

History and Current Situation of Multi-Tasking Machine Tools

Abstract

Manufacturing industries are in intense global competition, and stricter demands for reduction in cost and total in-process time increase year after year. As a result, a production system that can produce a wide variety of components in small lot sizes in response to fluctuations in demand with small floor space requirements is strongly demanded. Our company has been responding to this challenge by process integration and high-efficiency machining methods using multi-tasking machine tools. In this article, we describe the development and history of such multi-tasking machines as well as examples of workpieces processed by this type of machine tool and examples of recently developed new functions.