

Pressman's Toolbox: Installing a lead-in roller when holes aren't there

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Have you ever wanted to install an extra lead-in roller in the press only to find out that there are no existing holes in the frame of the press?

Maybe you've found a machine surface through which to drill the holes or a place upon which to mount a roller bracket. But you don't have the equipment to drill the holes parallel to the existing lead-in rollers.

Or maybe you couldn't find a good surface to add the extra roller.

Lead-in roller brackets offer an alternative.

The roller brackets can also be used to install an additional roller to keep separation in the webs, add drag to a web or, with the additional hardware that will cause the roller assembly to move from one fixed location to another, can be used as a compensator.

Unfortunately, lead-in roller brackets are not convenient to install; the lead-in roller shaft has to be removed to install the brackets.

Easy to install

Figure 3 shows a clamp-on roller bracket that is easily added to any roller shaft.

The idea is to construct the bracket so that the length of its arms is long enough to position the added lead-in roller into an area that creates an acceptable web path.

The bracket in Figure 1 is designed to fit a Goss Community press. I used two .75-inch square bars that were 5.5 inches long. They were made from cold roll steel for the main bracket assembly.

First, clamp the two pieces of steel together. Second, drill two holes through the two pieces of steel, with each hole located 1.5 inches from each edge.

Start your holes with a 7/32-inch drill bit. The ultimate diameter should be big enough to permit the bottom piece to accommodate a 5/16-inch, 18-threaded bolt.

Re-drill the top piece with a 5/16-inch drill bit to permit a 5/16-inch bolt to pass easily through the top bar.

Bolt the two pieces together and bolt the two bars together with a .010 shim sandwiched between them (see Figure 2).

Cost-effective

Now, drill two .5-inch holes into the side of the two bars that are bolted together. Drill them .75-inch away from each edge of the bars.

Clamp a second bar assembly to the first bar assembly so that the .5-inch holes are exactly the same distance from end to end (drive and operator side bracket).

The small hole in the lower right of Figure 2 is drilled and tapped so that the bracket can be used as a compensator bracket.

Figure 3 shows the bracket ready for use. The project takes approximately three hours to build. The total cost of the project is less than \$15 if you do it yourself and approximately \$75 to purchase. All you need now is the additional lead-in roller.

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