*The Extrusion Press Maintenance Manual*

# INTRODUCTION

This manual began in 1996 as a project of the Aluminum Extruders Council's Tech Services Committee, meant to give newcomers to the industry, and anyone maintaining an older press whose original documentation and mechanics are long gone, a place to turn for real answers.

Al Kennedy carried that project forward for nearly three decades as Editor, gathering contributions from engineers, plant managers, equipment manufacturers, and maintenance veterans across the industry into what he called "the essential reference for extrusion plant managers." He published the 1st Edition in 1996, a revised 2nd Edition in 2000, and a 3rd Edition in 2004. From there it became a living publication, revised chapter by chapter as new information came in.

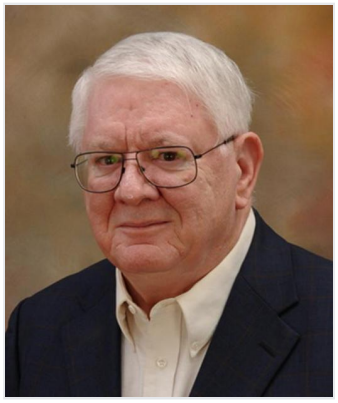
Al considered himself the manual's Editor, not its Author. Most of what appears here was gathered and credited from the generosity of others. Where contributors disagreed, he left the differing recommendations in place rather than resolve them artificially, trusting readers to weigh the advice for themselves.

## A NEW HOME FOR THE MANUAL

In 2025, Gemini Group purchased the Extrusion Press Maintenance Manual from Al Kennedy, with one condition: that it keep going. We promised him it would stay free, and continually updated, for everyone in the industry.

We're now working through the manual chapter by chapter to make it more readable and easier to navigate, without changing the substance of what Al and his contributors built. We also remain open to hearing from anyone in the industry with something to add: a correction, a procedure, a lesson learned.

## IN MEMORY OF AL KENNEDY



Al Kennedy
Editor, 1996-2025

Al Kennedy spent decades presenting and publishing at International Aluminum Extrusion Technology Seminars and AEC Press Maintenance Seminars, on subjects ranging from press alignment to maintenance technology. But his lasting contribution is this manual: nearly thirty years spent collecting and freely sharing the industry's collective know-how.

This edition, and every edition to come, is dedicated to his memory.

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