

New Test Lab Opened

As product design cycles become shorter, many customers are asking that clutches and brakes not only be designed for their application, but also pre-qualified to their requirements. In order to duplicate these requirements, Ogura (located in Akabori Japan) has constructed six new test cells. These cells will simulate key requirements like a customer's inertia, speed, cycle rate and temperature. These test cells will measure critical operational requirements, like response time, cycle life and hours of life.

A separate room was also constructed for noise testing. In the future, remote monitoring will be tied in to these test cells so that test data will automatically be transferred to the appropriate engineer's workstation. This will reduce the need for additional personnel in the test lab.



Separate noise test cell



Six brand new clutch test cells

All Ogura Japan Plants Are Certified For ISO-14001.

More environmentally friendly manufacturing operation is something that Ogura wants from all their manufacturing plants, not only in Japan but also worldwide. Last year Ogura's Plant #3 was the first plant to receive the ISO-14001 rating. The year 2000 will be the first year that all five manufacturing plants are approved ISO-14001 for the complete calendar year.

Ogura SAS Receives QS-9000 Certification



Staff at Ogura SAS (France) shows off new certification

To help standardize production in all Ogura's automotive manufacturing plants, Ogura SAS (Valenciennes, France) has qualified for the QS-9000 requirements. This means that all manufacturing plants for mobile clutches and clutch/brakes in the United States, Japan and Europe are now qualified as ISO-9001 and QS-9000.

Besides the QS-9000 certification, Ogura SAS is also increasing their production. In the second quarter of this year, they will achieve 2 million clutches produced.

New Personnel at Ogura Industrial



*Mike Garvey
Mobile Products Manager*

Mike Garvey recently joined Ogura Industrial as the Mobile Products Manager. Prior to joining Ogura, Mike spent 23 years with Warner Electric. Over the past few years he was the National Market Manager for the mobile off-highway group in charge of both sales and application engineering personnel.

Mike's experience in the mobile related industries will help Ogura to better serve our customers from both a sales and application support functions.

New Sales Representatives For Ogura Industrial



*Left to Right, Back Row: Roger Steele, Bill Anders
Front Row: Pete Clark, Wayne Stone, Todd Murdoch, Chris Mallon*

V.E. Brackett has taken over responsibility for representation of the Ogura product line in Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Western Tennessee and southern Kentucky. V.E. Brackett has been in business for 26 years. They have five outside salesmen and eight inside sales people to help service customers. They also have warehousing capability and can stop product for local delivery to customers if required. With an average experience of 12 years, V.E. Brackett will be an asset for both Ogura and their customers.

For more specific information on which exact salesmen covers each territory, please refer to the Ogura web site.

PartSpec Releases Ogura Industrial Drawings On CAD



Latest release of PartSpec

To get CD information into the hands of engineering faster, Ogura Industrial decided to participate in PartSpec 3.0, which was released in February 2000.

A popular CAD software program worldwide is AutoCAD. Users of the AutoCAD system received a supplemental CD, called PartSpec.

This CD has pre-drawn CAD drawings of standard component parts (gearboxes, couplings, bearings, bushings, drives, etc.).

Ogura engineering made up approximately 450 CAD drawings for the PartSpec program. In addition to the AutoCAD files on PartSpec, complete technical information on the industrial clutches is also included in PDF form.

If you do not receive PartSpec for AutoCAD, Thomas Register also has PartSpec included as part of their CD-ROM package. If you do not receive either of those, you can download the Ogura DFX drawings for free right off the Thomas Register website at www.thomasregister.com.

Applications For Ogura Clutches On Vacuum Excavation And Extraction Utility Service Equipment



Maintenance on utility service lines in metropolitan areas is being done differently than just a few years back. In the past, after breaking up the road surface or sidewalk, the excavation was done with back hoes. But with today's complex tangle of phone lines (fiber optic, copper wire and natural gas lines), the risk of damage and cost of repair (not to mention the man hours required to disconnect thousands of phone lines) can be very expensive.

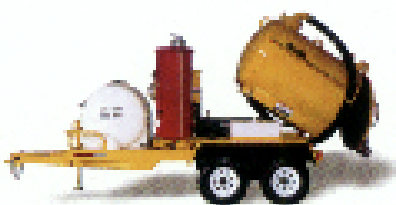
Today, utility service lines are exposed with the use of vacuum excavation equipment. These trucks have vacuum blowers, which create a suction inside a holding tank. These tanks have 6", 8", or 10" diameter suction hoses connected, which vacuum up the loose soil and rock. To break up sub soil, these trucks often have high pressure, low volume, positive displacement pumps for high pressure (12,000-psi) water, which is used to break up the sub soil and rock. The loose debris is then sucked up into the truck's holding tank. These holding tanks often have a tilt base to dump the material back into the hole after the work is done. The high pressure loosens the soil around the utility lines without damage to the lines themselves. (This machine also works well when searching for gold and buried treasure.)

The two applications for clutches on this type of equipment are on the vacuum pump, typically around 25HP, and the high pressure water pump. Workers can shut off the vacuum while loosening the soil, then turn off the water pump, and turn on the vacuum pump. This gives both energy savings and extends the life of both pumps.

