CMB-HD for use in plastics machining.

Side machining and production of apertures and pockets with vacuum blocks ISBL-HD on Matrix-Plate.

Schmalz Media Center
View Matrix-Plate in action during machining.

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Portfolio for Metal and Plastics Processing

**Modular Clamping System MPL-ISST-SFM**
- **Matrix-Plate MPL**
  - Basis of the modular system for metal and plastic processing
  - Low-distortion clamping of flat workpieces
  - Adaptable to all common machine tables
- **Innospann Steel-Plate ISST-MPL and Vacuum Blocks ISBL**
  - Steel-Plate ISST with vacuum blocks ISBL for metal and plastic processing
  - Extension for the clamping system Matrix-Plate MPL
  - For 5-axis machining and the production of cutouts
- **Innospann Steel-Plate ISST-MPL and FlexMat SFM**
  - Steel-Plate ISST and elastomer mat with honeycomb suction points
  - Extension for the clamping system Matrix-Plate MPL
  - For the production of cutouts

**Vacuum Blocks**
- **Vacuum Blocks CMB-HD**
  - Main body made of aluminum with elastomer friction pad
  - Use on T-slot tables and zero point clamping systems

**Vacuum Generation and Monitoring**
- **Oil-Lubricated Vacuum Pumps EVE-OG**
  - Low-maintenance, oil-lubricated vacuum pump with oil separator
  - Suction rate up to 255 m³/h
- **Vakuum Units VAGG**
  - Mobile vacuum generation and monitoring
  - Suction capacities of 6, 18, 40 and 63 m³/h
- **Vacuum Operation Center VOC**
  - Central vacuum generation and monitoring
  - Suction capacities of 40, 63, 100 m³/h
- **Liquid Separators NLS**
  - For vacuum pumps with suction rate up to 100 m³/h
  - Separation capacity: 60 l/h
  - Integration into the control of the machining center

**Further Information**
- Spare parts and accessories
- Technical data
- Design and CAD data
- Documentation
- Multimedia

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Handling Systems
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