

# INFOMATE

## Introduction

Welcome to the 16th issue of our newsletter. The newsletter is used to send product and information updates to our customers on a regular basis.

## New Front Panel Options

**MACHINEMATE**, INC has announced two new **MACHINEMATE**<sup>®</sup> CNC front panel models. They enable an application to address different requirements for the operator. One model offers the smallest panel size for such operator pendant restrictions. The other model offers a package of different options integrated into a single model.

### New Complete Operator's Station

The first panel is the new **MACHINEMATE** complete front panel, with a picture to the right. The panel has a 15" TFT color display with a touch screen, a machine tool builder's panel (MTBP) (with the basic operator switches and buttons) and a handwheel manual pulse generator (MPG). This is the combination of three options: the 15" TFT display in a IP65 front panel, the slim line MTBP and an MPG. The built-in MTBP includes two rotary switches for feedrate and spindle speed overrides, lighted cycle start and stop push buttons, an emergency stop push button (turn to release), a lighted machine start push button and twelve general purpose push buttons that can be custom engraved with any legend required (2 lines of 7 characters each); each of these 12 buttons also has a programmable LED.



By combining these options into a single integrated front panel, the result is a complete low-cost panel for many integration applications.

The electrical interconnect to this panel is as follows:

- 1) standard VGA cable from the PC to the TFT display,
- 2) COM1 cable (15-pin D connector) from the touch screen to the PC,
- 3) 50-pin D connector to the I/O points for the operator switches and lights on the panel,
- 4) 6-pin terminal strip on the back of the manual pulse generator (either 5V encoder with two differential signal pairs or two 24V signals),
- 5) Discrete wires (24V logic) to the Emergency Stop the Machine Start push buttons.
- 6) 12V supply to the TFT display.

The manual pulse generator handwheel has 100 positions.

## New Slim Line Model

The second panel is the new slim line front panel, with its picture to the right. The IP65 front panel has a 6.4" TFT color display with a set of eight soft keys located directly below the display and the complete alpha-numeric keypad located to its right. Its dimensions are shown in the figure. It is much smaller than the 19" rack-mount front panel models also available. The selling price for this front panel option is less than that of the other front panel options; for example its price is about 1/3 less than that of the 19" panel with the 12.1" TFT display.



While the crisp TFT display (with the 640 x 480 pixel resolution on the 6.4" diagonal display) is rather small for many applications, it is suitable for those situations where the operator does not rely on the continuous viewing of this display to run the machine. The same CNC software with the same CNC operator interface runs on this panel as on any other.

The electrical interconnect is identical to the other display panels: one standard VGA cable, one keypad cable and one 12V supply to the TFT.

## Conclusion

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Our web site [www.machinemate.com](http://www.machinemate.com) has lots of information about our products and applications; a link can be provided to our customers for the complete manual set. A number of **MACHINEMATE** control retrofit articles are available. Please periodically check the site for news.

Thank you,

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