



### **Should I choose a 2 or a 3 axis Digital Readout?**

We understand. Deciding between a 2 or 3 axis Digital Readout (DRO) can be a difficult choice. Complicating the matter is the fact that the decision is exclusive – in other words, a 2 axis system can't be upgraded in the future by simply adding a third scale. So just how does one choose? Well, sometimes the best way to make a decision, is to ask someone who's already faced the same choices. At DRO PROS, we randomly call our customers 2-3 years after they've bought a digital readout. We typically ask those who bought a 2 axis kit if they had to do it all over again, would they have still bought a 2 axis or would they have upgraded to the 3 axis kit? Conversely, we also ask the customers who bought 3 axis kits if they're happy with their 3 axis kit or would a 2 axis kit have been just as good? Here's what we found:

#### **Customers who bought a 2 axis kit:**

This group seemed to be split right down the middle. Half of the 2 axis kit customers were perfectly happy with what they bought. The other half wished they had upgraded to a 3 axis kit when they had the chance.

#### **Customers who bought a 3 axis kit:**

This group was also split 50/50, but not in the same way you might expect. All of the customers were happy with their 3 axis kit, and all were satisfied with what they had purchased. The 'split' was that the first half of the group intended from the very beginning to get a 3 axis kit. The second half were initially wavering between a 2 or a 3 axis kit, but eventually decided to upgrade to the 3 axis. All members of this second group expressed how surprised they were, as to how often they used the third axis, and how glad they were to have chosen the 3 axis kit.

#### **Based on this customer feedback, this is what we've learned:**

Most customers don't fully realize how convenient or useful a digital readout kit is, until they've already got it installed and have used it for awhile. Many customers have a general idea that a DRO can make machining easier, but they're mostly thinking the X and Y coordinates would be primarily all they would be using. This isn't exactly true, as most milling operations involve milling or cutting down a project to a specific height (using the Z axis).

Of all the customers who purchased a 2 axis kit, half expressed regret at 'only' getting the 2 axis kit, and wished they had bought the 3 axis kit instead. In contrast, all the customers who purchased a 3 axis kit, indicated they would definitely buy a 3 axis kit if they had to install a DRO on another mill.

#### **Our conclusion is this:**

If you're wavering between a 2 or 3 axis kit based on utility, go with the 3 axis kit. In the long run, you'll be glad you did.

If price is your main concern, and the budget is REALLY tight, then a 2 axis system might be your best bet, because after all, a 2 axis kit beats having nothing at all!

Probably the best advice we can give you, is to take your time and try to think after the sale - identify which of the above priorities matter most to you, and then just go for it! A common remark we often hear is "wish I had done this sooner".

We hope this information helps you when you must ask yourself - should I choose a 2 or a 3 axis Digital Readout?

Best of luck, but most of all, enjoy your new DRO kit!

**DRO PROS**