

Comments on rebuilt Bridgeport April 2017

"I learned about Babin Machine Tool from the Practical Machinist forum where several members recommended them highly for rebuilding. Per the university regulations I needed to secure three bids. During the bid process Babin was the quickest to respond and provided excellent information. Pricing was similar among all three. I choose Babin based on their reputation and that turned out to be a good decision.

The machine we had Babin rebuild for us is from our university mechanical engineering machine shop and dates from the mid-1980s. The machine was very dirty and worn, and for some reason the Y axis had very significant wear.

As is typical of school machines the table had many marks from drills and end mills in it, including one very deep milling mark about 2" long and 1/2" wide. That groove was actually through the entire depth of the top of the T slot. Babin's quote made an exception for the repair of this groove, I had made note the groove was OK, since it was so deep and under the vise anyway.

The rebuilt machine is fantastic. Perhaps the first thing I noticed was the superb paint job, maybe polished aluminum head was the next to notice. I have seen my share of brand new Bridgeport's and none looks as good as this! Of course looks aren't everything and the machine feels, sounds and performs as new or better. The head is very quiet and many small parts were replaced that I had not expected to be. The feel of the quill is perfectly smooth.

And the big end mill groove in the table? I can't even tell it was ever there, or any other of the marks in the table either! The machine reminds me of some of the "over the top" car restorations that are done to a "better than new" level. All in all a happy customer and I hope to cycle another of our older machines with Babin again soon."

Paul P. shop instructor, NJ state university
