



OPENING SHOT

Taylor Bowman | Editor | *The Shot Peener*

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Eighty years is a long time for anything to hold its ground in manufacturing. Processes change, materials evolve, and the tools we rely on are constantly being re-considered, which makes the Almen strip's staying power worth noting.

Since John O. Almen filed his patent in 1942, the strip has served as the industry's trusted benchmark for measuring shot peening effectiveness. No knobs, no electronic circuits, no calibration required. It simply responds to the process, honestly and without prejudice. For a field that depends on precision and repeatability, that kind of reliability is rare.

What strikes me most is not just that the Almen strip has endured, but that it continues to invite serious discussion. Questions about accuracy, process verification, and measurement standards are active conversations in the industry right now, not because the tool has failed, but because our standards for precision keep rising. That is a healthy sign.

It also speaks to something broader about shot peening as an industry. We tend to hold onto what works, examine it honestly, and build from there. The professionals I have had the opportunity to learn from approach the work that way, and I think it shows in how the field has developed over time.

As we mark this milestone, I hope it serves as a reminder of what sound engineering looks like: a simple principle, applied consistently, tested rigorously, and trusted because it has earned that trust.

That is a standard worth carrying forward. ●

THE SHOT PEENER

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