

## Victory Tool Division

**W**ith over 18 years of CAD experience, Dean Hoffman, a tool designer at Victory Tool, thought he had seen it all when it came to design software. When his employer, Victory Tool, decided to make the shift to SolidWorks and 3DQuickPress in 2005 he was surprised by the depth and ease-of-use of both programs.

Victory Tool, located in Anoka, Minnesota designs and builds metal stamping dies. They were using 2D software for everything from strip layouts to detailed designs. When there was a 3D need, it was done with their CAM software. But with the implementation of SolidWorks and 3DQuickPress, all of that changed.

“Before we implemented 3DQuickPress we were designing in a 2D world and everything was hard to see. What you saw was not what you got,” explained Hoffman.

### 2D versus 3D

For Hoffman there really isn't any comparison when designing dies using 3DQuickPress versus a 2D program. “The process of designing in 3DQuickPress is a lot smoother. It's much faster and more complete than what you get in a 2D world.”

The real question, though, is how well 3DQuickPress stands up against other 3D competitors like Logopress. After using 3DQuickPress and going through Logopress training, Hoffman preferred 3DQuickPress over Logopress. Completing 2 designs in Logopress, he felt that it was simply creating shortcuts for SolidWorks features. 3DQuickPress was the better tool when it came to die design and manufacturing.

“Everything is ‘mated’ in other 3D software, so to move a component you must find the mate,



but in 3DQuickPress you can move a component with an X-Y-Z move, or from this point to that point. It makes it a lot faster being able to do it this way.”

In terms of functionality, Hoffman found that 3DQuickPress is efficient and complements the design work he does in SolidWorks. Unlike other 3D add-on die design programs, Hoffman noted that 3DQuickPress offers a unique focus on die design and manufacturing.

“3DQuickPress provides much more in terms of tools for designing a die. For example, 3DQuickPress has its own Production Ready Library (PRL) that we customized to the way we design at Victory Tool. We have made PRLs for all our different die assemblies. All assemblies have bolts and dowels already in them, so with a few quick moves they are complete. The PRLs cut all the clearance in the die from top to bottom and have material type with hardness properties. I have finished a BOM for a die with eighty components in as little as 15 minutes,” Hoffman stated.

### Success with 3DQuickPress

One major reason Hoffman and Victory Tool have

been so successful with 3DQuickPress is because of the local support they have received. Strategic Technology Solutions is the North American provider of 3DQuickPress and even though Hoffman didn't need any formal training, he did benefit from STS support.

“Whenever I had a question that I needed answered quickly, STS was there to assist me. I can either call their support line for a quick answer, or do a live webcast with their support staff to work through a problem step by step. They were able to get me familiar with 3DQuickPress in a very short amount of time, and this has allowed me to complete over 50 projects since we implemented the software,” said Hoffman.

“At the end of the day, tool designers need software that can assist them in the whole design process and 3DQuickPress works great for this.”

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