

An o-ring inspection solution within the Elastomer Seals Manufacturing industry using the InspecVision Planar2D

ven before the 1986 NASA Space Shuttle disaster that took the lives of seven crew members, o-ring manufacturers throughout the world have had to place a strong emphasis on the quality of the goods they produce, both in terms of dimensional accuracy and longevity.

Inspection is no longer optional

Ever increasing cost pressures mean that manufacturing processes are pushed to the limit, with the end result being that not all goods produced will meet the customer's form and surface requirements.

Inspection of these parts has now become an essential component of the overall manufacturing process as a means to prevent defects from reaching customers.

The Current O-ring Measurement Methods Cause Are Not Adequate

There are a variety of measuring devices available in the market today that could be used to solve this issue including digital callipers, micrometers and a variety of measuring gauges, tape and cones.



Caliper - An outdated o-rings measuring method

These methods, being very manual, are all relatively low cost items but require both a certain skill level and time. In turn, they are very limited when it comes to testing multiple parts quickly and accurately.

For example, if you manufacture 5,000 parts per hour and you wish to batch test 1% of these (50 pieces), it is easy to see that any of the above mentioned methods

would be very restrictive (and time-expensive).
What if your

customer demands a batch test of 10%? Or even 100%? How feasible are any of the above methods for this kind of demand?

A More Tailored Solution Is Needed

What is needed is an automated high speed system that is tailor made for o-ring inspection. The system should allow an operator to measure multiple o-rings at the same time. The setup and inspection should be as simple as possible, e.g. enter the nominal values and click go.

The measurement process should be high speed, for example, less than one second with a few extra seconds for data processing. The results should then output automatically along with any SPC data. When inspecting multiple o-rings a means to readily identify any failed items should also be provided.

Finally the entire process should ideally happen on the shop floor next to the production machine and the inspection system should be tough enough to withstand the unavoidable vibrations, scratches

and occasional bumps that will follow.

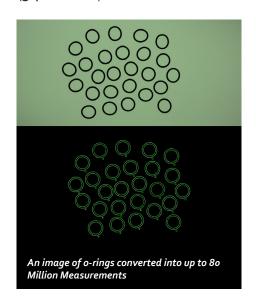
The Planar2D Solution

The Planar2D is an award winning inspection system, and the fastest 2D Inspection System of its kind in the world.

The system can be used for very quickly measuring or reverse engineering parts. The system uses a backlit table and a static high resolution digital camera mounted above the table.

Parts are measured by placing them onto the backlit table and the camera then captures an image of the parts silhouette. This image is then converted into up to 80 million measurements which can then be automatically compared to the CAD file.

The system is non-contact and does not require any jigging or fixtures. This makes it easy to measure flexible materials. The 2D system can also compensate for parts with varying thicknesses, edge profiles and raised sections (gap to table).



Because the system has no moving parts there are no wear items that need maintenance or recalibration. Furthermore

the system can automatically detect when it has suffered trauma and will warn the user that recalibration is required. The table is not affected vibrations or scratches and cracks on its glass surface.

The System Has Been Optimized For The Inspection Of O-rings

The Planar Machine can measure single o-rings or multiple o-rings simultaneously.

As o-rings tend to be highly flexible they will not form a perfect circle when placed on the measurement table, this can make assessment of their true diameter problematic using traditional approaches. To resolve this problem the innovative Planar Software measures the Rings circumference and area to determine its internal and external diameters.

This non-contact approach imparts no stresses or movement on the ring creating a much more accurate system than alternative contact measurement approaches.

A Highly Automated System

The setup time to inspect o-rings is extremely small. The user must simply enter the nominal diameter and cross section values and click OK. In 0.1 seconds the system will measure hundreds or even thousands of o-rings at a time, at 12 microns. The measured values will then be compared to their nominal values and the results will

be output, this can take a further 20 seconds. The system then help you identify which o-rings have failed by overlaying the results onto an image of the measurement

table. It is even possible to use an additional projector to project red onto the failed o-rings and green onto passed ones.

Because the system has no moving parts there are no wear items that need maintenance or recalibration. Furthermore the system can automatically detect when it has suffered trauma and will warn the user that recalibration is required.

Gaskets, 3D and Reverse Engineering

The Planar system can also be used to inspect any flat 2D item such as a gaskets or rigid rings and seals or even cross sections of rings. In this mode the software can automatically extract the parts nominal shape, dimensions and tolerances from its CAD file. A barcode scanner or a single click is all that is needed to perform an automatic inspection removing the need for any time consuming setup period. The system can also reverse engineer any flat item in a matter of seconds allowing you to cut copies of gaskets while the

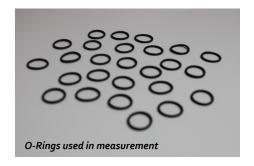


customer waits.

It is also possible to retrofit full 3D scanning using our Opti-Scan option. The Opti-Scan can be used to inspect 3D items by comparing the 3D point clouds to a 3D solid model or to reverse engineer 3D parts into a 3D solid model.

Planar2D Inspection Report

See figures 1, 2 and 3 for a sample Deviation Map, Inspection Report and Inspection Report Diagram for o-rings.



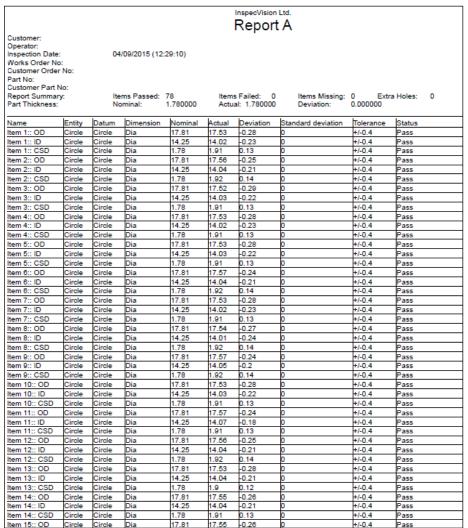


Figure 1: O-ring Inspection Report

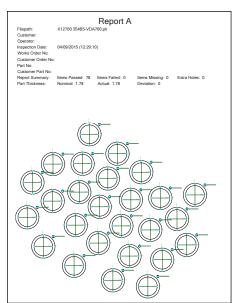


Figure 2: O-ring Inspection Diagram

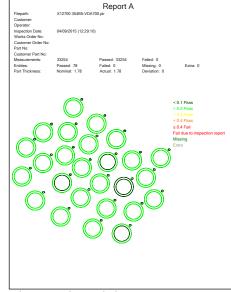


Figure 3: O-ring Deviation Map

The Planar is the world's fastest 2D measuring system. The Planar2D measurement system has a large range of sizes accuracies.

For more information on how InspecVision systems can help you please contact our team at **marketing@metrology-direct.com**

