The MIC product line from Ogura was introduced approximately 16 years ago. Since this introduction demand for micro clutches has risen every year. Both printers and copy machines have evolved into smaller and faster machines increasing the demand for micro clutches in North America, Europe, and Asia.

To keep up with this demand Ogura has streamlined its manufacturing process in Japan, and is also now producing micro clutches in China for the Chinese market.

This year production reached 65 million clutches produced at a defect rate of less than 100 parts per million.

Ogura’s plant #3, in Kiryu Japan, produces a wide variety of industrial related clutches and brakes. To maintain accurate inventory of both component and finish parts, Ogura personnel performed physical counts approximately eight times per year. Each time this was performed, it took five employees approximately 10 hours. This represented around 400 employee hours per year.

In order to reduce this time as much as possible, all parts need to be changed over from a manual handwritten storage tag to a bar code label. To do this, all parts were converted in the database and assigned bar codes.

To make accessibility of parts easier, the warehouse racks were made thinner to allow better visibility of parts. In addition the warehouse locator system was changed from an alpha numeric to strict numeric system.

Now when parts are used they are immediately updated to the database virtually eliminating the need for inventory cycle counts. This has resulted in a man hour time savings and has also increased inventory accuracy rate to 98.2%.

Ogura has expanded their environmental policy procedures to their supply base. Effective immediately, all suppliers will be required to complete Ogura material supply forms listing all materials used in any parts purchased by Ogura. This will allow Ogura to immediately identify any potential hazardous materials and then track the overall percentage of these materials used in any Ogura finished product.

If a new supplier is brought on board or if a different combination of suppliers are used, Ogura will immediately know the breakdown of all materials and/or chemicals used in any finished part. By extending Ogura’s green policy to the supply base it will help with Ogura’s goal of total elimination of all environmentally unfriendly parts.
OIC EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Candace Antkies
Administrative Assistant

Hi, my name is Candace Antkies. I have recently joined Ogura Industrial as an Administrative Assistant. I was born and raised in New York. My husband and I recently moved to New Jersey.

Prior to joining Ogura, I was an Administrative Assistant for several large Brokerage Firms in Manhattan. I really enjoyed working in a large city at the time. I even met my husband while working in Manhattan. My original plan after graduating High School was to become a Veterinerian, however, those plans changed. Over time I developed many skills and have dealt with many challenges. Eventually commuting into the city was becoming too hectic and so I decided to find an Administrative Assistant position closer to home.

When I am not at work, I enjoy spending time with my husband and my adorable dog Joey. Since my husband and I just purchased our first home, I am having a great time decorating. I also enjoy entertaining friends and family, traveling, skiing, swimming, watching movies, photography, shopping and gardening.

I enjoy working at Ogura and I look forward to being a part of the continuous growth and success of Ogura Industrial Corp.

New Ogura Industrial CD Now Available

Somerset, New Jersey

A new CD Rom has been produced to match the changes made to the Ogura Industrial (HYPERLINK "http://www.ogura-clutch.com" www.ogura-clutch.com) website this year.

The new CD rom contains all the technical information on the current website as well as pdf files, dxf files and pictures for all Industrial and Mobile Clutches. The CD also contains movies on Ogura’s production facilities and product lines.

To help customers view all files on the CD all the necessary software to view movies, pdfs and cad drawings are also included. These new CD’s are available from your local sales representative or direct from Ogura Industrial by calling 732-271-7361.

Yagibushi (Summer) Festival Held

Kiryu, Japan

This year the Yagibushi festival was held in Kiryu Japan from August 7th through the 10th. In the festival, competing groups carry or pull floats as they sing the same folk song trying to get the top honor and win the grand prize.

Ogura Employees on parade float

The festival is very popular with Ogura employees but to limit the amount of employees participating, Ogura restricts the entrance to only those with less than three years experience.

Although a good time was had by all, no prizes went to Ogura this year. (Maybe next year Karaoke should be included in the hiring process).
Application Story

Low Draft Boats Help Rescue Efforts After Katrina

When two brothers came up with the idea for a better outboard motor eight years ago, little did they know their company would be in the middle of the courageous efforts to save lives in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Pro Drive Outboard, located in Loreauville, Louisiana, designs and manufactures shallow water outboard motors and boats specifically for use in the bayous, swamplands and marshes across the country. The brothers, K.P. and Brian Provost, decided they had to do something to help fellow Louisianans after the hurricane, and sent six boat and motor combinations to New Orleans, along with 6 Pro Drive employees. Amid the confusion, they were turned back. Determined to participate in some capacity, they provided two boats and motors to rescue workers from Arizona. These two boats alone were responsible for rescuing over 100 people from a retirement home. They additionally provided 6 more boats and motors for efforts in Slidell, one of the hardest hit areas in the New Orleans area.

