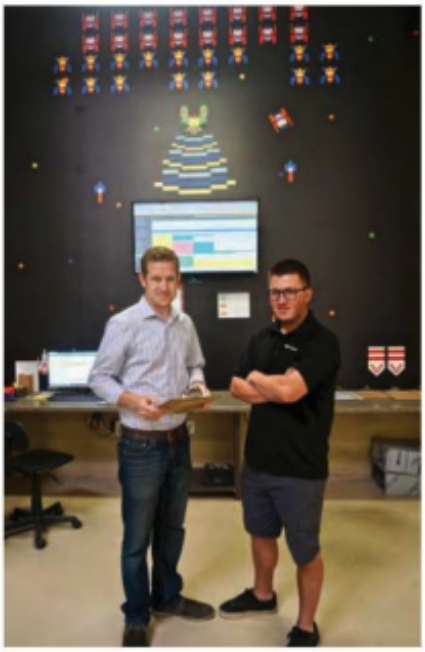
Metzfab Industries

Metzfab Industries Provides Machining And Fabrication And Growth Is Facilitated With Automation

"Bring Manufacturing Back To The USA"



Shortly after the US Government implemented 25% and 10% tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, respectively, business owner Brandon Metzger issued a press release to his customers and to the industry, titled, "Metzfab Industries Stands As A Purveyor of American Manufacturing".

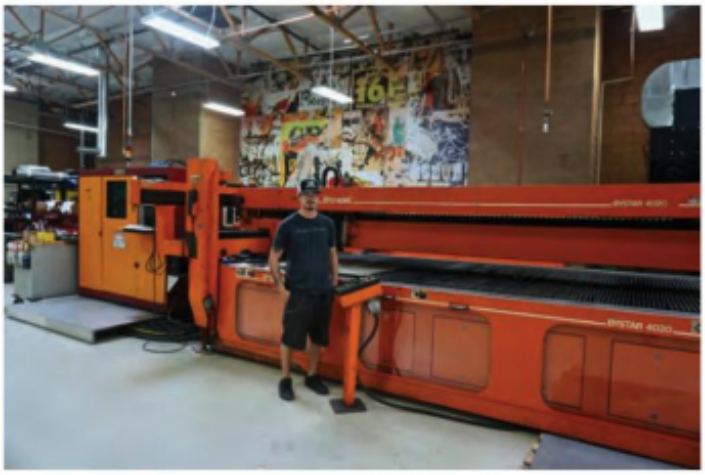
In the press announcement, Brandon comments, "If metal plays a role in your business, these developments are going to affect you, especially if your business is operating in aerospace, military, industrial machinery, architecture and automotive industries. Sadly, these tariffs on steel and aluminum are increasing your manufacturing costs."

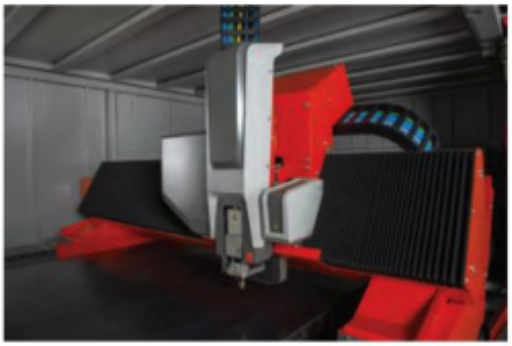
Brandon is passionate about continuing to bring manufacturing back into the United States. "The tariffs on metal imports offer companies here in the US who have outsourced their manufacturing to look once again at bringing it back." "But", he added, "Manufacturers in the United States must do all they can to automate their operations in order to compete."

What is so remarkable about this, you might ask yourself. For one, Brandon is a small precision manufacturer with a dozen or so employees. Owners of these types of manufacturing firms typically do not get involved with marketing, PR, politics, or anything remotely related to Brandon's press release.

Then, lets take it a step further. Brandon will celebrate a decade as a business owner next year, and he hasn't yet hit 30 years of age! You would not guess by his years of experience and entrepreneurial spirit that Brandon is a member of 'Generation Z', the demographic cohort after the Millennials.

Today, Metzfab Industries provides custom metal fabrication and CNC-automated machining for a variety of industries. Based in Phoenix, Arizona, the company supports businesses across the U.S.





Brandon says, "As a contract manufacturer, we pride ourselves on providing high-quality steel, aluminum and stainless steel, acrylic, glass, granite and more components through use of cutting-edge technology to ensure your order's accuracy and on-time delivery. We capitalize on such capabilities as machining, laser cutting, waterjet cutting, welding, bending, band sawing, drilling, counter sinking, threading, tapping and many other processes to manufacture our parts."

