

Press Release

22 MAY 2007



Steel Heddle[®] celebrates its 110th anniversary at ITMA Asia and ITME India

110 years of devotion to quality

With over 300 patents, Steel Heddle (USA) has led the weaving industry ever since 1898 when it introduced one of the first flat steel heddle in the textile market. Since then, it has focused constantly on being a reliable partner in the weaving room, with core expertise in highly engineered heddles, drop wires and harness frames for all applications.

Steel Heddle[®], America's largest heddle manufacturer, started 110 years ago as a modest machine shop in Philadelphia. Nowadays Steel Heddle[®] still leads the way, contributing significantly to the development of innovative weaving accessories for different textile applications including:

- leno,
- ribbon,
- glass,
- silk,
- filter
- and technical weaving.

The first tempered heddle in steel

The start of Steel Heddle's success was the development of the first heddles for the silk industry. Steel Heddle's heddle design and material were the first that could meet the highest demands in this industry, withstanding the abrasive action of the raw silk yarn.

Expanding its knowledge in heddle design, Steel Heddle[®] set many additional milestones with the further creation of innovative heddles to improve efficiency in the weaving room. As a result, Steel Heddle obtained over 300 patents, among others:

- launching the first tempered heddles and
- developing the first riderless heddles for automatic drawing-in
- launching the first tempered leno heddle
- Jet-eye[®]

Innovations

Their continuous search for better weaving performance resulted in the development of the Jet-Eye[®] heddle in 1994. This patented special eye design allows better warp yarn passage and higher heddle

densities. This offers the weaver less filamentation, reduced warp breakage, improved fabric quality and increased heddle lifetime.

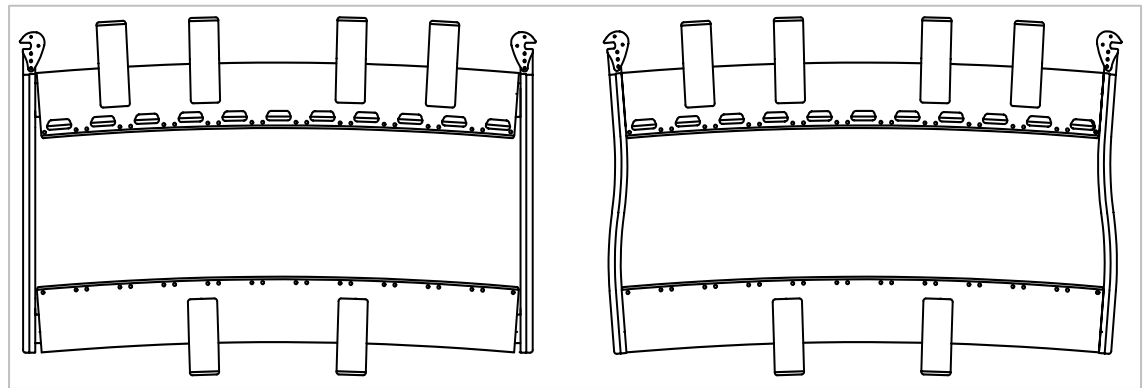
Complete range of high-class weaving accessories

Steel Heddle® also leads the development and production of outstanding high-speed frames for any loom type. With a strong focus on new frame designs, Steel Heddle has proven to be a reliable partner in optimizing the weaving performance in leading weaving mills.

Their patented frame features guarantee highest operating speeds, outstanding fabric quality and highest reliability. Those features include:

- **R-flex corner connection :**

The first flexible corner connection system, integrated into the profile and easily replaceable. This highly successful system is designed to decrease stress in both profile and side brace during operations. Accordingly, it ensures a perfect fit and load distribution, resulting in extended lifetime.



R-flex connection

- Allows slight rotation
- Flexing side braces do not influence side braces
- Flexible part and additional spring absorb vibrations

Rigid connection

- No rotation
- Flexing side braces create extra stress in side

- **Integrated heddle damper :**

Unique and patented heddle dampening system that is integrated in the frame profiles. It controls the heddle movement and vibrations by lowering the free play of the heddles on the heddle rod. This exclusive feature brings specific advantages such as minimal wear and breakage of heddles and minimal inclination of heddles.

- **Glued heddle rods :**

As single supplier of glued heddle rods (patent-pending), Steel Heddle® overcomes the weakness of standard riveted frames. The glued heddle rods is the most reliable heddle rod connection and avoids rivet holes. Rivet holes are the weakest elements in the frame design and result in frame breakage. With the glued heddle rod, you extend effectively the lifetime of the harness frame.

Leading the way with 110 years of experience

Next to product innovation, Steel Heddle® has built its reputation as leader in the weaving accessories development and production on an unparalleled customer service, highest quality, flexibility and responsiveness.

In 2002, Steel Heddle® joined GTP (Global Textile Partner) and is today the production center of its quality heddles, droppers and frames. With the widest range of precision heddles, frames and droppers in the market, GTP - Steel heddle offers quality weaving solutions for every weaving application, fast and reliable.

Their latest designs and new materials will be presented during ITMA Asia and ITME India where all visitors can join the GTP booth. During the exhibition, we will celebrate the 110th anniversary of Steel Heddle and visitors can win accordingly 110 000 of our Steel Heddle® state-of-the-art heddles.

More information on the complete Steel Heddle® product range is available on www.globaltextilepartner.com