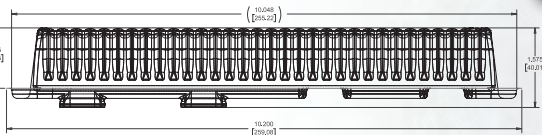


Prent Corporation's Award-winning Synergy Plate Tote Tray Design



Prent Recognized as A Global Leader in Electronic Packaging with AmeriStar Award

Prent Corporation recently won recognition from the Institute of Packaging Professionals with an AmeriStar award for providing an electronic packaging solution for its customer Medtronic. AmeriStar awards honor outstanding package design innovations every year.

Medtronic was looking for a packaging solution to an outdated transportation and automation tote made from a three-piece, injection-molded system, so they approached Prent with these two requirements: (1) safely and effectively transport 30 fragile, glass components; and (2) seamlessly integrate it into the automation process.

Prent designer Austin Schweda provided a solution with a single part that can function as the top or the bottom of the tote. When interfaced with itself, it provides a safe and effective tote. When reflected onto itself, the single, asymmetrical part is snapped into place, safely housing the fragile glass components. Utilizing tight-fitting radii and challenging drafts, the tote provides sufficient protection for the glass components.

“The key to this design is usability—so an operator can load and unload the fragile plates and maintain product security,” says Prent Sales Representative Thomas Diedrick.

Prent has won a total of 14 AmeriStar Awards since 1992. To learn more about Prent’s award-winning designs, visit prent.com.

Prent Janesville Achieves ISO 13485:2016 Certification

Prent Janesville recently achieved ISO 13485:2016 certification status.

ISO 13485:2016 is a standard that focuses on the importance of the life cycle of a medical device.

The standard is designed to assist organizations like Prent in focusing management systems and practices on strengthening their risk management approach and meeting regulatory requirements.

This certification is a natural step for Prent Janesville because it builds on Prent’s strong Quality Management System (QMS) platform—where most of the ISO requirements for medical devices are already being met.

It also shows Prent’s dedication to supplying packaging fully compliant with international ISO requirements in the medical device sector.

All of Prent’s facilities are ISO 9001 and/or ISO 13485 certified.

What It Means for Prent Customers

ISO 13485:2016 certification helps to ensure that Prent Corporation:

- Has products that consistently meet customer requirements
- Takes a risk management approach to product development and realization
- Is in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements
- Has effective product traceability and recall systems
- Has validation of processes in place

For more information about Prent’s certifications, visit prent.com.



prent.com



Prent Janesville Staff Celebrates Perfect Safety Record

On August 12, Prent Janesville employees celebrated a perfect safety record during the month of July with cheese curds and sundaes from the Rock County Dairy Trailer. Every month, Prent Janesville recognizes its employees for their safety efforts in different ways.

If you want to become a part of the team at Prent's Headquarters in Janesville, visit prent.com/careers or the Prent Corporation Facebook page for a list of upcoming job fairs and on-site interviews.

GOEX Rail Spur Addition Helps Increased Demand

GOEX recently completed a \$400,000 expansion to an existing rail spur that added 700 linear feet of new track to the rail infrastructure at its manufacturing plant in Janesville, WI. Over the last year, as we transitioned to a nation of stay-at-home households and online shoppers, we have been consuming more food in all forms of packaging—from ordering groceries online, to buying to-go food from restaurants, to utilizing delivery services such as EatStreet, Uber Eats, and Doordash.

As a result, GOEX has seen an increased demand for the plastic products it produces for to-go food packaging. That, coupled with the return of elective medical procedures requiring medical device packaging, has driven the requirements for more train cars of production materials, according to GOEX President and CEO Joshua Gray.

Gray says as GOEX's production output over the last year has grown and become more varied, so has the need to bring in by rail more and different types of plastic pellets that are ultimately converted into various plastic sheet products.

And, GOEX needs the additional space to move around train cars to accommodate different jobs at the Janesville manufacturing plant.

"Because we're pulling so many varied products off the rail, it helps with the flexibility of the inventory control to be able to put different materials in another sequence on two separate tracks," Gray said.

Excerpted from The Janesville Gazette.

To learn more about GOEX Corporation's expansion, visit www.goex.com.