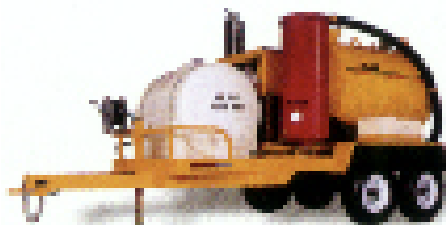
Ogura Industrial has applied our 250 ft lb. general purpose clutches to vacuum pump applications. One customer, who required more torque, has recently moved to the Ogura MMC series, which drives off the truck's PTO drive shaft.

The second application is for a mobile clutch to drive the high pressure water pump. In the past, customers used to purchase a separate clutch and pump but now this package is usually provided by the pump manufacturer.

This application is a take off of the old sewer clean out trucks. The use of Ogura clutches helped to modernize this application, providing the end user energy and cost savings.



*500 gallon x 500 CFM.
Gas Powered - trailer mount.*

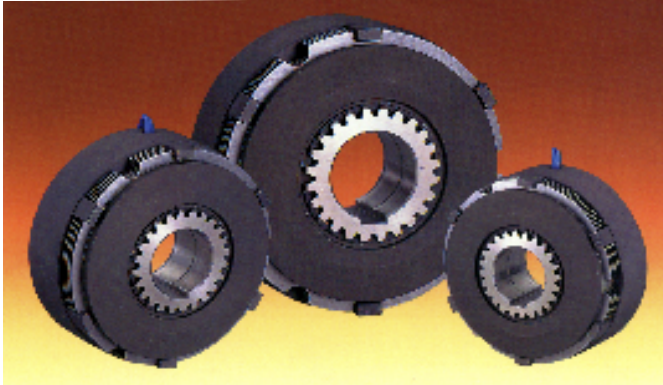


*800 gallon x 500 CFM.
Gas powered - trailer mount.*



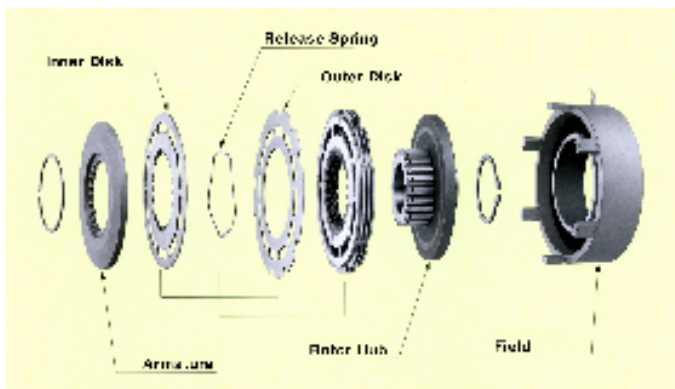
Monica II

New Product Release From Ogura: MDB-N Multiple Disk Brake



Mobile disk clutches have always been used where high torque in a small package was required. They also have the advantage of being able to operate in an oil (transmission/gearbox) environment. As an improvement to this technology, Ogura engineering has developed a new design of multiple disk clutches and brakes that allows for faster response time. A new spring release mechanism has been developed to allow the friction and pressure plates to release faster in relation to each other. This unique design is currently patent pending by Ogura.

Applications that will benefit from this faster release technology are machine tools, multiple speed drive gearboxes and automotive related applications requiring that the clutch be able to "shift on the fly" with a fast response time.



Ogura's new MDB-N brake is currently patent pending. The brake incorporates a new type of release spring and modified friction area to get a quicker release.

Ogura Industrial In The News

During the first quarter, *Design News* wrote an editorial showing how Ogura engineering overcame a design challenge at Simplicity Manufacturing. Simplicity had a situation where a newly designed tractor (for the European market) had more blade inertia than the previous tractors. Simplicity required a quick solution from Ogura that would not cause a redesign of parts and would still allow them to meet their production schedule.



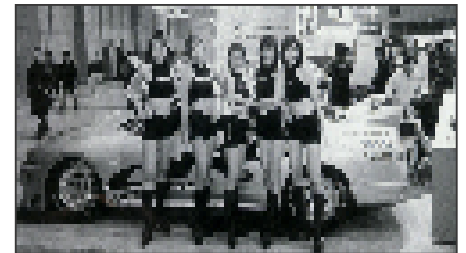
Design News article

This additional inertia caused longer stop times, which made it difficult to meet the European Safety Requirements.

Ogura responded by developing a PTO clutch/brake that produced higher braking torque without affecting the overall dimensions of the existing clutch/brake.

This fast solution to this challenge allowed Simplicity to ship tractors to the European customers in time for their season.

Ogura Racing?



Ogura's friendly booth personnel

Many industrial and mobile customers may not know that Ogura manufactures specialty products for racing applications. At the recent Tokyo Auto Salon (a show for high performance and aftermarket products), a number of these products were displayed. These included unique low-force multiple disk transmission clutches, special lightweight flywheels and superchargers. All these products are marketed under the ORC brand name.

The challenge of racing environments pushes Ogura engineering, which in turn increases their knowledge that can be used to help improve mobile and industrial clutch applications.

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