

PROVING MODULAR BELONGS IN PRODUCTION

Challenge

A major equipment manufacturer came to Bluco's Validation Center with one goal in mind: to replace a dedicated production fixture that could no longer adapt to a new part design. Although it could hold 5 parts, the newest one was much shorter. The challenge: prove that switching to a modular system made sense for a production application.

Bridging the Engineering Gap

The customer had already taken the first step: recognizing workholding as a key element in the manufacturing process. They knew getting it right would have a major impact.

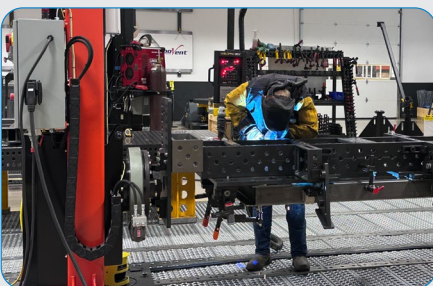
But was modular the right approach? Once CAD models were created, it was determined a modular solution that could hold all six parts would cost LESS than reworking the dedicated fixture to hold one additional part. Plus, it would be available faster than the dedicated fixture could be modified, could adapt to future design changes, and would cut changeover down to 4 quick pin pulls.

Laser projects outlines onto parts in place of physical templates.

Next it was time to test the solution in our Validation Center. Here, the team faced a snag: the customer's alignment templates never made it to the facility. Instead of halting progress, Bluco used in-house *Aligned Vision* laser technology to project the necessary outlines directly onto parts. That not only solved the immediate challenge, but also introduced the customer to a new way to build and verify parts going forward. Once ready to go, ALM positioners and tamper-proof bolts made it easy to rotate parts into position for safer, more comfortable welding.

Projected X-Factor Improvement:

1 FIXTURE. **6** MODELS. **ZERO** COMPROMISE.



TOP: One fixture, 6 models

ABOVE: The team's welder in our VC, trying out the solution first-hand.

The manufacturer worked with Bluco engineers to weld 10 parts in two days, all of which passed rigorous on-site QA/QC tests with flying colors.

The solution's intuitive modular design, push-button positioning, and effortless changeover earned a stamp of approval from the team's seasoned welder. The idea of a future-proof solution that produces flawless finished products appealed to the whole team, ultimately proving that modular solutions ARE production solutions.

RIGHT: Metronor was on-site to provide instant verification that weldments were in tolerance and up to spec.

