


Five Tips

Before you buy Custom Wire Forms



Custom Wire Forms can be manufactured from various metals. These specialty forms are often part of an assembly or designed to fit into a larger manufactured item.

It is necessary to consider the environment where a wire form will be used. Some must withstand extreme heat, chemical-bath immersion and other stress conditions.

Custom wire forms can be as simple as an S-hook or a more complex component.



Wire forms are often engineered to unique specifications to work with other part.



Example of an annular ring wire form

What to look for in a Custom Wire Form?

1. Design

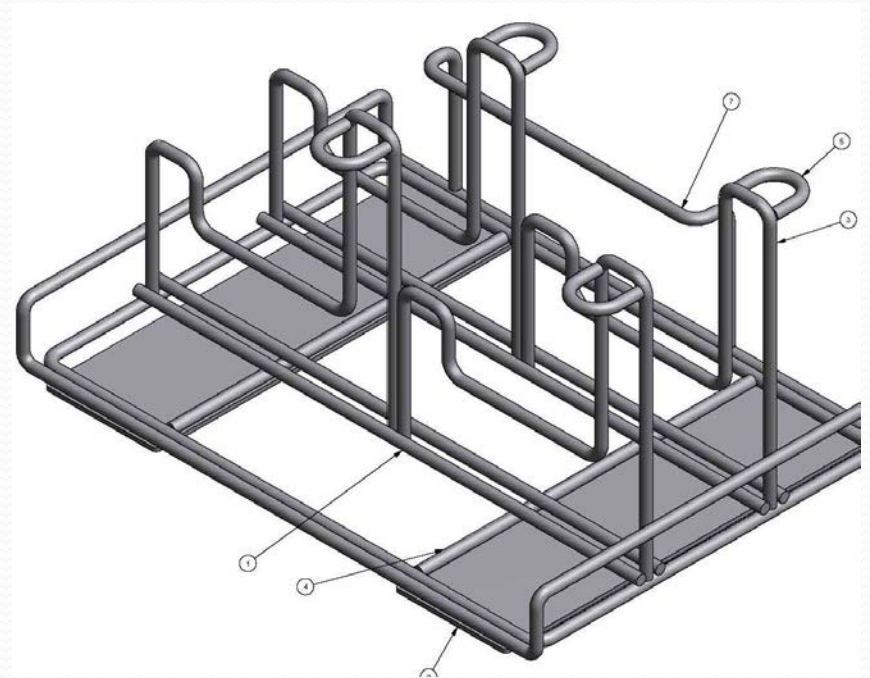
The essential elements of a custom wire form **are fit and function.**

The concept for a workable wire form shouldn't be scribbled on the back of a cocktail napkin.



The print is key

It should be an engineered print, aided by computer design, that shows the component in three dimensions: **front view, top view, an isometric views** and well as showing the how the part will be used.



Who's the designer?

One important question to ask is who is designing the wire form? You want someone with mechanical engineering training, preferably a **degreed mechanical engineer.**

2. Tools

It was famously said about tools that only two of them are required for life: 40D to make things go. Duct tape to make them stop.

Those are good things to have. But you need much more sophisticated tools to conceive and manufacture a precision custom wire form.



Automation: precision and reliability

Skilled machinists using the best automation produce high-quality wire forms. Robotic equipment such as sheet metal laser cutters, sheet metal punches and wire-bending robots make consistent copies of wire forms that are identical and within tight tolerances.



3. Speed

Automation also produces a high-quality wire form more quickly. A top-of-the-line steel metal punch can go at **900 strokes a minute** and a robot can bend steel wire at more than **330 times a minute**.

You should be able to get a highly engineered wire form, from concept to delivery, within days or weeks.

4. Quality

The manufacturer from which you are buying should be registered by the **International Standards Organization (ISO)**. That assures that the products and services are safe, reliable and of good quality and are manufactured in a facility committed to quality, error-free operation. It is a standard respected internationally so it has accountability and value around the world. More than 1 million companies and organizations in more than 170 countries have implemented the **ISO 9001:2008** criteria for quality management systems.



Other signs of quality

The manufacturer's adherence to **lean manufacturing** also is a healthy sign of on-the-ground execution. The concept involves time-tested approaches to inventory, plant layout, production and shipping to maximize efficiency, speed and quality and minimize waste.

Does the manufacturer have a **Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)** manual? That helps ensure uniformity. An effective SOP details every activity in the manufacturing process and is updated regularly.

Check on “check fixtures”

The wire form manufacturer should use check fixtures to make prototypes to confirm the exact fit to specifications of the wire form.



5. Staff

None of the elements previously mentioned, critical as they are, are as important as the staff helping to conceive, design, make and deliver those forms. **How can you judge the quality of a staff?**

What to look for?

- **What is the manufacturer's culture and track record?** It should have a record of well-made goods for a respected client base renowned for their own attention to quality.
- **Dedication to safety?** A plant with a strong safety record indicates devotion to detail in other facets such as engineering and production.
- **Is the staff well-trained?** The wire forms manufacturer should devote more to training than the industry average of 1 percent of sales.

How does that affect the basket?

That all might matter to the staff, but why should it matter to the final product: the custom wire form?

High levels of training, dedication to quality and high levels of equipment and automation reflect a culture driven to devise innovative, stronger ways to accommodate more parts than an alternative solution.

The construction of high-quality, precision wire forms evolves from an idea lab just like a piece of high-tech software does.

Marlin Steel Wire Products LLC

marlinwire.com

- Quality Engineered Quick
- One-fifth of Marlin staff are degreed mechanical engineers
- Registered ISO 9001:2008
- Safety First: 1,500 days without a lost-time accident
- Automation: 12 robots, including AIM Fanuc Combination, Trumpf laser, Trumpf punch -- fastest in USA
- Exports to 36 nations