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## MD Metals Reconditions Old Slitter for New Building

**A 1950s SLITTER** is helping MD Metals expand its capabilities in the heavy-gauge, narrow-slitting and edging market.

The 50-year-old Lee Wilson slitter, which could only handle 32-inch-wide coils, had outgrown its usefulness at Acme Steel. But MD Metals owner Michael Dallek saw potential where others saw scrap.



 By giving new life to an old slitter now refurbished at its Chicago location, MD Metals hopes to gain business in heavy-gauge processing.

“It was a bull slitter that could be reconditioned and brought back from the dead to be used in a business with a different kind of business model,” says Dallek. “Bull slitters with this kind of capability are not readily available, so when I saw this I had the vision of reconditioning and upgrading the line.”

With assistance from A & B Manufacturing, Dallek upgraded the slitter, adding a 60-horsepower feed motor and a 150-horsepower recoiler. He also reconditioned each component of the line and added new electronics to create a viable, efficient slitting line.

The slitter is now the centerpiece of operations at MD Metals’ new 20,000-square-foot facility in Chicago. It can take up to four cuts of 3/8th-inch high-strength, high-carbon or alloy grade steel. The company has slit 0.312-inch 1070 material to 1.625-inches wide. “Perfectly straight,” Dallek adds.

The heavy gauge slitting line is complementing other slitters at the operation because it can be used to break down bigger coils to narrower multiples for further reslitting on other lines.

MD Metals maintains three slitters and two Tishken edge conditioners and hopes to capture a segment of the heavy-gauge market.

“In this new facility, we’re now prepared to assist other warehouses and end-users on a larger scale,” Dallek says.