OGURA ON THE MOVE

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New micro clutch engineering and R&D facility opened.

Kiryu, Japan — Because of the increasing volume of micro clutch production (current volume of micro clutches produced per month is in excess of 700,000), a new engineering and R&D facility has been opened.

The first floor is approximately 7,800 square feet and will contain the model shop where prototypes will be manufactured. This new high speed, high efficiency model shop will decrease lead time for customer prototypes. In addition to the model shop a new test lab has been added to perform vibration, life and environmental tests.

The second floor will be approximately 7,100 square feet and will house engineering and CAD workstations. This floor will also contain real time monitoring equipment so engineers can get immediate updates from the tests that are being conducted from the floor below.

The goal of this new dedicated facility is to provide faster response for new inquiries and faster innovations in quality and a faster implementation of design changes that provide cost reductions.

Ogura's new micro clutch R&D and engineering building.

OIC exhibits in Hannover

Potential European customers discussing applications.

Ogura's products on display.

Hannover, Germany — For the first time ever Ogura's clutch and brake products were shown at the Hannover Fair in Germany.

As part of the US's PTDA booth pavilion, Ogura was able to discuss applications and products to over 200 potential customers.

In addition, over 300 catalogs and CD's were given out. Approximately 50 different models of Ogura clutches and brakes were on display for customers to view. OIC's multi-lingual staff answered technical questions and showed the diversity of Ogura's product line to potential customers that had never had an opportunity to see Ogura's products. Because of the interest generated at this show, representation will be added in the near future to handle inquiries about Ogura's products directly in Europe.

OIC employee profile

Rudy Kiefer,
Operations Manager

Hello, my name is Rudy Kiefer. I am the operations manager at Ogura Industrial. I oversee Ogura's warehousing, customer service, sales order, warranty and operational computer related functions. I have been working with Ogura's products for approximately 10 years. First with Kanematsu and now with Ogura's direct operation.

I originally came to the United States from Germany when I was 4 years old. I still retain my German language skills and I look forward to visiting our customers in Germany annually. From Germany I moved to New Jersey and I have been here all my life. (It's really not that bad despite the jokes.) I went to Rutgers on a soccer scholarship and if my knees held up, I would still be playing today. When I am not at work, I enjoy coaching soccer to the intermediate teams. Besides coaching, my six year old daughter Nicole keeps me busy. She is not at the age where she can cut the lawn, but she still helps me out with the gardening on the weekends.

For the past ten years I have seen substantial growth within quite a few of Ogura's customers and I hope that my assistance over the years has helped in some way for this to happen.

PRODUCT PREVIEW

Tokyo Auto Show with Auto Asia 2001

Tokyo, Japan — Last quarter Ogura exhibited at the Tokyo Auto Show. The show had record attendance with the busiest day having over 118,000 attendees. Ogura displayed their new single super clutch, which was getting quite a bit of attention. They also showed their twin, triple and four plate racing clutches. To help improve the functionality of those clutches, Ogura has also produced a series of lightweight flywheels, which were also on display.

Manufacturers were also able to witness the ease of function and advantages that an electro magnetic clutched super charger could produce. Various types of super charger clutches were also shown in the booth.

Ogura's high end automotive products at Tokyo show.

Besides showing products at the show, Ogura also sponsors some professional race drivers in Japan. This sponsorship leads to awareness of Ogura from a corporate stand point and also as an innovative and forward thinking clutch and brake manufacturer.

New engineers hired for 2001

Japan — Ogura's fiscal year begins in April and every April they bring in their most recent hires for the year. For 2001, 54 new personnel have been added to engineering and technical positions. Of those 54, six have masters degrees in engineering. This new group will be added to Ogura's engineering, manufacturing and R&D groups.

Ogura is one of the few companies in Japan that continues to do well even with a tremendous slow down in the Japanese economy. Because of that fact, young graduates have recognized Ogura's potential and Ogura was flooded with a record number of applicants. This gave Ogura the ability to pick the best and brightest for 2001.

Ogura's new personnel for 2001.

Ogura innovative applications

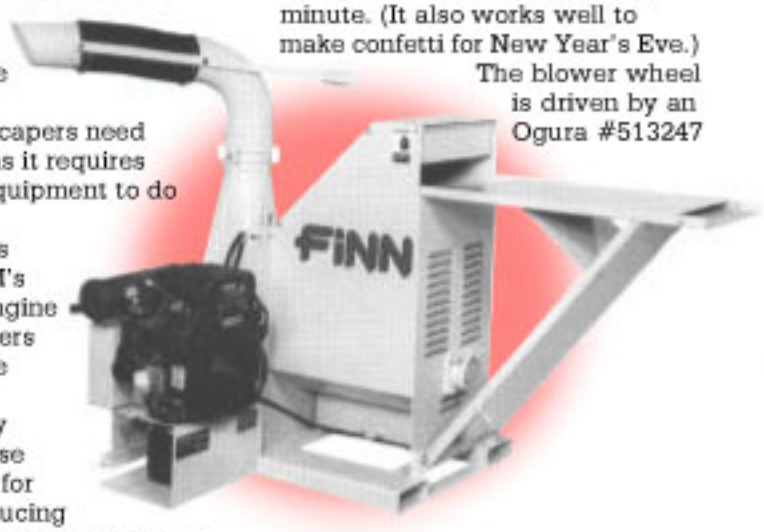
Straw blower with trailer option.

