

CNC Machines

What is CNC?

CNC stands for computer numerical control. A CNC machine is a manufacturing tool that uses computer instructions to make a part. There are three main types of CNC machines.

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Plasma Cutter Table

- Uses an electric arc and a compressed gas to cut two dimensional parts.
- The machine creates an arc between the nozzle of the tool and the workpiece to melt the specified area.
- Then gas is forced through a small nozzle to blow away the melted material.



CNC Lathe

- Uses a chuck to clamp onto the workpiece and actually spin the workpiece itself.
- Uses cutting tools that are held up to the rotating workpiece to carve away material, leaving a finished part.
- Can only make symmetrical and cylindrical parts.
- Uses a tool changing system known as a turret to swap between cutting tools.

CNC Mill

- Uses a vice to clamp the workpiece.
- Uses a rotating cutting tool to form parts.
- The CNC Mill is capable of making parts that aren't symmetrical or cylindrical.
- Typically use an automatic tool changer to keep the process more efficient.

