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INTEGRATED CAE/CAD/CAM SYSTEM OF PLASTIC INJECTION MOLD

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KEY WORDS

Plastic injection mold, CAE, CAD, CAM, Creo Parametrics, EMCO CAM Concept.

1. THE PLASTIC PART TO BE MANUFACTURED

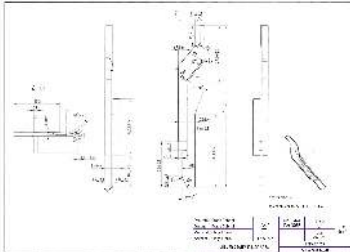


Fig. 1. 2D drawing of the plastic part

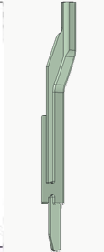


Fig. 2. 3D model of the plastic part

2. COMPUTER-AIDED ENGINEERING (TECHNICAL CALCULATION REPORT)

NUMBER OF CAVITIES

$$G_i = \frac{N}{C_m} \cdot 100 [\%]$$

Where:
 G_i = injection machine usage [%]
 N = 70 000 = annual production [parts/year]
 C_m = average capacity of injection machine [parts/year]
 $C_m = \frac{z \cdot h \cdot i \cdot 3600}{t_c}$ [parts/year]

Where:
 z = 248 = working days in a year [days]
 h = 8 = number of hours in a shift [hours]
 i = 3 = number of shifts
 t_c = 28 = cycle time [seconds]
 $C_m = \frac{248 \cdot 8 \cdot 3 \cdot 3600}{28} = 765\ 257$ parts/year
 $\rightarrow G_i = \frac{70\ 000}{765\ 257} \cdot 100 = 9.14\%$

In order to not overcomplicate the mold, the number of cavities will be 2.

INJECTION SYSTEM

$$m_i = \rho_i \cdot V_i [g]$$

Where:
 m_i = part/network mass [g]
 $\rho_i = 1.36 \text{ g/cm}^3$ = density of the plastic material [g/cm³]
 V_i = part/network volume [cm³]
 $V_p = 0.907 \text{ cm}^3$ = part volume
 $V_r = 1.051 \text{ cm}^3$ = network volume
 $> m_p = 2 \cdot 1.36 \cdot 0.907 = 2.46 \text{ g}$
 $\rightarrow m_r = 1.36 \cdot 1.051 = 1.43 \text{ g}$
To calculate what percent the injection network represents in the total injected mass, we will apply the following formula:
 $k_p = \frac{m_r}{m_r + m_p} \cdot 100 [\%]$
 $\rightarrow k_p = \frac{1.43}{1.43 + 2.46} \cdot 100 = 36.76\%$
Because the annual production is just 70 000 parts, there is no need for a hot runner system.