Mulching over a newly seeded lawn with straw helps to preserve the loss of soil moisture, offers shading protection for grass seedlings and helps to prevent soil erosion. Spreading the straw by hand over small areas may be okay for a home owner, but when professional landscapers need to cover large areas it requires special purpose equipment to do a quality job.

To address this need, several OEM's have developed engine driven straw blowers which can produce uniform and quick coverage for newly seeded areas. These machines can pay for themselves by reducing manpower and the time needed to finish a job.

The straw blower uses a 20 hp air-cooled engine with electric start. The engine drives a dynamically balanced, 17 inch blower, which develops an air velocity of, greater than 160 mph and can shred and blow up to 3 bales of straw in less than one minute. (It also works well to make confetti for New Year's Eve.)

The blower wheel is driven by an Ogura #513247 clutch through two "A" section V-belts. This clutch is rated at 250 ft lbs and although 20 hp at 3600 rpm with a 3.0 service factor, produces a required torque of about 88 ft lbs, the extra capacity is needed to over come the blower wheel inertia and the additional force required to convey the straw.



Skid mounted straw blower.

The straw blower has a 6" discharge spout that can be rotated 360° horizontally and 70° vertically. The normal range of the blower is 45 feet in still air. A thirty or fifty foot blower hose option is also available. The discharge range at the end of the blower hose is rated at up to 25 foot.

"The straw blower uses a 20 hp air-cooled engine with electric start."

The Ogura #513247 clutch offers ease of installation because it is a bearing mounted field design, which only requires the torque tab to be loosely restrained from rotating. A bolt, washer and key are the only other components required to easily mount this clutch.

This clutch has tackled other difficult applications including, but not limited to, stump grinders, concrete saws, grain augers, agricultural and turf care equipment.

There are many other engine driven applications where the addition of an Ogura clutch will add value and convenience to an OEM's products.

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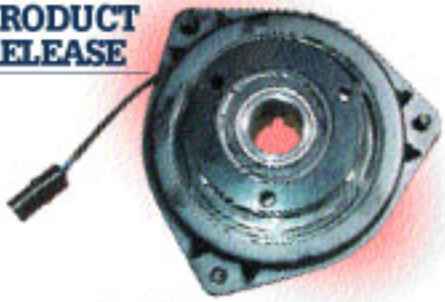
NEW PRODUCT RELEASE



New high torque commercial mower clutch/brake.

New PTO clutch/brake

Because of the ever increasing demand in commercial cutting applications, Ogura has developed a new version of the existing PTO clutch/brake.

The new clutch/brake is based on Ogura's successful heavy-duty stump grinder clutch. The new series of clutch/brake will be rated at 250 ft. lb. A heavy duty brake shroud is also being utilized that decreases flexing and increases brake torque. The unit is capable of handling up to 34 horse power and has been made to handle both pulley and direct drive outputs.

Although the new series is physically larger, it kept all of the benefits that quality commercial mower manufacturers are asking for, such as the ability to adjust for wear, superior corrosion protection and Ogura's long life, bearing design.

The new GT4 clutches will be on display at the Louisville Expo from July 20-22. Please stop in to see them.

OGURA IN THE NEWS

Machine Design article

In May, Machine Design released an article showing how Ogura clutches can be used in mobile applications to run multiple components. The issue had articles that included components for large trucks. Ogura's involvement was with a customer that makes auxiliary power systems. Their truck mounted power systems save both fuel and energy. By using Ogura clutches, the customer is able to only use the component that is required at the time that it is needed (compressor, generator, oil pump and fan). This saves energy and increases the component's life. With fuel costs being so high, this article was very timely and developed considerable interest. If you would like to see a reprint of this article, please refer to Ogura's web site at www.ogura-clutch.com and look in the "What's New" section in the editorials.

A backup for big rigs

The days of 18-wheelers left parked with their engines idling could be a thing of the past thanks to new auxiliary power systems. Drivers have traditionally kept their engines running while at rest stops mainly to power sleeper-cab conveniences such as microwaves, TVs, and radios, as well as air brakes. The new power systems could end the practice. They replace four 12-V batteries typically mounted in a battery box on the side of a truck cab with a small, 19-hp, water-cooled diesel.

Equipped with clutches from Ogura Industrial Corp., Somerset, N.J., the engine powers components only when needed, such as the air brake, electrical generator, and oil pump for prestart engine lubing. For cooling, a small dc motor drives the truck's radiator fan when the main engine isn't running. However, an Ogura clutch uncouples the motor from the fan drive when the main engine is running. ■

Article in Machine Design.

New CD released

The latest version #3 of OIC's popular CD-ROM has just been released. The CD contains the most recent additions to the Ogura web site, such as, editorials, advertising and newsletters.

Revision #4 is currently being worked on and will include an enhanced trouble shooting section, improved CAD drawings showing more detail and new clutch models. Revision #4 should be available around the end of the year.

New CD, Revision 3