The unique design of the Pro Drive outboard allows the operator to traverse terrain that ordinarily would be inaccessible with a conventional motor/boat combination. At times this can be only a few inches of water. This design features a gas engine which drives a vertical shaft into a gear housing. An output shaft, located at about 120 degrees from vertical, directly drives the propeller. The size of the prop, combined with orientation, not only allows shallow water travel, but sufficient speeds in deep water.

When Pro Drive engineers selected a 32hp engine with a 1” crankshaft as the outboard’s power plant, maneuverability and handling were concerns. Turning in tight spaces with a conventional motor many times means leaning out over the side. That’s where the Ogura GT4C General Purpose clutch comes in. The clutch is mounted on the engine crankshaft with the driveshaft coupled to the clutch output hub. The GT4C provides the convenience of instant forward and neutral through a remotely actuated panel. Through a simple pushbutton, the clutch engages and disengages the propeller from the engine while allowing the engine to continue to run. In the case of a commercial user, this feature allows the operator to position the boat accurately to set and collect traps or nets on the go, saving time and gasoline. To a duck hunter, it means positioning the boat in their favorite spot without the need to muscle the boat through the mud by standing and “poling”. Rated at 250 ft. lb. of torque in a compact size, the GT4C transfers torque to the propeller without slippage, providing power the instant it’s required. Additionally, the clutch saves wear and tear on the engine, since it is not being started and stopped as frequently.

The Ogura line of General Purpose clutches are rated at 110 ft. lb. through 350 ft. lb. and feature bore sizes from 1 1/8” through 1/7/16” diameters. Visit our website at www.ogura-clutch.com.
Mansfield, Ohio

The 2005 Lawnmower Racing points series finished with the Race of Champions in Mansfield, OH on September 3rd. Shane Shellnut, who races for the BC Racing team and drives the Ogura Clutch Machine #11, finished in seventh place in the overall point standing for the year. Unfortunately because of a death in the family Shane was not able to compete in the Race of Champions and therefore did not finish in the top of the standings however, throughout the 2005 season, Shane was in the top three and at one time led the field of approximately 32 active drivers on the circuit.

This year Shane also started racing in the FX Class (Factory Experimental). The FX Class has a lot more freedom to modify the engine to boost horsepower so the machines really move.

A new driver for the Bobby Cleveland team, also sporting Ogura clutch logos on his machine, finished second in the IMOW Division overall point standings. Congratulations goes out to Wayne Lawhon for an excellent racing season.

ESPN2 taped the Mansfield Race and will air it on the 13th and 16th of October.

During the race Bobby Cleveland (BC), who was leading, ended up crashing his machine which knocked him out of the top finishers.

For general information on lawn mower racing and other broadcast dates on ESPN2 go to www.letsmow.com.

Happy Autumn from the staff of Ogura Industrial

OGURA IN THE NEWS

Lawnmower Racing Finishes Season in Manfield, Ohio

NEW PRODUCT RELEASE

New Higher Torque General Purpose Clutches Released

With the success of the 350ft. lb. GT5 clutch/brake being used in mowing applications, Ogura Engineering has converted this clutch/brake unit into a clutch only unit to be used for general purpose applications.

This clutch is rated at a torque capacity of 350ft. lbs. and utilizes a double bearing field construction which gives superior performance in heavy vibration, high temperature and high speed applications. To transmit the torque, a two groove V belt pulley comes standard as part of the clutch assembly. The clutch comes fully assembled which makes installation extremely easy. Although the clutch is normally manufactured with the two groove B section pulley. Other pulley configurations are possible.

The clutch is made to mount directly on gas or diesel engines up to 35 horsepower. This cost effective clutch is already finding its way into a number of industries where it is desirable to couple the load from a gas or diesel engine. Agricultural, construction, marine and utility markets have all found applications for this clutch. If you like any additional information on this clutch or any of the other general purpose Ogura clutches, please refer to the website or contact your local sales representative.

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