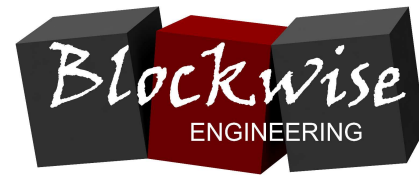


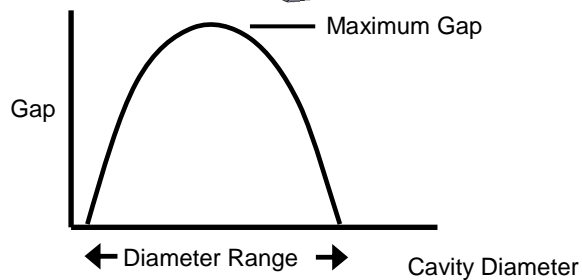
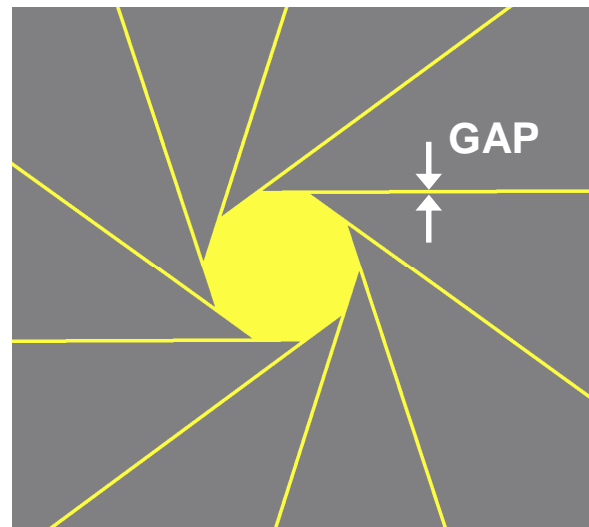
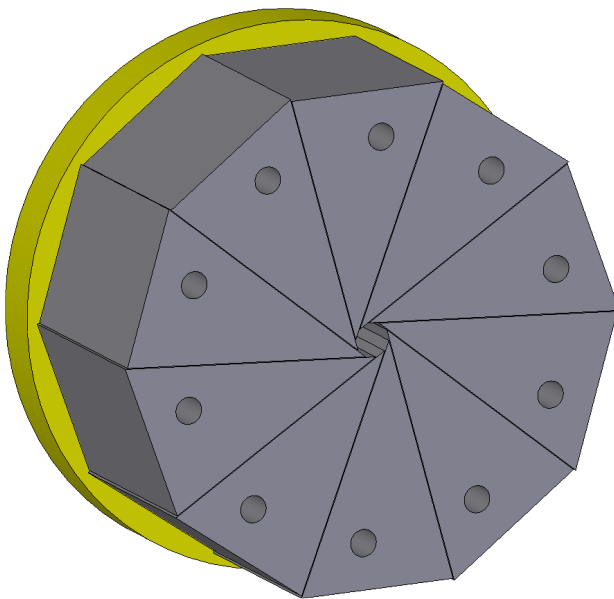
J-Crimp™ Radial Compression Station



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Blockwise Engineering's J-Crimp™ radial compression stations (patent pending) solve a significant problem that burdens traditional radial compression mechanisms. J-Crimp™ stations are available as part of Blockwise's stent-crimping machines, and are also sold as separate components for use in customer's equipment.

Traditional radial compression mechanisms of the "hinged-wedge" variety, commonly used for stent crimping and other manufacturing and testing applications, are constrained by a strict design tradeoff between diameter range and maximum wedge-to-wedge gap. Further, for a given design, the gap is a function of the opening diameter as follows: At the closed and opened extremes of the motion range, the dies are wedged against each other (zero gap), and the gap varies with diameter, reaching a maximum value near the middle of the diameter range. The range of diameter is actually limited by the points at which the gap becomes zero. To avoid excess gapping, the mechanism must be designed specifically for the diameter range of the application.



Blockwise's J-Crimp™ compression station eliminates that tradeoff, and provides a very small die-to-die gap at any opening diameter. By using J-shaped dies hinged opposite from the working surfaces, and curving the working surfaces in a specific shape, the die-to-die gap is made very small at all opening diameters. There is no need to design the mechanism specifically for the diameter range of the application because there is no disadvantage in oversizing the mechanism. The mechanism is available only with stainless steel dies. Because of the complex shape, it is not practical to make the dies from plastics.

