

WORK STATION CRANES IN ACTION: MANUFACTURING

GORBEL CRANES EASILY ACCOMMODATE GROWING FACILITY

Industry	Making valves for agricultural equipment
SIC	5083
Application	Moving valves in finishing cell
Solution	Work Station Crane with Telescoping Bridge
Results	Company expanded the work cell without making costly modifications to existing crane system.

Gorbel's Work Station Crane with telescoping bridges provided a Wisconsin valve maker with a cost effective way to handle a growing work cell.

Husco International is a world leader in providing products and services that optimize the performance, control and safety of mobile equipment. This particular work cell in their Wisconsin plant handles valves which are supplied to a leading manufacturer of agricultural equipment.

Handle With Care

This application involves moving valves, weighing up to 225# a piece, through the various stations in a finishing cell. This cell operates 3 shifts that handle from 50 to 60 valves a day.

The plant was already using work station and jib cranes in other areas. When they looked into material handling equipment for this new work cell, their first plan was to use jib cranes. While the rotation of the jibs allowed them to cover a wide area, the jibs were not an ideal solution in this cell. The rotation of the jibs was often uncontrolled, and the plant ran the risk of the manipulators hitting or damaging expensive machinery and equipment.

This plant chose Work Station Cranes to replace the Jib Cranes in this work cell, but then the cell expanded and the crane system's original design could no longer reach all the areas of the cell.

Solution? They added the telescoping bridge shown here (in yellow) to reach the outer areas of the cell. This solution was simple and cost-effective to incorporate into the cell.

Gorbel's Solution

In order to maintain their high quality standards, Husco chose to use Work Station Cranes in the work cell instead. The movement of Work Station Cranes over the X and Y axes gave the operators more control and allowed them to focus on their tasks and not worry about where the end of the boom might hit.

Easily Accommodates Plant Growth

Another valuable benefit of using Gorbel Work Station Cranes is how easily they can be modified to accommodate expanding work cells. This was a case where flexibility was especially important. After the original crane installation, the work cell expanded, resulting in a new section of the cell that the Work Station Crane wasn't designed to reach. The plant was concerned that changing the crane system to reach this new area would be costly and difficult.

The answer? A Gorbel telescoping bridge was retrofitted into the existing system, enabling them to get parts out to this expanded area of the work cell. The telescoping bridge was an easy and cost effective solution for this growing work cell.