Visit Prent at these
2021-22 TRADE SHOWS

 **MD&M EAST** » **Medical Design & Manufacturing East**

New York, New York
December 7-9, 2021

 **HealthPack** » **HealthPack**

Atlanta, Georgia
March (TBA) 2022

 **MD&M WEST** » **Medical Design & Manufacturing West**

Anaheim, California
April 12-14, 2022

Prent China Holds Team Building Activities

Prent China held two sets of mini in-house team building activities on August 20 and 27 in both of its facilities. Almost 400 employees participated and enjoyed the highly creative games, including a watermelon eating contest, carrying paper cups overhead, and more. The fun activities helped everyone enjoy getting to know one another better, allowing for improved communication and morale.

Prent China recently formed a new employee activity committee that includes younger team members from Generation Z who have already contributed new, creative ideas for activities. Prent China believes this will help promote the cultivation of employee friendships and enhance teamwork and productivity.



PRENT

Profiles

Get to Know Your Prent Representative

Henrik Jacobsen began at Prent Denmark as a design and tool engineer in 2016. He was promoted to Senior Design and Tool Engineer in 2019 and to Design Manager in 2021. He guides the design department and travels with the sales team explaining Prent's core competencies and giving Prent 101 educational presentations

Jacobsen was born and raised in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he learned information technology (IT) support on his own. Prior to Prent, he lead an IT support team at the Swiss headquarters of Ferring Pharmaceuticals, among other jobs. At age 30, he decided to study mechanical engineering and graduated with a degree in the discipline in 2011.

He really enjoys working at Prent Denmark where all the steps of a project are performed in-house—from art to part. Seeing a design he works with come alive in production and the first parts packed and shipped to Prent's customers is very satisfying. Jacobsen says it makes him happy to think about how important Prent's products are to end users, such as a surgical patient who needs a medical device for which Prent ensures its packaging is designed in a safe and intuitive way.

Outside of work, he has many passions, including “wrenching on old stuff” like cars, motorbikes, mountain bikes, and bicycles, and then riding them. Jacobsen and his family of three, along with a dog named Ludo (like the board game) and a couple of cats, moved to a farm house in June near Prent Denmark. It has nine acres and a barn that he dreams about making into his new garage.



HENRIK JACOBSEN

Design Manager
Prent Denmark

FUN FACT: *When Henrik was in school with little money, he used to sit as a hair model for hours. “Hey, it was a free haircut, and a nice one most of the time,” he said.*



Prent China Organizes Technical Training for Staff

In July, Prent China's Design, QA, and Manufacturing Engineering staff learned ways to experimentally manipulate variables, and provide an efficient, economical means to reach valid and relevant conclusions about a process. Through the Design of Experiment course, 17 trainees explored how to further optimize new processes and the introduction of new projects.



Prent Janesville and GOEX Enjoy Summer Golf Outing

64 Prent employees and 23 GOEX employees enjoyed a fourth annual golf outing in Janesville in August. Participants enjoyed 18 holes, lunch at the Janesville Country Club, hole prizes and some fun in the sun! Pictured at left, from left to right, are Chad Lette, Sarah Rogers, Janelle Schweighardt, Gio Piccione, Cheri Fuerstenberg, and Chad Cleasby.



Prent Baja Hires Staff and Hosts Team Building Event

Prent Baja recently welcomed to its team Antonio Saldivar as Logistics Coordinator and Victor Suarez as Lead Quality Associate.

Prent Baja also held a summer team building event (pictured at left) in August 2021 in the Valle de Guadalupe, Baja California, Mexico.



Prent Malaysia 95% Vaccinated Against COVID Virus

Prent Malaysia invited all employees to participate in the Public-Private Partnership Industrial Covid-19 Immunisation Programme initiated by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry to advance vaccinations for the manufacturing sector. 83% of Prent Malaysia employees benefited from this effort. Currently 95% of Prent Malaysia employees are fully vaccinated.

Prent Flagstaff Raises Funds to Fight Cancer

Prent Flagstaff participated in the Climb to Conquer Cancer, hosted by the American Cancer Society on August 21. This year, due to the impacts of the coronavirus, the course was modified so that participants could walk 2.5 miles up Snow Bowl road and then turn around and walk 2.5 miles down with about a 600 foot elevation change. It started at 7,400 feet elevation and participants turned around at 8,000 feet.

In years past, participants walked up to the Snow Bowl Ski Resort, which is seven miles with a 2,000 foot elevation change—starting from 7,400 feet elevation and finishing at 9,500 feet. Prent had a total of 38 participants who contributed over \$1,500 to the event, which raised \$100,000 for cancer research and treatments.



Prent Janesville Vice Presidents Look Back Fondly On 30 Years of Service

Vice Presidents Chris Bladl and Don Handrow have witnessed a great deal of change and progress at Prent since they were hired in 1991 in the Product Development department.

