

Larkin Precision Machining Inc.

Five Generations of Machining DNA Combined With The Best in Manufacturing Software for CAM Programming in Production Machining

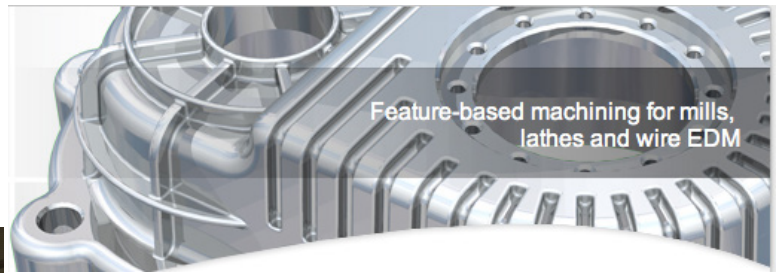


The Larkin Precision Machining Inc. family is rooted in a long line of 5 generations in the precision machining and manufacturing industry. It is literally in the Larkin family DNA!

It all began in 1920 with Great Grandfather Walter J. Larkin starting the Southwest manufacturing business then continued with R.W. Larkin Sr. starting the O&M Machine Co. in 1938, making such diverse parts as large assemblies for nuclear power plants to small high precision aerospace assemblies. The Larkin family excelled at machining high tolerance assemblies to continue a long line of perfection. The reputation of the Larkin's work spread and they started to work with the great companies such as General Dynamics and Rockwell International. Today his history continues on in the Larkin lineage.

Richard Jr., Robert, Richard 3rd, Jonathan, and Seth are embracing new technology, software, 5 axis machines, and continue to evolve as one of the best manufacturing companies in the west. A tight family unit, they optimize one team, one direction, moving in unison and with compassion for the industry they love.

The Larkin families, with their diverse personalities, get along very well and Rick attributes this to the great working environment at Larkin. Each of the family members are responsible for different sections of the business, and communicate back to one another to keep the operation running smooth. Seth oversees the lathe department and Jonathan oversees the milling department. Rob handles the purchasing &, quoting, engineering, and works with the customers while Rick does the programming, & schedules, engineering, and works with Jon and Seth with opportunities on the shop floor.



Initially Rob and Rick worked as vice presidents for major corporations that were eventually acquired by much larger companies, and as great minds think alike, they thought they might strike out on their own together and build their own company. In early 2000 they started their own small machine shop in a one bay commercial building, worked long hours, and eventually added 4 more bays as the word got out that the Larkins were in business.

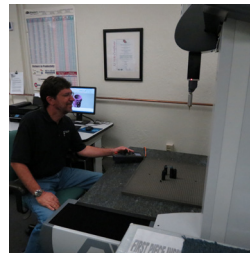
High tolerance precision components are the Larkin's specialty and they rarely say no to their customers. In fact a company came to them when they were with a previous company and asked if they

could make an auger that the customer just laid on their desk. Of course the first words the Larkins gave were yes, we can make that part. This customer had no prints and no data to offer, just a sample part. The Larkins had to reverse engineer this intricate two-foot long 6-inch diameter screw auger and machine it using 4 axis machines. To get it done, they tried using the design software they had but it did not work. Their engineering department took near 8 weeks to design a step-by-step process to machine the part on the 4 axis machines they had. Even though they got it done this wasn't the methodology they wanted to use going forward.

In later days the company that they did the work for was sold and the new company that took over just wanted to focus on semi-conductor work. Since they did not want to work on the screw augers any longer, and wanted to make sure that their customer was taken care of, they asked the Larkins if they would help them by taking over the auger business to support this customer. In time the customer wanted many different designs and the Larkins didn't feel they could handle the new designs without some really powerful software for programming.

It was at this time that Rick contacted many different software companies to help make the part with their respective software, the company that could make/program the part to be machined on 4 axis machines they announced would be the company that they would buy new software from. Not surprisingly almost every company that came in said it couldn't be done, or gave up and told the Larkins they had to buy new 5 axis machines to get the job done.

"The only one that could do it for us was DelCam's FeatureCAM. So, that's why we bought FeatureCAM, and we are very glad we did, because it really helps us save a



lot of time on the parts we get in today.” said Rick. Rick continued, “Right around this time line we were getting more and more solid models in from our customers and FeatureCAM allowed us to just input the customer solid models directly in and do a seamless programming to the machines.”

