

# A Process Is Validated

**IN THE SUMMER OF 2001**, I wrote an article for the Electronics Inc. *Abrasive Blast Cleaning News* magazine titled “Blast Cleaning Process Control Using Almen Products.” I had the crazy idea that Almen strips, used in the same way they’re used in shot peening, could monitor a blast cleaning operation—without the plotting of a saturation curve, of course. So it was with great satisfaction when I read Kumar Balan’s review of the top five things his customers were doing right and the use of Almen strips in blast cleaning was on his list.

I concede that my article had nothing to do with it; Kumar notes that the adoption of Almen strips in blast cleaning is happening in facilities that already use the test coupons for shot peening. Still, I’m pleased more and more organizations are discovering that taking the time to closely monitor their blast cleaning operations pays dividends in increased productivity.

Kumar wrote the article from the perspective of someone in the field which is valuable because it is unusual in our industry. *The Shot Peener* staff has a large collection of success stories and interesting applications but can’t publish them due to confidentiality agreements. We appreciate Kumar’s “insider” look at the trends in our industry.

Seasoned shot peening professionals probably wonder why we tackle the same topics again and again from all different angles. The answer is found in the questions we receive from our readers. Many of our readers are new to shot peening and even experienced shot peeners get stumped from time to time. We share some common questions with answers from our staff and other experts on page 18.

If you have a new shot peening technician on your team, hand him Dr. Kirk’s article “Essential Elements of Shot Peening,” starting on page 28. It’s a great primer on shot peening that proves there is more to this process than turning on a machine. Every shot peening technician should be proud of his contribution to a quality procedure.

Speaking of Dr. Kirk, each of his articles could be a chapter in the ultimate shot peening textbook. That’s why we make them easy to find in the online library at [www.shotpeener.com](http://www.shotpeener.com).

And, finally, several of our recent magazines have jumped from 44 to 48 pages. Thank you to all of our advertisers, new and loyal repeat advertisers, that make it possible to share more and more information with the shot peening and blast cleaning community. We appreciate each and every one of you. ●



**JACK CHAMPAIGNE**

## THE SHOT PEENER

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