

Introduction

and Editor's comments about the 2024 Edition of
The Extrusion Press Maintenance Manual



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This Manual was originally published in 1996 and offered as a print only version. The 2nd Edition in 2000 was a general revision and update with improved duplex typography and graphics, and the CD-ROM version of the 2nd Edition was offered in 2001. The 3rd Edition was published in 2004, with addition of versions on USB flash drive or by email. Now revisions are made whenever new information becomes available, and the latest versions are printed or copied on-demand.

This Manual began as a project of the Aluminum Extruders Council Tech Services Committee. The idea was to provide a reference and training tool for newcomers to the extrusion industry --- especially anyone working with older presses where the original manuals have been lost and the original maintenance people aren't around any more.

Since the 1st Edition in 1996, the available information about extrusion equipment has grown substantially, so much so that we decided to redefine the Manual as “**the essential reference for extrusion plant managers.**” The goal is to bring together in one place all of the useful information we can find about extrusion equipment, to make it the first place that maintenance personnel, plant engineers, managers, trainees --- everyone in the industry --- can turn to for answers and instruction. We've touched on repairs, preventive maintenance, installation, modernization --- anything useful we could find about the subject.

If you look carefully you will find different recommendations by different contributors, for example, the frequency and procedures for press inspections. I have not tried to remove or resolve these contradictions, but left them in so that the reader will have the benefit of all available advice. Sometimes even the experts don't agree, and you must choose between conflicting recommendations.

Please note that I claim to be the **Editor** (as opposed to **Author**) of this Manual, since most of the material has been gathered from other sources. I have compiled it, in many cases rewritten it for clarity and conciseness, formatted it, and commented on it. I've tried to give proper credit for all material used (please let me know if I failed to properly credit anyone), and tried to leave references so the reader can get additional information if necessary.

So, I want to thank everyone who has shared their know-how for this Manual, especially to those who have prepared technical papers and made presentations at seminars. You have helped to make our industry strong and competitive by passing along your experience and knowledge to those who will follow in your footsteps.



Kennedy Eurotech, Inc.
4 Oak Point - Newnan GA 30263 USA
Telephone +770-304-1000
www.alkennedy.net - alkennedy@usa.net

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