



Application Report

Product Reference 4.7

Crown Lift Trucks Provide Durability For Brake Parts Manufacturer



**Brake Parts, Incorporated
Offices & Distribution
Center, McHenry, IL.**

For over two decades, the Indianapolis 500 winner has run on Brake Parts Inc. products thanks to their durability and dependability. That's also the same ingredients the largest brake manufacturer in North America looks for in their lift trucks at their McHenry, IL, distribution center.

There's a reason why the company has three Crown Series TSP Turret Stockpickers, nine Series RC stand-up counterbalanced riders and 29 Series PC

center control pallet trucks working three shifts, five days a week, and moving up to 100,000 brake parts daily in the 220,000 square foot facility.

"It's their durability," explains Warehouse Manager Gary Allen. "We selected Crown trucks because of durability and ruggedness. These trucks have far outlasted the competitor's trucks, especially the pallet trucks. They have the durability we need."

Most of the goods stored are rotors — approximately 20,000 pallets or 800 truck loads — awaiting shipment to warehouse distributors, auto jobbers or large retailers throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Over 70 workers operate the trucks over three shifts. The Turret Stockpickers are used on an average about 20 hours daily and batteries are changed following each shift.



Crown Series TSP Turret Stockpickers and Series RC stand-up riders are shown above working together in storing and retrieving a variety of aftermarket brake products. Brake Parts, Inc., ships up to 800 pallets of merchandise daily from their McHenry, IL, distribution center.

"The turret truck looks pretty intimidating, but it's probably the easiest to train the operators on than any of the other trucks...And there's not a part in the place that's not touched by those trucks," said Warehouse Supervisor Joel Krollman.

The Crown fleet provides Brake Parts with the versatility they need in their activity-based zone picking environment. The Turret Stockpickers are continually storing, retrieving or staging products for pickup by the RCs or PCs. Pallet truck operators also do a con-

siderable amount of lower level order picking. The two SP 3000 Series Stockpickers are also used for order picking slower moving parts and for regular inventory processing, saving Brake Parts workers a considerable amount of time.

"We like the versatility of the Crown trucks," said Warehouse Supervisor Sam Ornelus. "They've allowed us to get a lot more merchandise within our four walls."

Brake Parts uses a regular planned maintenance program, checking on the



Slower moving parts are stored in individual shelves (shown left) and are selected by an operator using the SP 3000 Series Stockpicker. The Crown truck is also essential during inventory.

Crown equipment on a quarterly basis. "There's less downtime with the Crown trucks," he said. "We've had very few problems with them at all."

By going with a narrow aisle configuration, Allen estimates he has gained an additional 30 percent in racking, giving the company considerably more storage space. "We moved from 8 1/2 ft aisles to aisles that are now at 5 ft, 10 inches," he points out.

"We also worked closely with our facility engineers and Crown in determining the kinds of racking and shelving," he said.

Allen also believes the operator comfort supplied by Crown trucks increases Brake Parts workers' production. "It's especially important when you're 25 ft or so in the air," he said. "The operator is more aware and more alert. With the TSP, they have flexibility to either

stand or sit down. Ergonomics are very important to your productivity."

The control handle on the pallet trucks and the side stance on the RC trucks are good examples of ergonomics, according to Allen.

"We really like the Crown control handle and with the side stance on the dock trucks, you really save on the neck," he points out. "The operators really like them. You can look forward and backward easily."

Crown can help solve your material handling problems, too. For further information, check the Yellow Pages listing under "Trucks, Industrial" for your nearest dealer or contact Crown.



A drive-in rack provides a large portion of storage for outbound materials at Brake Parts, McHenry, IL, distribution center. Located near the dock area, RCs with quad masts work efficiently at storing and retrieving goods for shipment to warehouse distributors, auto jobbers and large retailers throughout North America.



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