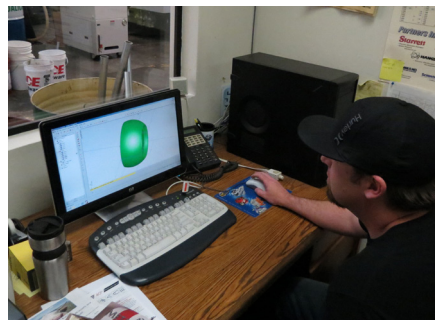
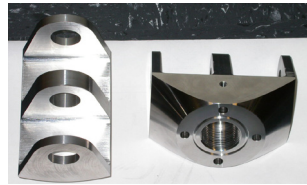
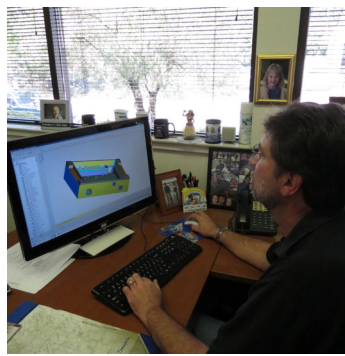
I asked Rick if it was really as easy as all that and what was the learning curve.

Rick said, “John Gale was our salesman he is really great to work with. He’s very knowledgeable and we could always get a quick answer back from Delcam when we had questions or didn’t understand something. In fact sometimes I’d just send the file to Delcam and they’d show me better ways to work with the part by doing things differently. The support just couldn’t get any better! We also watched numerous training videos on FeatureCAM and this really helped us to become more proficient at using the software. It additionally saved us so much time programming the parts. Once we saw how easy it was to take in a solid model and work with the FeatureCAM software, and use the power of the software, we could program everything so much faster saving us so much time programming our parts.”

Rick continued, “As part of the yearly maintenance package, Delcam continually sends us updates and service packs for the software that keeps us up to date with the latest fixes or improvements to the software. This is a great benefit for our company! It’s so easy to update while we are in the software. We just hit the update tab, the software verifies our version, and we get an update or patch, it’s that easy. The software becomes more powerful with every update but always beneficial, making the software more user friendly which makes us become better at our job.”

What’s the future look like for Larkin Precision? The addition of 5 axis machines will take Larkin to a whole new level, and they will not go back. By having less set ups or even one set up, getting more done in less amount of time, and a perfect finished part that’s easier for QA to check. The philosophy going forward is for Larkin to acquire the best and latest in technology to maintain the highest level of performance and customer service for their customers.

Rick said, “It’s hard to find good machinists today, because there are fewer out there, so we are buying into technology that does more within the software or machine tool itself. In the old days you would have an employee on each machine. To be competitive we just can’t afford to operate that way today. We must have the best software, like Delcam’s FeatureCAM, and we must utilize multi-axis machine tools that can be programmed to run intricate components to come off



machine finished.”

Larkin is a certified ISO/AS9100 Rev. C manufacturing company and prides itself on continuous improvement. The Larkin Company is diversified in its customer base as a plan for longevity and strength. The Larkin customer base consists of Department of Defense, Semi-Conductor, The Food Industry, Robotics, Aerospace, Medical, and Commercial sectors. The Quality Department consists of a Quality Engineer and two Quality Inspectors versed in the ISO and AS9100 Rev. C system and utilizes the latest in inspection equipment including CMM’s.

The Larkins learned a long time ago that making parts to print wasn’t good enough. They learned from Richard Johnson Machining (when they were young men) a quote that stuck with them in their business model today “Always Make A Better Part, Visually, Dimensionally, and Consistently. Rick said, “We focus on what our customer’s requirements are, then go above and beyond to give them the best part possible. If they ask for a 125 finish we give them a 32, if they want good welding we give them great welding. We always exceed our customer’s requirements and this creates happy loyal customers.”

Rick continued, “We make our buyers and engineers look good. We provide on time delivery of the highest quality components at a very competitive price. Many times when engineering comes up with a design in solid format, they will send it over and have us look at it to comment on its manufacturability. We will look it over, ask questions and offer suggestions in order make the part better, save them additional operations, and reduce cost.

Some customers allow us to make up a drawing for them using our software and then submit it to them. Once the drawing is approved they will sign off on it and incorporate it into their system.”

With this winning combination I see a continued, bright, long future for the Larkin Precision Machining Inc. Company.

For more information on Larkin Precision Machining Inc. call:

831-438-2700, www.LPMachining.com

For more information on Delcam’s state of the art software FeatureCAM and how you can program the most intricate of components seamlessly,

call John Gale at:

877-335-2261, www.featurecam.com