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## QA & Fabrication



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...and much, much more!

## In the News—

# First Digital Optical Comparator

**M**ethods Machine Tools, Inc., is now the exclusive North American distributor of new VisionGauge® Digital Optical Comparators (patent pending). According to the developers, Visionx Inc. of Pointe-Claire, Quebec Canada, the new comparators represent a breakthrough in noncontact comparative measuring technology. Methods will demonstrate, sell, distribute and support the comparators.

### **Packed with Useful Features**

The new VisionGauge Digital Optical Comparators offer many advantages, including the ability to digitally compare a part to its CAD data quickly and easily, with exceptionally high accuracy. This data can also be archived and documented electronically. VisionGauge comparators automatically produce an operator-independent pass/fail result, and display any deviation from specification by comparing a part against bi-directional tolerances at user-specified control points.

The VisionGauge combines the capabilities of an optical comparator, video coordinate measurement machine, machine vision and vision system. Similar to a CMM, the VisionGauge produces highly accurate measurements in both manual and fully automated modes. The comparators feature an extensive set of machine vision tools to carry out pattern matching, color verification, defect detection and more. The high resolution imaging system offers detailed inspection of subjective properties, such as surface finish verification, digital image collection, annotation and electronic distribution.

“By adding VisionGauge Comparators to our line, we are able to offer our customers a highly accurate, cost-effective and easy-to-use non-contact measurement solution,” says Steve Bond, Methods national sales manager. “Due to our broad existing customer base, we are ideally positioned to distribute VisionGauge Comparators.”

“We are pleased to have Methods Machine Tools as our exclusive North American distributor,” says Patrick Beaufhemmin, Visionx president. “Methods has a sterling reputation and a significant number of customers who can benefit from VisionGauge Comparator measuring applications.”

### **Shop Floor Ready**

Portable VisionGauge Digital Optical Comparators, delivered shop-floor ready, are equally suitable for the metrology lab. Fully digital, the new comparators efficiently collect complete digital records of inspections, including images, measurements and other statistical data that are critical for Statistical Process Control (SPC). A wide range of powerful edge detection measurement tools produce sub-pixel accurate readings. Equipped with a barcode reader and joystick interface, the VisionGauge comparators are extremely intuitive



and require only minimal operator training.

VisionGauge Digital Optical Comparators are exceptionally rigid. They feature a high-resolution megapixel digital camera and a low-distortion, wide field-of-view telecentric lens for capturing a high-contrast and geometrically precise part image that can be easily viewed in full daylight. For easy part fixturing, the VisionGauge includes a hard-chrome-plated X-axis stage constructed of hardened tool steel and designed with dual standard dovetail grooves.

Featuring VisionGauge Online Software, comparators project high-resolution video images from the camera, along with a digital CAD data overlay, on a large quad-monitor display. Systems are offered in a small space-saving footprint of only 66" (168cm) long x 20" (51cm) wide.

VisionGauge Digital Optical Comparators are available in industry standard 5X, 10X, 20X, 50X and 100X magnifications. The systems are also available in multi-magnification configurations. Systems are Windows-based and delivered network-ready in shop-floor convenient “rolling cart” set-up.

Visionx Inc. specializes in automated image, visual inspection and high-accuracy measuring solutions. Visionx develops, sells and supports software, systems and specialized hardware components for machine vision, image analysis, visual inspection, general detection and metrology. ■