Metzfab has morphed over the years, much as Brandon has. Before he was even 20, in fact just shortly after high school, Brandon took out a student loan to go to school to become a helicopter pilot. While his school was, I can only imagine, remarkable (who wouldn't want to become a helicopter pilot?), he graduated in the Recession of the late 2000s, by far the worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Not only were many Americans put out of work, Brandon couldn't find employment as a helicopter pilot.

By the age of 20, Brandon made the decision to open his own business, which he named 'Metzfab'. He had a lot of fabrication equipment that he had acquired over the years from his hobby of working on cars. Metzfab launched as an extension of his hobby, manufacturing automotive accessories (e.g. brackets, chassis, shock mounts, custom rolling chassis, UTV accessories, and more).

Much has changed since the business opened in 2010. Metzfab started in Brandon's garage, and has moved twice since, first to a 4200 square foot building in Deer Valley, and now to its current location, with nearly four fold the footprint (~16,000 square feet).

Brandon says, "Our first move to Deer Valley opened up an entirely new customer base for us; once people saw us or learned about us, they came to Metzfab for job shop fabrication work. We weren't just making our own aftermarket products." He continued, "Over time, we determined that our contract manufacturing/ job shop work was much more aligned with where we wanted the business to grow."

Today, the company offers machining and fabrication (sheet metal and welding) capabilities with the following superior machine tools:

- Waterjet cutting (Flow 5 Axis Waterjet 94K)
- Laser cutting (Bysmart Fiber 6K Laser)
- Machining (Haas DM-2)
- Press Brake (NSB 6 Axis CNC 10'X120 Ton)
- Deburring Machine (LISSMAC SBM-M 2000)
- Finishing Machine (36" Wet Timesaver)
- Hardware Insertion Machine (Pemserter 2000)
- And More.

Chris Hansen, Sales Engineer for Ellison Machinery supporting Metzfab, sold Brandon the Haas DM-2. Chris says, "The DM-2 is a compact, high-speed machining center built with proven components and sub-assemblies. It is identical in construction and specifications to the DM-1, with the addition of 8" of X-axis travel and table length." He adds, "Due to the huge popularity of the lightning-fast DM-1 and DT-1, Haas has created larger versions of those machines for customers wanting more travel to run larger parts."

Brandon says, "When you are planning a machine tool purchase, the machine is one thing. Training, support, and service are another thing." He continued, "I buy my machines from strategic partners, from people I can work well with. I can call Chris at 6 pm at night with questions, and he'll take my call. There are machine tool sales guys out there who can tell you what the machine is called and what it costs. They couldn't run the machine or really give you any pertinent information on how it will work well in your shop — in many cases these are sales people who sell too many products, and they don't really learn any of them. At Ellison, they don't sell products they don't know. Take it another step — the Haas Service Technicians are highly trained and knowledgeable."

I mentioned that Brandon is an advocate of automation. When he purchased the Haas DM-2, he bought it equipped with a Midaco pallet changer and the HRC160 rotary table. Chris says, "The HRC160 is a compact, high-speed rotary table driven by a high-performance roller cam system that provides indexing speeds up to 830°/second. Because the roller drive is preloaded during assembly, the system yields high stiffness, high torque, and high speed values, while providing low wear characteristics and reducing maintenance." He adds, "Midaco is a USA manufacturer of pallet changer systems and robotic systems. With the Haas DM-2, the HRC160, and the Midaco pallet changer, Brandon is able to double the quantity of parts he can machine." Brandon adds, "We get a lot of small batch work which requires multiple set-ups. With our Haas DM-2 set-up, we can run a job all day, and within seconds, slide another job onto the other pallet, and be running the new job immediately."

Brandon says, "With our Haas DM-2, the HRC160, coupled with the Midaco pallet changer, we are able to run efficiently with less machines and less people. Our spindles have a 90% uptime now."

At Metzfab, the entire team is trained to do at least 5 things, Brandon says. "Our efficiency relies upon all machines running - we're not producing parts if the machines are idle. "Brandon also says that with the exception of the fabrication side of Metzfab's business, all machines are able to run lights out.

Chris says, "Brandon runs an extremely efficient business — his people are well trained, and his machines are running at their maximum efficiency."

Metzfab Industries will celebrate 10 years in business next year. If you are looking for an affordable, highly efficient precision manufacturing entity that offers both fabrication and machining, contact them at 602-539-9591, email: SALES@METZFAB.COM or visit their website at metzfabindustries.com

To learn more about the USA designed and manufactured Haas machines, contact Haas Factory Outlet / HFO130, a Division of Ellison Machinery Company, at 480-968-5877 or visit their website at EllisonAZ.com