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## CNC Manufacturing Gaps Have a Sky Hook Solution

Aided by CAD, CAM, and a team of well-trained professionals, CNC machines bring machining and manufacturing to life, automating much of the process to become as refined and streamlined as possible. While this streamlined system is a great asset to any company, these systems are not without gaps, many of which are left to the operator to fill.

While the design of the CNC machine has many refinements, for the operator, lifting tooling and materials in and out of the work space is no cake walk. This problem is nothing new, though still to this day the solutions most commonly integrated are far from adequate for daily operation. When management and project leads come together to find solutions, legitimate ideas are brought to the table, even with little regard for overall cost as they know the health and safety of their shop floor operators are of the utmost concern. As a result, overhead gantry systems, fork lifts, die carts, A-frames, and large jib cranes are brought in to be all-encompassing solutions for manufacturing facility material handling. The question then is, does this actually work?

Generic, large, and usually way over-rated lifting solutions are just that. The problem for the operators is not that these solutions couldn't do the work, but that they're not realistic. In manufacturing facilities, space is a premium leaving little room to safely move a fork lift or mobile A-frame lift into position. Large floor-mounted jibs might provide a solution for two to three lifting applications in a tight workspace, but they're locked to that position becoming very expensive, limited use tools. Overhead gantry hoists, alternatively, are good space savers providing universal lifting for large work spaces, though they, too, come with many limitations in electrical and ducting conflicts, limited single-person use, and are a major hit to the project budget. They also provide surprisingly little use to operators needing to make periodic lifts of relatively lightweight loads, which still pose risks of serious lifting injuries. To further the problem, these cranes often require a person with crane certification to use as well. The right solution needs to be small, portable, lightweight, and easy-to-operate. It should be an operator's companion, easily accessible, and ready to do the job.

The Sky Hook lifting device is that very solution. Moving away from lifts that are bigger, more complex, and rated for extreme loads, the Sky Hook brings the focus back to the operators and the very needs they have at their work station on a daily basis. The CNC operator doesn't need to make a 2-ton overhead lift to complete their job. The operator is concerned about lifting the 85-pound tooling from the storage shelf onto the mill table inside the machine cabinet without hurting her back. The Sky Hook is a small, portable lift, capable of precision lifting up to 500 pounds. It is a completely manually operated with no need for connections to outside power sources.



Learn more about the Sky Hook lifting solution at [WWW.SKYHOOKMFR.COM](http://WWW.SKYHOOKMFR.COM) or by calling 800-475-9466.