



With over 60 years of expertise to draw on, Henkel Modellbau is a reliable partner for the entire manufacturing process chain. From engineering and manufacturing to complete assemblies, customers receive everything from a single source. Flexibility as well as a wide range of services and products are the Group's hallmarks.

Interviewee:

Mr. Sebastian Wolf
CAM Project Manager

Why did you decide to use hyperMILL® SHOP Viewer in your company?

Basically, we were concerned with increasing component quality while creating a certain degree of transparency. This is an absolute must, especially with our complicated geometries. SHOP Viewer gives you a clear picture of what ultimately happens to the component during the manufacturing process. There are a number of useful functions, such as taking measurements, simulating toolpaths, viewing tools as they are assembled, or analyzing critical areas, which help our staff tremendously. Thanks to SHOP Viewer, we reduce the number of questions we have to ask and, of course, save a lot of time overall.

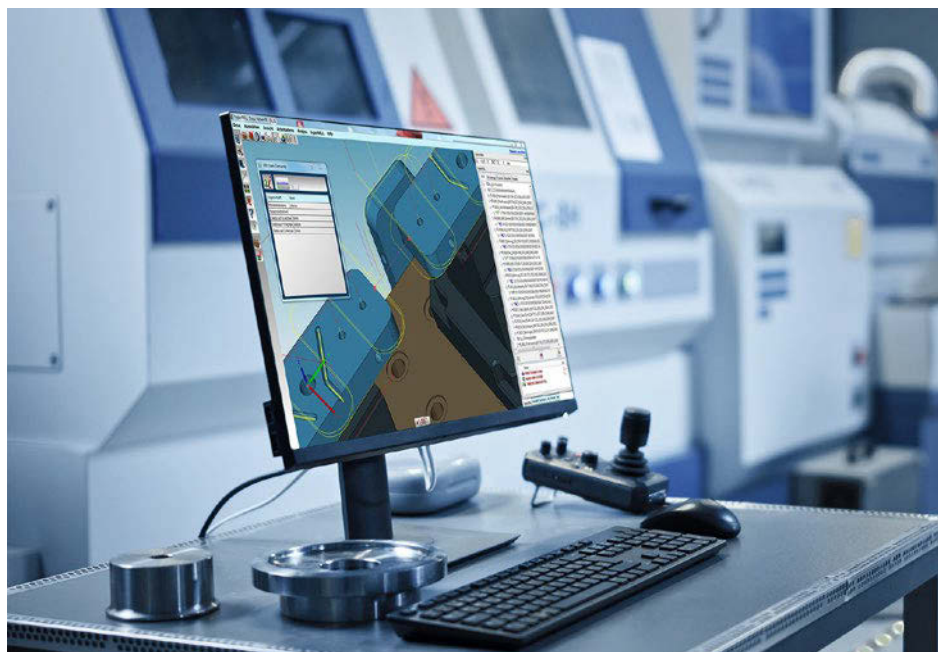
How quickly were you able to install SHOP Viewer in your company, and did you need any training?

Installing it wasn't an issue for us, and if a problem should arise, OPEN MIND support is always on hand immediately. That said, SHOP Viewer was still uncharted territory for a lot of our employees, so we opted for

a short training session run by OPEN MIND. It's really simple to use and a lot is self-explanatory. Plus, the software is well-designed. The employees who already had CAM experience immediately felt at home using it.

How has SHOP Viewer influenced the flow of information in your company, and what works better now?

The fact that we have an optimized setup at the machining centers means every employee has access to a PC directly at the machine, and therefore SHOP Viewer is never more than a click away. The data for our clamping devices, some of which are very complex to assemble, are accurately modeled and integrated in the project data by the CAM department. SHOP Viewer is very helpful for our colleagues at the machine when they want to understand exactly how the workpiece and the clamping device have to be set up. Particularly delicate points can be described in detail thanks to the model's comment function, which saves us having to ask questions.



We push machining to the limit

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There is usually not much lead time for programming in our day-to-day operations, so it is very beneficial for us that SHOP Viewer can completely negate having to draw up extensive documentation and go through time-consuming consultations. To ensure optimum process reliability, we simulate all NC programs as machine code using hyperMILL® VIRTUAL Machine. With the help of SHOP Viewer, our machine operators can precisely position both the component and the clamping device in advance, so that we can reduce downtimes to a minimum.

What do your machine operators think has changed, and what benefits have they seen?

Nobody here is a fan of working from a large stack of paper and letting programs run unseen. We often use the markup func-

tion in SHOP Viewer to record or share information, actions, and thoughts, especially for recurring components. It simply saves time. If the speed or feed of a milling tool is changed on the machine, this is marked up and is visible to all operators and the programmer. Additional information on aligning or picking up the component is particularly helpful here, and SHOP Viewer makes sure that we map this reliably.

How would you sum up SHOP Viewer in a few words?

We have achieved a more homogenous process and significantly increased interaction between CAM programmers and the machinists and staff on the manufacturing floor. SHOP Viewer is a tool that you don't want to be without. It makes any manufacturing department better.

Visit our website to learn more about what a networked manufacturing environment can do for you.



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