

# LASCO<sup>®</sup> Fittings, Inc.



LASCO Fittings, Inc. began using their SOLIDWORKS CAD software effectively in 2009, after encouragement from their SOLIDWORKS reseller, Concepts In Production, LLC. According to Samuel Adams, Engineering Manager at LASCO Fittings, Inc., “We had purchased SOLIDWORKS a year earlier but were not committed to using it effectively. When we figured out that it would significantly reduce our design time and eliminate errors, we chose to keep renewing the subscription service. With the support of our SOLIDWORKS reseller, WE LOVE SOLIDWORKS! It has cut our design time by 80%, accelerated our time-to-market by 40%, and reduced the number of design errors by 20%. PDM has reduced the time spent searching for files or recreating designs/documents by 40%. By increasing our volume of design reuse, we can reduce design time from 2 weeks to 2 days. Our transition to SOLIDWORKS was smooth and the amount of time saved designing with SOLIDWORKS sold our department on its use. The transitioning was simple and welcomed.”

## CHALLENGES:

- Designing 5 to 6 similar products used to take months in AutoCAD
- Configurations of design models for customers and machine shops
- Needed to decrease design time and speed up turnaround time for an entire project, from conception to production—get to market faster

## SOLUTIONS:

- SOLIDWORKS Standard
- SOLIDWORKS Premium with Simulation Professional
- Flow Simulation
- PDM

## BENEFITS:

- Developed internal standard for cavity sizes
- Design Tables help reduce design time
- Configurations allow for design models with dimensions for customers and models with slightly different dimensions for machine shop to use to cut molds

## About LASCO Fittings, Inc.

LASCO Fittings, Inc., an Aalberts Industries company, specializes in the production and sale of injection molded fittings for irrigation, plumbing, industrial, pool/spa and retail markets. A technical leader with over 50 years experience, LASCO Fittings is relied upon worldwide to provide parts with the quality and confidence users desire. Operating a 26-acre manufacturing facility in Brownsville, TN and with five central distribution facilities strategically located within the United States, LASCO provides worldwide distribution and overnight service.



Before switching to SOLIDWORKS, LASCO Fittings used AutoCad. When they started evaluating products they were considering SolidEdge, ProE, and SOLIDWORKS. They made the decision to use SOLIDWORKS because the user interface was cleaner. However, the configuration/design tables and multi-body solid modeling is what solidified the sale. After purchasing SOLIDWORKS Standard licenses, the company has added additional licenses of SOLIDWORKS Standard, SOLIDWORKS Premium, SOLIDWORKS Simulation Professional, Flow Simulation and PDM. Adams states, "Simulation helps evaluate the product prior to production which allows us to change the design if necessary to improve performance or meet customer needs. The PDM software is extremely beneficial to our department's success. We have numerous projects in process at any given moment. PDM helps us track them and have a live view of where each is during the design process. It also keeps records of changes with the "Check-In, Check-Out" feature. PDM handles nearly all of our paperwork, and the best part is that it keeps a history."

SOLIDWORKS design configuration capabilities are used in their design process for molded PVC parts. Due to shrinkage from a hot mold to the customer's hand, configurations in conjunction with design tables allow them to create a model with dimensions that a customer will handle and one that dimensionally meets how the mold will be cut. Using design configurations in their toolbox feature has been extremely helpful, by creating a toolbox of necessary bolts, screws, plugs, dowels, etc. that they need to assemble their molds. Configurations, configuration publisher, and design tables let the company make numerous items in their toolbox to be used in assembling their molds in SOLIDWORKS. The information is added to the design table needed in their BOM and then linked. Configurations are also helpful in Simulation to test multiple models that are similar or have a unique geometrical link that needs to be evaluated.

Using PDM has helped keep track of tooling resizes, QC data, and design changes. Workflows tell them where a project is and where it will go, which gives them a consolidated, real time view of their department's body of work.

CTS Project was the first design that LASCO Fittings created using SOLIDWORKS. The CTS Project was quoted to have 2 engineers working on the project for 13 months (146 parts and molds). SOLIDWORKS allowed one engineer to complete the whole project in 3.5 months. Since that project LASCO Fittings has used SOLIDWORKS and it's solution products on thousands of projects. Another successful product design, pool sweep elbows with less pressure drop than a straight piece of pipe at 36", was accomplished using SOLIDWORKS Flow Simulation software.

Adams states, "SOLIDWORKS differs from the competition with its commitment to listen to customers. The users know how the product can improve and SOLIDWORKS consistently utilizes user input to improve the interface."



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