Spin welding, also referred to as rotary friction welding, is the joining technology of choice when assembling spherically or cylindrically shaped thermoplastic parts.

In spin welding, one part, which has a circular cross section at the weld interface, is rapidly spun against its mating part which is held stationary in a nest fixture. The resulting heat that is generated by the combination of spinning action and friction brings the plastic material to its melt point and fuses the two parts together, producing a strong and impervious seal. Hermetic seals are also attainable depending upon the materials used and the weld joint configuration.

While spin welding works with all thermoplastics, and can accommodate virtually any diameter part, it is particularly suited for crystalline resins such as polyethylene and polypropylene.
Sonics offers two standard Spin Welder stands or presses

- Model 1010 features a fixed, vertical opening that provides 10" (254 mm) of space between the drive head bearing and the nest fixture platen.
- Model 1020 offers an adjustable space opening from 10"-20" (254 - 508 mm).

Both models are designed to accommodate a wide range of application tooling and allow for easy part loading and unloading.

Power Supplies

Sonics’ Spin Welders are powered by a PLC logic-controlled power supply, and the system’s single or two-stage cycle mode, time-based weld settings and rpm adjustments are made through the PLC’s front panel operator interface.

Custom Equipment Configurations

Sonics’ spin welding equipment can be designed to meet application-specific requirements. Typical customizing may include: horizontal units for long extrusions; added throat depth and/or increased horsepower for large diameter parts; reverse anvil models to accommodate turntables and conveyors; and customer-preferred system component specifications.

Spin Welding Tooling

The Drive Head, the tool that holds the part to be spun, is attached to the drive bearing of the spin motor. Typically, Drive Heads are fabricated from aluminum and are either two-piece, compression spring loaded for single-stage spin welding or, are cast with a urethane core for vacuum-assisted, two-stage spin welding. The Nest Fixture is the tool that holds the stationary part in a fixed (non-rotating) position during the welding process. It is attached to the tooling platen directly beneath – and opposite – the drive head. Nest Fixtures are typically made of aluminum and occasionally require pneumatic or mechanical clamping to prevent the plastic part from “spinning out” during the weld cycle.

Torque Ranges

Depending on the composition of the thermoplastic material and the diameter of the part to be spin welded, Sonics offers the following continuous duty electric drive motors (listed in the table below) as standard on either the Model 1010 or Model 1020 stand:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>Low Torque Range</th>
<th>Medium Torque Range</th>
<th>High Torque Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HORSEPOWER</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPM</td>
<td>500 to 2500</td>
<td>350 to 1750</td>
<td>350 to 1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN/LBS OF TORQUE</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>72.0</td>
<td>108.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TYPICAL DIAMETERS</td>
<td>Up to 2.0&quot; (50.8 mm)</td>
<td>Up to 5.0&quot; (127 mm)</td>
<td>Up to 8.0&quot; (203.2 mm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>