

Made in NW Illinois

SPOTLIGHTING MANUFACTURING IN
CARROLL & JO DAVIESS COUNTIES

FORSTER PRODUCTS, INC



**FORSTER[®]
PRODUCTS**
Straight shooters



HITTING THE MARK

Over 80 years ago, Bob Forster and his brother Henry designed and sold the first commercially available model airplane engines from their basement in Forest View, IL. They began utilizing their precision machining equipment to create ammunition handloading products for their favorite hobby of rifle shooting and hunting. Relocating to Lanark, IL in 1946, the brothers then introduced the first miniature lathe Case Trimming system for gunsmiths and reloaders.

The line quickly swelled to include a full complement of tools for firearms enthusiasts, and by 1985, Forster bought the Bonanza line of tools from the Purdie family in Faribault, MN, and moved all related machinery and fixtures to expand their operations in Lanark. Today, Forster Products manufactures precision tools for handloading very accurate rounds of ammunition.

Handloading refers to the process of combining cartridge cases with bullets, powder, and primers. The tools that Forster manufactures enable individuals, from competition rifle shooters to U.S. Armed Forces sharpshooters to hunters in search of extreme accuracy, to make the exact ammunition that they need. Forster also produces headspace gauges and a variety of other gunsmithing equipment which are critical in keeping firearms accurate throughout their lifespans.





Highschoolers from Lena-Winslow High in Lena, IL toured Forster Products as part of their Manufacturing Day experience on April 6, 2022. That day Forster Products joined with other manufacturers for the NWILED event by opening their doors to students to help to foster interest in manufacturing careers.

The current owners of Forster Products, Pete Alber and Don Benning, operate plants in both Lanark and Freeport, IL. One hundred percent of their tools are proudly designed and manufactured in the United States. The 30 staff members that are employed at Forster are given great flexibility within their jobs ranging from production and operation to customer service, product development, and design. In addition to these employees, Forster works closely with a small advisory panel called ProStaff which is made up of accomplished shooters, reloaders, and gunsmiths whose input helps to improve upon and develop gunsmithing and reloading products.

Forster products are mainly distributed in the United States and Canada, they also have distributors all over Europe, Asia, and Africa. They work with a network of suppliers in Illinois who are experts in metalworking and have formed alliances with many other businesses in the Midwest.

Forster's company culture focuses on the needs of both customers and employees. They have built their business and reputation on quality products, great customer service, and fair prices. Forster Products is committed to working hard to ensure that the products they design meet their customer's high expectations for excellence, now and in the future.

Contact Details

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"Forster Products is the home of the world's finest gunsmithing and reloading tools."

Bob Ruch, CEO

