

The Difference Between European and American Style Tooling

It is crucial to safety and productivity that you understand the difference between European Style Tooling and American Style Tooling.

When selecting and understanding press brake tooling it is important to understand how the force is going to move from the upper beam and holder through the tool and into the work piece. Both European and American style tooling have different methods for directing this flow. American tooling directs the flow in a simple straight line through the tool. This allows the tool to be reversed easily and logically. However it also requires that tool makers accurately grind the surfaces to the left and right of the holder in regards to the tip position. European tooling has an offset holder. This holder does more to stabilize the tool than to transfer power. Power is transferred to the right of the holder on a single surface in line with the punch tip. In order to reverse the punch a holder with a front and back is required.

Below you can see a European punch on the left and a similar American punch on the right. Each punch has a line running through the center of the tip. On the left you see how the punch holder is offset from where the upper beam transfers its power. On the right you can see how the punch holder is directly in line with the upper beam.