“When I started the only facility was Prent Janesville, so, to see the tremendous amount of growth globally has been awesome,” Bladl said. “And, the facilities in Janesville have never stopped growing and evolving throughout my career.”

Retrospectively, Prent Corporation added its first satellite in Arizona in 1993 and has grown to 10 vertically integrated thermoforming facilities around the globe during their tenure.

Both VPs say they have gained a great deal while working at Prent and agree their employment has matched their interests and backgrounds well.

“I have gained an understanding that the employees and customers with whom I work each day are the most important part of a job,” Handrow said. “I have also enjoyed the opportunity to problem-solve in my career at Prent.”

“When a customer comes to us with a product that needs to be packaged, I love to see the creative solutions the team at Prent comes up with,”

Handrow said. “The group we have designing is extremely talented and the solutions they develop are second to none.”

Bladl says Prent has given him lifelong friendships all over the world, as well as the resources and the opportunity that allowed him to have a life-changing career within a single company.

Bladl feels Prent has been a perfect fit. “I have loved designing and solving technical problems while working on many different projects as part of a team of great people,” Bladl said. “I have also really enjoyed the customer contact and project management components of the job. You put that all that together and my time at Prent has just flown by!”

Although it is difficult to pick just one favorite project over the last 30 years, Bladl says the Intel Flip/Chip project is one he worked with Intel on almost nine months to develop and qualify three new trays that would replace an injection molded version of the trays. “To do this we needed to achieve tolerances never thought possible in thermoforming. It also required me to travel to our Malaysia facility with the Intel engineer responsible for the

project and spend two weeks working with our Malaysia team to implement it. It was such a huge effort between the team here in Prent Janesville, Prent Malaysia, and Intel,” Bladl said.

Bladl has been to all but two of Prent’s global facilities while Handrow has been to them all. Of his favorite Prent project, Handrow says, “I have been involved in so many that it is hard to name one, but any of those projects that resulted in WorldStar awards for either me, or our designers, have been memorable.”

What is on their wish lists for the next several years at Prent? “I wish that everyone gets as much out of working at Prent as I have gotten from my time here,” Handrow said.

“I hope to finish my career here at Prent,” Bladl said. “And, I’d like to continue to grow Product Development so Prent is in a position to give other young professionals the opportunities that I have had.”

Neither VP can believe 30 years have passed since they were hired.

“I can’t really wrap my head around the fact that it has been 30 years,” Bladl said. “What more could you ask for from a career than to look back and feel like you just started?”



Sara Lemke Leaves a Personal Legacy at Prent

Q: What year did you start at Prent?

A: 1993. We were just opening the Flagstaff plant. Finance was struggling to report a separate location. Now, we have multiple locations around the world, each reporting back to Prent's headquarters in Janesville in a seamless, standardized format.

Q: What did you do before working at Prent?

A: Before coming to Prent, I was a divisional controller reporting to "corporate" in New Jersey. As far as I was concerned, "corporate" was full of totally unreasonable and misguided requests. I never wanted to be that kind of "corporate." Two years ago, we had a global finance meeting here in Janesville and I could not have been prouder of the finance folks participating. The sense of teamwork, the pride in their work, their knowledge and dedication ... I'll remember all those things and take pride in establishing the Prent finance structure that we have today."

Q: How did Prent help you in your career development?

A: Prent was just a small, local company when I started. Almost every single system or procedure we have in place in Finance was developed during my tenure. I've learned so much over the years, it's hard to even explain.

Because of Prent, I have been able to travel internationally, which (for those of you who have done it) is an eye opening experience. And again, I go back to the sense of teamwork. It is just awesome when you're in a Prent board room overseas working through a particular issue with your partners. Every Prent employee, no matter where they are, is a gem.

Q: What did you find most challenging at Prent?

A: Every single day is different. And, what you thought was on your agenda for the day is not how the day turns out. Four years ago I took on responsibility for Human Resources, which was a whole new learning experience. Then along came COVID—wow! Our HR team was put to the test and they surmounted every challenge they faced while always staying focused on our employees.

Q: What is your proudest moment at Prent?

A: There are too many to list, but the awesome comments I've received when I announced my retirement are heartwarming. It's nice to know you've made an impact here or there.

