



Dynamic Milling Q&A

KYOCERA SGS Precision Tools' R&D Engineer Jake Rutherford Tackles The Topic Of Dynamic Milling.

1. What are the major differences between Dynamic Milling (DM) and a conventional offset toolpath and why choose dynamic milling?

A.) One should ask when, not why. Neither is a perfect toolpath for every operation, both have their advantages. There is a lot to consider when deciding between them. The most important of which is machine capability. DM is used for deep axial and light radial cuts and requires a high accel/decel machine with good look ahead capabilities for the code heavy programs (without this you may not get the programmed feed rate). Offset toolpaths are used for heavier step overs and shallower cuts requiring a more robust machine and fixturing, but other capabilities are usually less crucial.

2. What kind of tool would you choose for DM and how would it differ from a tool for an offset toolpath?

A.) If you were to use an offset toolpath, you would commonly use a 2-5 flute tool, because there is varying engagement and the tools with fewer flutes have greater flute spacing and more easily handle chip load. With DM, you would use something with more flutes, like six or seven flute end mills, so a chip thinning approach can be applied to the operation.

3. If you can run a higher feed rate with more flutes, is the highest number of flutes always the best tool option for a DM operation?

A.) Not in every scenario, there is a tradeoff that needs to be balanced. You can run a higher feed rate with more flutes, but more flutes would mean less chip space, forcing you to either decrease the chip load (slowing down your feed rate) or your step over. Insufficient chip space can cause chatter, chip packing, or tool failure/breakage. A high feed rate is great, but a higher feed doesn't always directly correlate to a faster cycle time. Your MRR can be increased, by decreasing your feed and increasing the radial depth of cut. The open flute structure any of our tools designed for dynamic milling allow for increased chip space and radial width of cut at accelerated feed rates.

4. What advantage do chip breakers provide when DM?

A.) The deep axial cuts and the long flute length needed for those cuts result in a long chip that, if not cleared away, can be re-machined causing premature tool chipping/failure (they can also clog up chip augers/conveyers). Chip breakers are added to break those long chips up into shorter, more manageable chips, making them easier to remove them.

5. Is DM the best machining style for all material groups?

A.) I'd say it is less material specific and more feature specific. As mentioned earlier, neither style is perfect for every operation. DM is the best style for deep axial cutting, while an offset toolpath may be best when you have a shallower feature at hand. Some materials are easier to machine than others, but a more machinable material may give you the freedom to take a wider cut or run a higher feed rate. ■

