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new workholding systems for horizontal machining

New towers have been introduced by Roemheld UK for clamping multiple workpieces on the table or pallet of horizontal machining centres. TS towers feature four vertical faces for holding 4, 8 or 16 parts, while TS TriStar versions have three faces for securing 3, 6 or 12 parts. The latter models have the advantage of allowing improved spindle access for machining components from the sides.

All employ a patented guidance and sealing system without the need for sheet metal covers or plastic wipers and the monobloc design provides high stability and accuracy.

There are two sizes of the 4-sided tower, TS 100 and 125, and three of the 3-sided tower, TS 80, 100 and 125 TriStar, the numbers representing jaw width in millimetres. Stroke is up to 476 mm and maximum clamping force ranges from 20 to 40 kN.

Manual operation of the vices delivers reproducible clamping force, which may be low to avoid deforming delicate components, making the towers suitable for a wide variety of applications on the shop floor.

Alternatively, the largest of each type can be equipped for hydraulic operation.

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In the Vector versions of the towers, applicable to all but the smallest TriStar model, a fixed jaw can be arranged in the centre on each face or, if desired, two fixed jaws can be supplied instead. Workpiece weights above 15 kg can be accommodated.

There is also a version of the clamps featuring a so-called 3rd-hand function, which has only one clamping spindle per face that moves both the upper and lower jaws simultaneously towards a fixed jaw positioned in the centre or to one side. It avoids having to juggle two workpieces during the clamping process by retaining the lower workpiece first, allowing the second to be inserted and held with one hand before operating the handle again with the other to finish the clamping of both parts. Maximum workpiece weight using these towers is 15 kg.

An extensive range of accessories including jaws and jaw inserts is available, as are drawings and CAD models of the equipment, an advisory service and bespoke workholding arrangements.

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Two photographs attached:

- 1. A Roemheld TS 100 4-sided tower with 3rd-hand function.
- 2. A twin fixed jaw Vector version of the Roemheld TS 125 TriStar three-sided workholding system.

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