PRENT

People

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

35-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Scott Kersten Janesville

30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Christopher Bladl Janesville

20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Tan Siew Keng Malaysia
 Zunaidah Binti Md Malaysia
 Purna Prasad Roka Malaysia
 Nazri Bin Sait Malaysia
 Normi Bin Yahya Malaysia

15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Michael Abbott Janesville
 Al Muhazam Shah Bi Malaysia
 Rajesh Prasad Chau Malaysia
 Deepak Kumar Chaud Malaysia
 Dominique DeCosta Janesville
 Sandra Harnack Janesville
 Bharat Koirala Malaysia
 Sanju Loktam Malaysia
 Michael Mauldin Flagstaff
 Gan Eng Shong Malaysia
 Ganesh Bahadur Tha Malaysia
 Seven Zhang Shanghai

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Shengfang Cao Shanghai
 Jill Fritz Janesville
 Esperanza Godinez Janesville
 Heather Gudeyon Janesville
 Kyo Li Shanghai
 Ronghui Pan Shanghai
 Jackie Roberts Janesville
 James Shontz Flagstaff
 Alexis Taylor Janesville
 Apple Wang Shanghai
 Zhongzheng Wu Shanghai
 Alice Yao Shanghai
 Xiuhong Zhan Shanghai
 Lei Zhang Shanghai
 Liu Zhang Shanghai
 Qin Zhang Shanghai

5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mohd Rashid Bin Ab Malaysia
 Janak Bhusal Malaysia
 Jakub Bryant Janesville
 Sandra Christner Janesville
 Kerry Cooper Janesville
 Durgesh Dimdung Malaysia
 Thomas Hitchcock Janesville

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- » Prent VPs Look Back on 30 Years
- » Prent Janesville Celebrates Perfect Safety
- » GOEX Expands Rail Line



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PRENT

People

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5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY *continued*

Yamraj Karki	Malaysia
Eileen Kilburg	Janesville
Jack Shelton	Janesville
Eric Steurer	Janesville
Denise Sutton	Janesville
Furba Tamang	Malaysia

A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR RETIREES

Joe Barrett » Tool Storage

4/12/06–9/1/21 Joe plans to keep busy with his new grandchild, home improvement projects, and his new fishing gear.

Janet Brey » Inspector/Packer

5/19/14–8/26/21

Prent Seal Nest Tools Benefit Customers with Increased Speed to Market

The process of designing the perfect package to meet a customer's unique needs begins in Prent's product development departments where award-winning design teams work with the latest technology to transform a package vision into reality. Prent also offers secondary services, such as seal nest tooling, to address an extensive range of automated, robotic, and custom processes.

"The main purpose of a seal nest tool is to locate a thermoform tray loaded with customer product within the sealing die," according to Prent Product Development Engineer Kevin Polacek. "A lidding material—usually Tyvek—is placed on top of a thermoform, which is located by spring pins in the seal nest tool. The tray is then sealed with lidding material by a heated pressure plate using time, temperature, and pressure. Heat from the pressure plate then activates the coating applied to the lidding material which is pressed onto the thermoform and supported by a silicone gasket and is custom fit to a tray's seal area," Polacek said.

Customers Benefit with Increased Speed to Market

Prent can parallel the tool build and design processes with a typical lead time of four to five weeks, explains Polacek. This includes custom silicone gaskets, hard coat anodizing, full tool assembly, and a part fitment check.

"Seal nest tools are machined inhouse which ensures that, on new projects, there is no delay in the sealing operations when a customer's production trays arrive," he said.

Fun Fact: Prent's 2021 holiday package features sealing attributes that it added using an inhouse designed and produced seal nest tool.

"If changes are required on the thermoform tray, we can modify the seal nest tool since it has all relevant information."

Many of the largest medical device customers in the world utilize Prent for seal nest tool build requests that have included several types of seal machines, along with rotary style sealers. "Prent also builds seal nest tools for its customers with other sealing needs including prototype seal nest tools for alternate projects. We are willing to assist customers in every facet of their business with customized solutions to ensure their success," Polacek said.

Prent Seal Nest Tooling Saves Time and Money

Instead of finding outside vendors or suppliers to create a seal nest tool, Prent can provide this service as an extension of an existing project. And, customers get to keep the seal nest tool. "Once the tool build is complete, it is delivered to the customer. From there, it can be continuously used. The only expendable item is our outsourced sealing gasket, of which additional parts can be easily ordered off of the existing molds," he said.

The process starts with a conversation between Prent's customers and its sales team. Customers supply basic information and Prent creates a preliminary assembly in its SolidWorks CAD software to present to the customer. Upon approval, final blueprints are issued and the tool build can begin. If you are interested in seal nest tooling for your business, email sales@prent.com.

