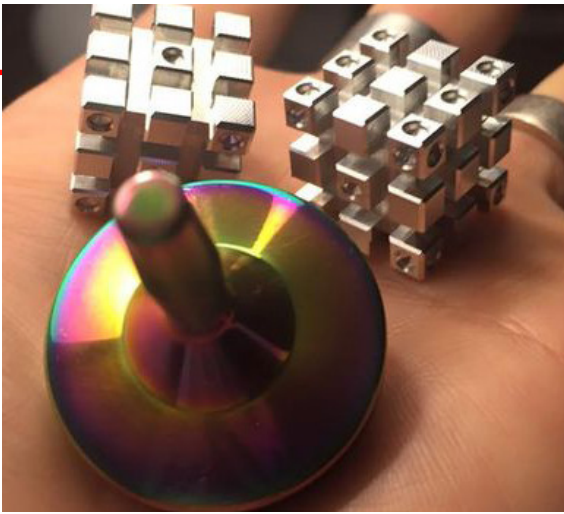


BILLETSPIN®

Illustrious Beginnings



What started out as a KickStarter project for metal dice, led to a spin down a long road of collectible tops, brought us the Gambit and it's coins and has now given us two different in-house designed heirloom pens.

Billet Dice premiered on February 21, 2015 as a KickStarter project and became fully funded April 7, 2015. This success started a whole new company, BilletSPIN, founded by Rich Stadler in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. While that KickStarter project was running, Rich realized another idea with the inception of his BilletSPIN Spin Top in another KickStarter project that was launched April 13, 2015 and fully funded May 20, 2015.

From there, he created many new and innovative designs for over 60 different styled tops made from standard (stainless steel, copper, brass and bronze) metals and exotic (Timascus, Damascus, Zirc, Titanium, Mokume, CarboQuartz, and Tungsten) materials.

Beginning with working every-other weekend to satisfy his friends and clients top desires, Rich made small runs of very sought-after designs for one-piece and multi-piece tops. Eventually, in 2016, the top business was brought into the main family business, J Stadler Machine, where there are now 4 employees and 4 main machines working on Rich's creations.



Design and Materials

Forever striving to make the next cool thing, Rich gleans ideas from many different places and designs his creations right at the machine. Trial and error work to the advantage of his customers because he is never satisfied until the perfect design comes off the machine. He has gone through over fifteen different iterations of some tops to get what he feels is the perfect look and spin from each design. Taking into consideration what the different exotic materials will bring to the design is another consideration when he designs the different pieces of the products.

We use rod stock in several sizes, 14 inch, 3/8 inch, 1/2 inch, 3/4 inch, 1 inch and 1 1/2 inch diameter. Deciding on the size of the item is an integral part of the start of the design. We then need to be sure we have the right size rod in the right type of material for his vision to come to life.

From standard to exotic

Standard materials are readily available from our suppliers and offer the chance to obtain one of Rich's creations at a minimal price. These standard materials include stainless steel, copper, brass, and bronze.

Exotic materials are created by trusted sources and shipped to us as needed. These materials include:

- Timascus – can be in the black or white variety that we then machine and flame to various degrees to get a superb blending of golds, blues, and purples in beautiful patterns
- Damascus – comes in many different styles such as Spiro, Reptilian and Honeycomb, that we acid etch after machining to bring out the pattern to a desired depth of darkness.
- Zirc – a very resistant material that is very flammable and requires a close watch when machining. After machining we flame it to an oil-slick color or a dark/ almost black color. It is very resistant to marring so it makes a great material for tops and pens.
- Titanium – a nice lightweight material that lends itself nicely to color variations through flaming and electro anodizing.
- Mokume – used by us in two forms, 2-color and 3-color, this is a combination of nickel-silver and copper or nickel-silver, copper and brass. A very cool material to color as it gets some very nice yellow-orange and gold tones.



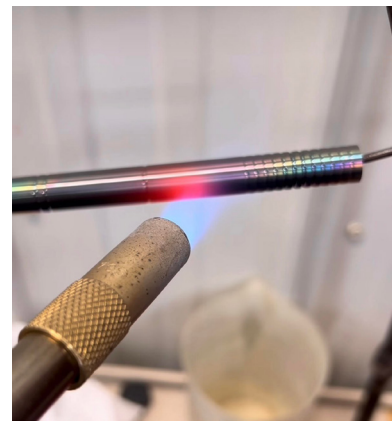


Titanium electro anodized to a blurple color

Techniques

After machining, there are several different techniques we can utilize to change the look of the materials.

- Blasting – using a sand blasting box to give a rough but even texture to the metal
- Polishing – gives a nice, shiny look to any metal
- Flaming – used to change colors in various metals. Gives:
 - o stainless steel a blue look
 - o copper a quick and fleeting red
 - o bronze and brass a browning
 - o zirc coloring from pink to gold to chrome to yellow to blue to pink to green to black. We use it for the oil-slick look popular to our customers.
 - o Titanium various colors that change similar to zirc. We use it most often for a bluish-purple look for our Thunderstorm finish.
 - o Mokume darker browns and golds to really bring out the various layers in the material.



Flaming a zirc CamPen barrel

- Electro Anodizing – uses an electric current to change the color of titanium. Lower voltage colors are less resistant to wear and dulling from fingerprints but our best blue comes from a lower voltage. Another well known electro anodized color we use is blurple, coloring of mainly blue but with a sheen of purple.
- Acid Etching – used for Damascus steel to wear away the less resistant layers in the forged material. Our commonly etched materials are Reptilian, Honeycomb, Spiro, Basket Weave and Sharktooth. Each variation have a different forged pattern in them of the different resistance layers.



Acid etching Spiro Damascus

What does the Future hold?

We won't be so bold as to say we know exactly what the future holds, but if given the chance, we will continue to strive to make super cool things that people can enjoy for years to come.

Rich is always looking for new and creative things to craft on the big machines and we are constantly looking at innovative ways to change the look and texture of our products.

When he started, Rich never dreamed the business would grow as much as it has or that he would have been received so well by the Top Community, and now the Pen Community and Everyday Carry Enthusiasts. The people of these online communities have been incredibly supportive and helpful. Their enthusiasm and delight for "The Next Big Thing" have always been held near and dear to us at BilletSPIN.

It is our greatest desire to continue making well designed and much anticipated items for years to come and to add to our already well received product lines. As time marches on, we will continue to hold ourselves accountable to our Customers and to make quality and timeless items to captivate, entertain, and enrich their lives.

Proud to be the Oshkosh Best of 2022 Novelty Store Award recipient



**and nominated 4
years in a row for the
Coolest Thing Made in
Wisconsin Contest.**