

Hunter Highlights

News and Trends of the Automotive Service Industry

Hunter Expands, Upgrades Production to Meet Worldwide Demand

Recent plant expansions and upgrades have increased output and improved efficiencies at Hunter's manufacturing operations in St. Louis and Mississippi. These capital improvements were initiated to match the growing demand for Hunter products in the U.S. and overseas. Today, for example, Hunter's St. Louis plant alone ships approximately 35% of its total product to export destinations.

A second Surface Mount Technology line and X-ray and optical inspection equipment installed at Hunter's Raymond, Mississippi, Electronics Plant have doubled SMT circuit board production capacity. Current production now averages well over 1,000 boards per day.

New welding robotics in Raymond and Durant, Mississippi and a powder coating facility in Durant speed production and enhance quality.

In St. Louis, a Hunter-branded alignment computer line has been implemented and software production expanded.

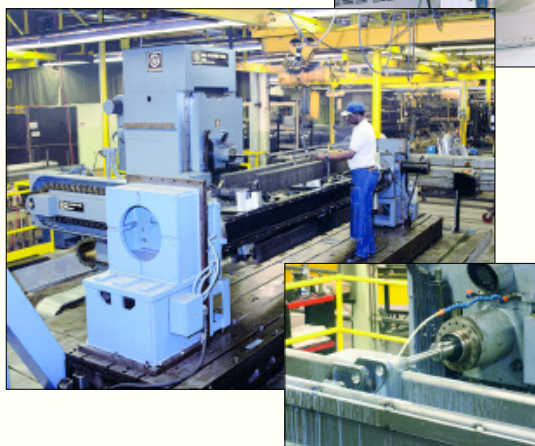
Hunter has also moved production of bench and on-car brake lathes to a new assembly line in Union, Mississippi, along with the tire changer distribution center.



This GSP wheel balancer line in Raymond, Mississippi has been upgraded to handle an increased volume of SmartWeight™ feature-equipped units that are being shipped throughout the world.



Pictured at right, Surface Mount Technology automates circuit board assembly in Raymond, Mississippi.



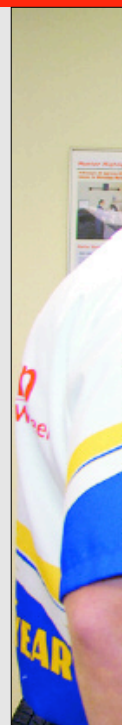
Pictured at far left, A G&L traveling column machine tool increases the speed of production and quality of metal components in Durant, Mississippi. This and other new machinery allow the production of advanced design features not practical with conventional fabrication methods.

At left, freshly powder coated lift rack components are ready for assembly.

Champion Service and Hunter Techn



Rusty Jarrett, Getty Images

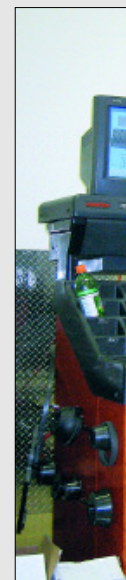


Champion co-fo
features with pr

Champion Tire & Wheel, Inc. was founded by three former Goodyear engineers to provide precision wheel and tire assemblies to NASCAR racing teams for testing and qualifying. Today, with a staff of 50 and a fleet of 15 tractor trailers, the company maintains the racing wheels for all NASCAR Nextel Cup, Busch and Craftsman Truck Series races. At Champion's Cornelius, North Carolina headquarters facility, the company uses Hunter tire changers and the GSP9700 Road Force Measurement® System exclusively to provide its services. Virtually every wheel in these NASCAR events is measured and maintained by Champion technicians using Hunter equipment. Champion then delivers the wheels to the respective teams on race day where they are match-mounted with Goodyear racing tires using the wheel data provided by Champion and the tires' force variation data provided by Goodyear.



Champion technicians use Hunter TC3500 Tire Changers to match-mount all tire and wheel assemblies prepared at their North Carolina facility.



The wheel asse
road force varia



Champion archives and tracks data on every wheel throughout its life. The data is quickly accessed using a bar code scanner.



Technology Keep NASCAR Rolling Smooth



Founders Kevin Mahl, Jamie Rolewicz and Todd Carpenter review the newest Hunter GSP9700 product manager Dave Scribner at Hunter's St. Louis Research & Training Center.



Assemblies are then remeasured for excessive vibration and balanced using eight GSP9700s.



Daily output can reach 1200 match-mounted tire and wheel assemblies, or more than 100,000 per season. These wheel assemblies will be used for testing. Wheels used in races are assembled at the track on the day of the event.



Wheels are maintained, stored and delivered to the track on race day by Champion. Nextel Cup teams may request 60 to 70 tire and wheel assemblies per race.

Microsoft Names Hunter Programmer a "Most Valuable Professional"



Rick Brandt whose career at Hunter has taken him from repair technician to Information Technology Programmer Analyst was recently named a Most Valuable Professional (MVP) by Microsoft Corporation. The award is presented annually to individuals who are exceptional in their support of Microsoft technical communities worldwide. Brandt is a long-time participant in many Internet-based professional newsgroups and forums that exchange information about the application and use of Microsoft software. His contributions were noticed by the Microsoft MVP committee who nominated him for the award. Brandt is currently responsible for programming that integrates the newest information technologies with Hunter's internal data and business management.

Brandt called the award a pleasant surprise. "Professional newsgroups and forums are a great place to get information and find answers," he said. "And, if you hang around long enough you start answering other people's questions."

Hunter Visitors

AMBEST Truck Stops

AMBEST Truck Stops' Director of Service Centers **Tommy Davis** led a group of 26 company service center managers on a facility tour and review of heavy-duty products by Hunter staff.

Hunter Product Manager Pete Liebetreu (far right) demonstrates the Hunter B400T automated brake tester to some of the group members in the Truck & Bus Safety Center.



Continental Tire North America, Inc.

Continental Tire Ford Account Manager **Jeremy Parrott**, West Territory Manager **Chris Willett**, Northeast Territory Manager **Ali Cardenas**, GM & Chrysler Account Manager **Paul Rogers**, Southeast Territory Manager **Kay Hershey** and Southwest Territory Manager **Courtney Harris**, received a comprehensive, two-day review of Hunter's GSP9700 technology at Hunter's St. Louis Research & Training Center.

Pictured from left: Jeremy Parrott, Hunter Product Manager Dave Scribner, Chris Willett, Ali Cardenas, Paul Rogers, Kay Hershey, and Courtney Harris.

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