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P/A Industries Joins in Production of Metal Nose Clips for Homemade Face Masks

Connecticut manufacturers join together to produce hundreds of thousands of metal clips to fight the spread of COVID-19

Bloomfield, CT: Manufacturers usually affiliate P/A Industries with the production of innovative machines that bring proven efficiencies to the metal stamping, wire forming and fabrication industries. However, in the last several weeks, the company has become a parts producer to help in an effort to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. P/A is producing hundreds of thousands of metal nose clips for use in homemade face masks.

Anyone who has attempted to make a homemade face mask to protect themselves and others from the virus understands the importance of the small metal clip that forms around the nose and keeps the mask affixed to your face. While paperclips can work in a pinch, a better solution is a bendable metal strip that can be formed to shape around the nose.

It all started when P/A President Edward Morris saw a news report about a Groton, CT-based fabricator, Hillery Company, a custom fabrication shop that started producing the metal nose clips for sewing groups and others who were making their own masks because did not have access to personal protective equipment. The company was soon overwhelmed with requests and started a [Go Fund Me page](#) to help finance the effort, mentioning that it can produce 45,000 strips in three weeks.

“We wanted to help, and, after discussing the issue with our engineers, we were confident that we could reconfigure machines in our shop that we would usually be preparing to sell to customers to instead produce the metal nose clips,” said Morris. “I contacted Joe de la Cruz, vice president at Hillery, and informed him that I thought we can produce many more strips that were currently produced at a far faster rate. He took me up on the offer and within 24 hours, P/A created a Cut-to-Length line and produced 120,000 strips in 18 hours.”

Morris said that P/A plans to make more than 500,000 strips in the next few weeks.

“This is really a story about Connecticut manufacturers joining together to help,” continued Morris. “Hillery is to be commended for spearheading the project. Our friends at Marion Manufacturing helped us contact Erickson Metal Corporation who donated the first coils and is selling the rest at a significantly discounted price. Marion Manufacturing will soon take over production of the strips to continue to help first responders, health care workers and others in need of homemade masks.”

“For P/A, credit goes to our dedicated workforce, who stepped up immediately to make production of the strips possible,” said Morris. “I’m extremely proud of our team, our industry and our community. Together we will overcome the challenges caused by this pandemic as long as we continue to work together.”

A video of P/A Industries’ Cut-To-Length line using our products (a stock reel, servo feeder, pneumatic stock cutter, and our Electra (Electric transporter) to automate the production of nose clips for surgical mask can be found [here](#).