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# Bending in tandem

A tandem, high-tonnage press brake doubles a fabricator's production capacity

**P**roudly American-owned and operated, Vicon Fabricating Co. in Mentor, Ohio, has built a reputation for heavy-duty steel fabrication, specializing in long lengths, thick gauges and precise repeatability. Working with both domestic and foreign high-strength steels, the company produces components that meet the toughest strength and performance standards.

When growing demand began to push the limits of its metal forming capacity, Vicon turned to its trusted partner, Cincinnati Inc. (CI). The result was a new 40-ft. 2,500-ton press brake system that expanded capability and effectively doubled production, further solidifying Vicon's reputation as a source for forming long, heavy components.

### **Fabricating expertise**

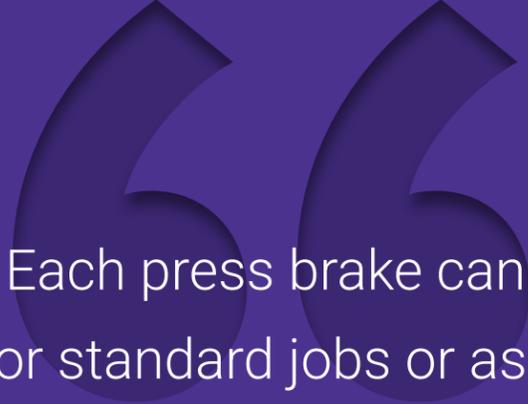
Operating from two northern Ohio facilities totaling more than 130,000 sq. ft., Vicon is built for

large-scale, high-precision fabrication. Multiple plants handle a full range of metal fabrication and secondary operations, delivering the consistency and responsiveness customers have come to expect.

Over the years, Vicon has built up its customer base, serving a growing list of OEMs. The company's customers produce a range of products in a variety of industry segments, including heavy truck and trailer chassis, utility poles, conveyors, trains, construction fabrications and other formed steel components for demanding mobile and industrial applications. Vicon also provides replacement frames, repair services and custom fabrications for in-service vehicles and equipment.

Vicon's lineup of equipment includes:

- 4,000-ton, 50-ft. CNC CI press brake
- 2,500-ton, 40-ft. CNC CI press brake with backgauge >



Each press brake can operate independently for standard jobs or as a synchronized tandem system for long, heavy parts that require precise, multi-point bending.

- 750-ton, 26-ft. CNC press brake with backgauge
- Two high-definition plasma machines for cutting up to 50 ft.
- Three 6-kW laser cutting machines for cutting up to 50 ft.
- CNC Beatty punch press
- Dual CNC drilling machines

Vicon also boasts an in-house shot blast and powder coat line that provides a finished product for many of the company's OEM customers' products. This broad capability allows Vicon to deliver the durability, precision and repeatability essential to its customers' success.

### The growth solution

To address Vicon's increased production forecast, an investment in two CI 1,250-ton Proform press brakes configured in tandem provides the company the capacity it needs for up to 40-ft.-long CNC forming.

This addition created a flexible, long-bed system capable of handling everything from short-run to production components. Each press brake can operate independently for standard jobs or as a synchronized tandem system for long, heavy parts that require precise, multi-point bending. Together, they provide:

- Extended forming length for large assemblies
- High tonnage per foot for thicker materials
- Faster cycle times with synchronized hydraulic control
- Intelligent CNC systems for accuracy and repeatability

The configuration lets operators run two short jobs or one long one without interrupting workflow. CI's touchscreen controls make switching modes quick and intuitive, optimizing utilization across shifts and keeping production moving.

### The only choice

Vicon's partnership with CI spans more than two decades and is built on performance, reliability and responsive service. As a result, other options were not even considered

when the time came to add a new press brake. Cincinnati was always on the radar to supplement the company's first 50-ft. press brake, which was installed 26 years earlier – the largest CI had ever built. >



*The two Cincinnati 1,250-ton Proform press brakes at Vicon Fabricating feature backgauges for repeatable, accurate bending. When configured in tandem, the press brakes can handle 40-ft.-long CNC forming.*

That confidence extends beyond the equipment. According to Vicon, not enough can be said about the CI service team's responsiveness and knowledgeable attention to keep the

press brakes running smoothly. When forming long, heavy parts on tight deadlines, the support team is critical to maintain production with minimum downtime. >



↑ *The beauty of Vicon's tandem system is that the two press brakes can work in synchronization or independently. Switching between the two setups is made easy thanks to Cincinnati's easy-to-use software.*

“The combination of higher tonnages with longer beds allows operators to move large and complex jobs through the department at unprecedented speed.”

## Capacity doubled

With the new tandem system fully online, forming capacity has effectively doubled. But it was not just the company's capacity that was affected by the investment – the entire workflow was transformed.

The combination of higher tonnages with longer beds allows operators to move large and complex jobs through the department at unprecedented speed. Lead times have shortened, scheduling is more flexible, and the company can

respond faster to both large OEM orders and one-off repair jobs.

## Built for the future

For steel fabricators, success depends on speed, precision and reliability. By investing in CI's 1,250-ton Proform tandem press brakes, Vicon ensured its forming operations can keep pace with increasing demand while maintaining the accuracy that defines the company's reputation.

Vicon's long-standing partnership with CI is grounded in decades of trust, performance and a shared commitment to American manufacturing. Together, the companies have created a production environment that sets the standard for precision, quality and responsiveness.

The addition of the new press brakes has added capacity, boosted throughput and elevated accuracy across every project. Yet for Vicon, it represents a strategic investment in

sustainable growth and confirmation of the company's ongoing pursuit of continuous improvement. ■



↑ *Ease of use is a major focus at Cincinnati. Its touchscreen HMI was designed for the full range of operators – new hires and long-term employees alike find it intuitive and quick to learn.*

CINCINNATI INC. →

VICON FABRICATING CO. →