LUBE TIP: LUBRICATING HARD-TO-REACH FITTINGS

PROTECT YOUR EMPLOYEES

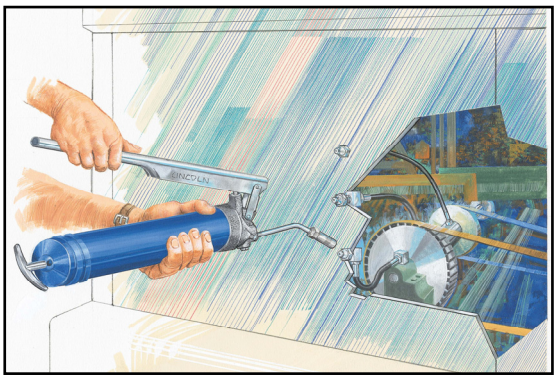
Hard-to-reach lubrication fittings present a major maintenance problem for the proper care of all types of machinery. Hidden or guarded lubrication fittings can lead to production downtime, higher operating and maintenance costs and the risk of personal injury to operators and employees.

Increasingly, health and safety legislation and standards are pushing towards making sure machinery is designed to enable all routine adjustments, lubrication and maintenance to be carried out without removing the guarding or disabling safety devices, and without extensive dismantling of machinery components.

So how do you deal with these issues? The most obvious answer is to install an Automatic Lubrication System (ALS). These days, there are many cost-effective options for compact, rugged, easy to install and easy to use ALS, with long lists of standard features including built-in controllers with LED displays and keypads for easy programming, system cycle monitoring, built-in low-level controls and remote monitoring capability.

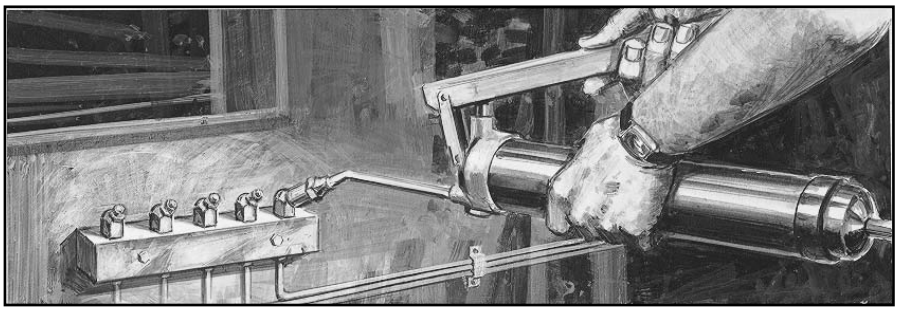
But what if you don't have the budget for an ALS or still prefer traditional manual lubrication?

1. Remote Lube Fitting System



One option is to run tubing from all the problem lube points to one central, safe and accessible location. Usually, this involves mounting a manifold block or junction block on the side of the machine, as close to the lube points as possible (to keep material costs down, e.g. tubing).

To set up a Remote Lube Fitting System, you remove the existing grease fittings at the bearings and replace them with tube fittings. Then run nylon hose or steel tube from the fittings to the manifold. Each line will have its own grease fitting on the manifold.



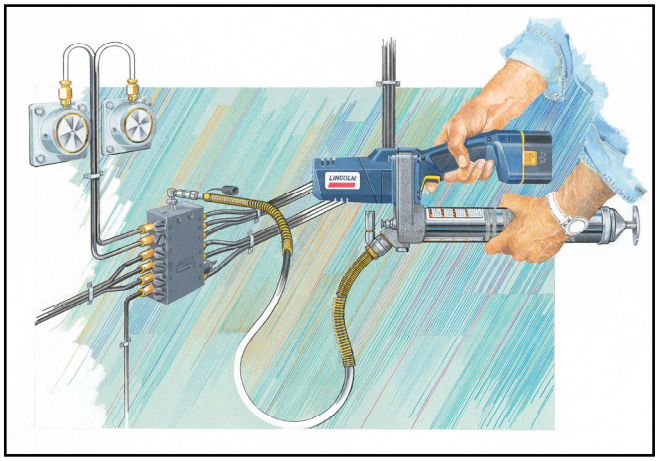
This relatively simple and low-tech solution offers several benefits:

- Easy access to lubrication fittings
- Easier, quicker and safer lubrication
- Assures that all bearings are lubricated
- Bearings can be safely lubricated while machine is operating
- Reaches hidden, inaccessible or hazardous bearings.

2. Divider Valve Lube System

A second option is to use a progressive (positive displacement) divider valve in place of a manifold at the central greasing point. The divider valve can incorporate a cycle indicator pin that allows you to fully monitor and deliver precise amounts of lubricant to each point.

As an additional benefit, using the divider valve you only have to hook up the grease gun to a single grease fitting to service multiple points (instead of multiple fittings with the manifold).



3. Single Point Automatics for High Places

Trying to maintain bearings in high places involves additional regulations dealing with height restrictions and fall protection, along with considerable amounts of time ensuring your workers comply with the standards as they go about their work. For these bearings, consider installing Single Point Lubricators to help improve worker safety and reduce the maintenance time required.

Single Point Lubricators (also referred to as drip feed lubricators or drip greasers) are a relatively inexpensive solution. Simply install the Lubricator either directly on the bearing or through a remote line, set the timer as applicable, record the scheduled time for replacement and there is one less lubrication point to worry about. Typical applications for these units include: electric motors, pumps, roller and slide bearings, chains, conveyors bearings and chains and open gears.

Single Point Lubricators can be gas charged or battery powered, can use grease or oil, and are available in a wide range of configurations. The correct solution for your application will depend upon:

- Environmental Conditions - temperature, indoor vs. outdoor, dust, high wash etc.
- Location of the Lubricator in relation to lubrication point
- How long between replenishment
- Physical space available at lube point

Should you have any questions about which Remote Lube Fitting System is best for your application, or you need to source the necessary components for your specific machine, give us a call. Our lube solutions experts at FLO Components are just a phone call away at 1.800.668.5458.

For Total Lube Solutions,

GO WITH THE FLO!

FLO Components Ltd., 50 Admiral Blvd., Mississauga, ON, L5T 2W1
1.800.668.5458 • sales@flocomponents.com • www.flocomponents.com