



Metalworking

## Scrambling to Solve Bandsaw Problems? Lenox Can Help You Prevent Them

James Langford | Feb 18, 2025

**When you're cutting tough materials like steel superalloys and exotic metals, you need a bandsaw at the top of its game.**

That won't happen without regular maintenance from machinists and manufacturing workers, however, and getting it isn't a given in today's often short-staffed metalworking plants.

Roughly 95 percent of the businesses that own bandsaws have rarely—or never—performed yearly preventive maintenance, says Raul Gonzalez, senior manager of the sawing solutions group at toolmaker Lenox, a subsidiary of Stanley Black & Decker.

To bridge the gap, Lenox—whose specialties include bandsaws—is introducing fee-based inspection and maintenance services. It's a valuable option for metalworking businesses, many of which have eliminated in-house maintenance departments over the past 20-plus years, using leaner operating systems to buoy profitability.

The smaller staffs they employ as a result, combined with sticky inflation and a widening shortage in the labor market, have left them without the resources to handle equipment upkeep while meeting client delivery timetables.

"In many cases, bandsaw owners don't stop to think about maintenance because they're focused on keeping up 24/7 production schedules," Gonzalez says. "They're reluctant to shut down the equipment."

Those owners have responded enthusiastically to Lenox's new service options, however, realizing that inspection and maintenance can help them avoid breakdowns that disrupt schedules and may damage cutting tools as well as equipment and workpieces.

"Very few people in the country know how to work on bandsaws, although there are thousands and thousands of them, and if owners just patch them whenever there's a problem, the remedy may make the problem worse," Gonzalez says.

## A High Price Tag for Bandsaw Breakdowns

The initial service packages from Lenox, available nationwide now, are the 13-point inspection of equipment including guides, band wheels, hydraulic systems and sawing fluid, and the 20 Point+ program that wraps in preventive maintenance services such as hydraulic oil and filter changes, lubrication and some parts replacement.

When customers purchase the 20 Point+ service, which isn't limited to Lenox-branded products, the toolmaker coordinates with them in advance on supplies that need to be available, such as the correct oils for bandsaw machines and parts such as belts and guides.

Eventually, the company plans to sell those supplies, allowing service personnel to bring them to the job site, and it's considering other service packages as well.

For the large fabrication houses and steel service centers that often use bandsaws to shape extremely large, expensive blocks of metal direct from mills, such services may be game changers.

If a blade breaks mid-operation, bandsaw operators typically can't restart the cut and often have to scrap the workpiece. Along with that, bandsaws operate in high-stress conditions that can heighten the consequences of equipment failure.

Customers wrap the whip-thin elliptical blades around the two wheels of a bandsaw machine, where they're twisted up to 90 degrees, run at speeds of 300 feet per minute or more and tensioned at 20,000 to 40,000 pounds per square inch.

"When we present these inspection and maintenance options to end users, they're happy to have them because they know the work needs to be done," Gonzalez says. "The typical responses are, 'When can we schedule it?' and 'Can you give me a price quote?'"

## Using Data to Improve Bandsaw Performance

Founded in 1915, Massachusetts-based Lenox built its first bimetal blades in the 1970s, and today offers marquee blades such as the **ALLOYWOLF™ QXP** along with innovative services such as its proprietary **SawCalc** application that provides ideal speed and feed rates for different materials.

**The app**, which can help improve blade performance while prolonging tool life, broadens the benefits of services available from the fee-based 13 Point and 20 Point+ packages.

"Sometimes these bandsaw operators are flying low until their equipment crashes and they have to scramble to bring someone in for repairs," Gonzalez adds. "It may take a week or more for that person to come in, and if you calculate the loss, which includes not only time but revenue because the equipment isn't producing anything, it can be tremendous."

**How does your business handle bandsaw inspection and maintenance? Tell us in the comments below.**

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