INJECTION POINT

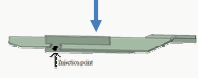


Fig. 3. Injection point

PARTING PLANE

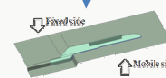


Fig. 4. Parting plane

INJECTION NETWORK

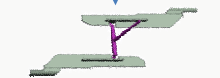


Fig. 5. Injection network

COOLING SYSTEM

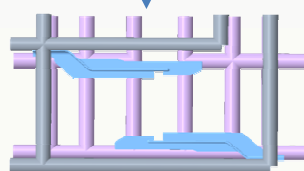


Fig. 6. Cooling system

EJECTION SYSTEM

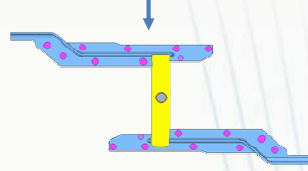


Fig. 7. Ejection system

3. COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN (ACTIVE ELEMENTS DESIGN)

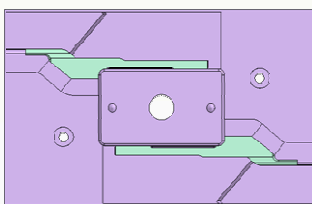


Fig. 8. Cavity

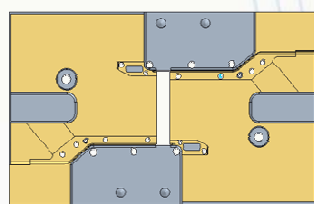


Fig. 9. Core

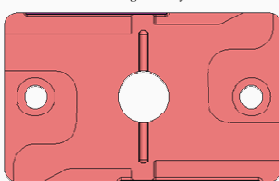


Fig. 10. Cavity insert



Fig. 11. Gate insert

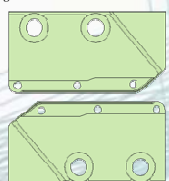


Fig. 12. Core insert

4. COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN (STANDARD AND NONSTANDARD ELEMENTS DESIGN)



Fig. 13. Meusburger assistant for mold configuration

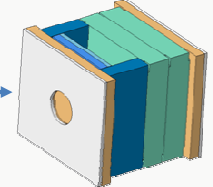


Fig. 14. 3D model of the configured mold

The nonstandard elements will require modifications of their 3D model. In the figures 13 and 14 there is an example of such modifications done to the ejector carrier plate.



Fig. 15. Ejector carrier plate before modifications

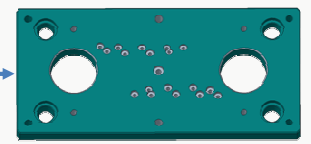


Fig. 16. Ejector carrier plate after modifications

5. COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN (3D MODEL OF THE ASSEMBLY DESIGN)

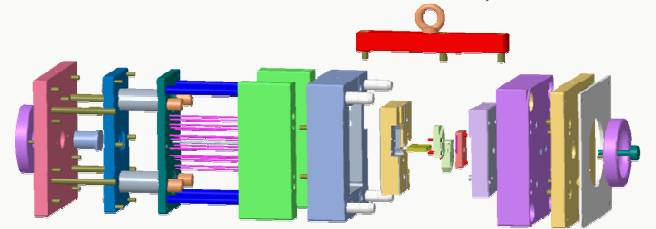


Fig. 17. Exploded 3D model of the mold assembly

6. COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN (2D DRAWINGS)

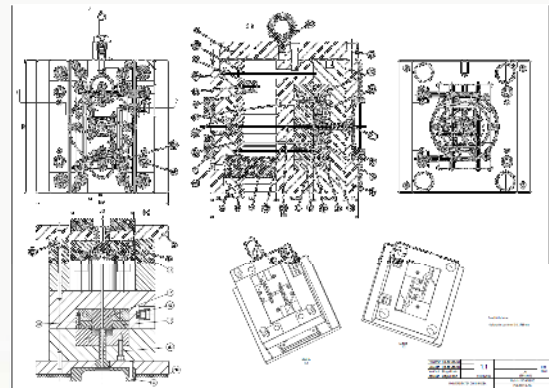


Fig. 18. 2D drawing of the mold assembly

7. COMPUTER-AIDED MANUFACTURING

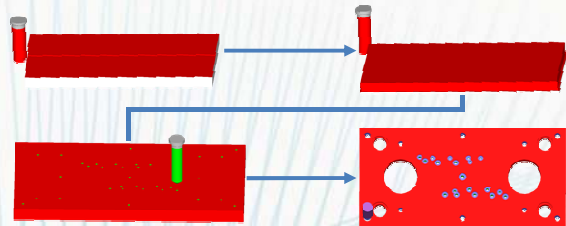


Fig. 19. Ejector carrier plate manufacturing simulation

8. CONCLUSIONS

The plastic injection molding industry reached a very high level of automation. This paper tried to present how all the processes involved in mold manufacturing are automated: the calculation process (CAE) is realized using specialized software, the design of the mold (CAD) is done using CAD programs and assistants from different mold makers and suppliers and the manufacturing process (CAM) is executed using CAM software and CNC machines. The next step in the plastic injection molding industry is introducing sensors in order to monitor the parameters inside the cavity of the mold (especially temperature and pressure). This would make the injection process reach a higher degree of automation.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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