

# Design and Manufacturing of Curve Surface Milling Mechanism

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**Abstract:** *Convex surface milling plays an important role in industries requiring complex shapes. CNC machines typically handle this task but are expensive and complex. This paper introduces a manual convex surface milling mechanism that is affordable, efficient, and suitable for materials like aluminum, MDF, and acrylic. The mechanism uses a lead screw-driven curved platform beneath a stationary milling tool. Experimental tests demonstrated acceptable surface finishes comparable to CNC machining within educational and prototyping tolerances*

**Keywords:** Convex Surface Milling, Manual Milling, Lead Screw Mechanism, CNC Alternative, Surface Roughness.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Machining convex profiles is crucial in many sectors. Traditional CNC machining is precise but costly. The aim of this project is to design an economical, manual convex surface milling mechanism.

### Objectives:

- Design a cost-effective convex milling mechanism.
- Enable milling on aluminum, wood, and acrylic.
- Maintain acceptable surface precision.
- Provide manual control using a lead screw.

## II. METHODOLOGY

The design involves a platform mounted on inclined rods, moved manually using a lead screw. Material selection includes:

Frame: Mild Steel

Guide Rods and Lead Screw: Hardened Steel

Work Platform: Aluminum

Standard fabrication processes like turning, drilling, welding, and surface finishing were used.

The assembled mechanism was tested for smooth motion and accurate material feed.

## III. SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION

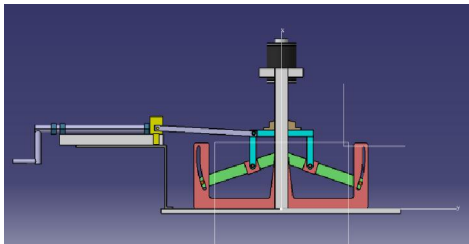
**Side View:** Showing inclined platform setup.

**Top View:** Showing material feed path and motor arrangement.

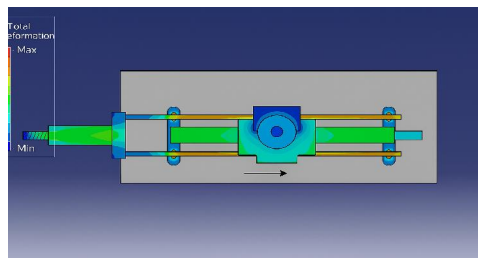
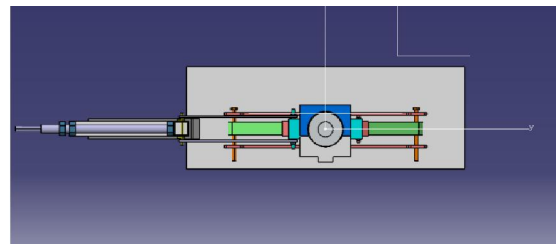
**Force Analysis Diagram:** Showing distribution of forces during milling.



**Figure 1: Side View Schematic**



**Figure 2: Top View Schematic**



**Figure 3: Force Analysis Diagram**

#### IV. ANALYSIS AND CALCULATIONS

**Lead Screw Pitch:** 2 mm/rev

**Platform Feed Rate:** ~120 mm/min at 60 RPM

**Cutting Force Estimation:** 30–50 N

**Platform Deflection:** <0.02 mm

**Surface Roughness:** Measured using a profilometer.

**Lead Screw Displacement**

Pitch: 2 mm/rev

Speed: 60 RPM

Feed Rate =  $2 \times 60 = 120$  mm/min

**Cutting Force**

$F_c = k \cdot t \cdot w$

For Aluminium ( $k \approx 0.8$  N/mm<sup>2</sup>), MDF (~0.5 N/mm<sup>2</sup>)

**Platform Deflection**

$$\delta = \frac{F \cdot L^3}{3EI}$$

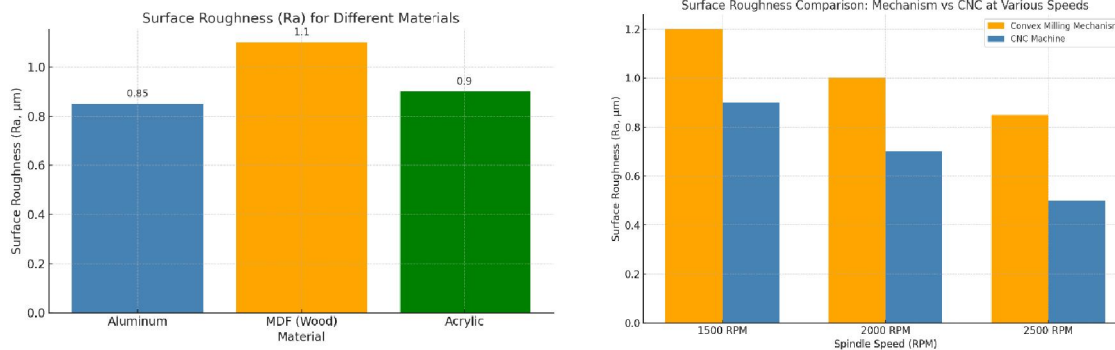
Result: < 0.02 mm (within tolerance limits)

#### V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Materials tested: Aluminum, MDF, Acrylic

Material	Surface Roughness (Ra, $\mu$ m)	Tool Speed (RPM)	Feed Mechanism	Platform Feed Rate (mm/min)
Aluminum	0.85	~1500–2500	Manual	~120
MDF	1.1	~1500–2000	Manual	~120
Acrylic	0.9	~1800–2200	Manual	~120





**Figure 4: Surface Roughness for Different Materials**

**Figure 5: Surface Roughness Comparison between Mechanism and CNC Machine**

#### VI. MECHANISM SPECIFICATIONS

Component	Specification
Platform Size	300 mm × 200 mm
Platform Material	Mild Steel Frame with Aluminum Top
Platform Motion	Manual (Lead Screw Driven)
Lead Screw Pitch	2 mm/rev
Crank Rod Length	250 mm
Inclined Rod Fixed Angle	15°
Angle Adjustment Slot Range	±10°
Maximum Platform Tilt	25°
Minimum Platform Tilt	5°
Milling Tool Mount	Stationary Vertical Spindle
Bearings	Deep Groove Ball Bearings
Overall Mechanism Size	600 mm × 400 mm × 500 mm

#### VII. ANGLE SETTINGS FOR CONVEX SURFACE MILLING MECHANISM

Parameter	Value
Default Inclined Rod Angle	15°
Maximum Platform Inclination	25° (15° + 10°)
Minimum Platform Inclination	5° (15° - 10°)
Practical Working Range	5° to 25°

#### VIII. DISCUSSION

The developed convex surface milling mechanism provides a low-cost alternative to CNC for convex surface generation, suited for educational institutions and small workshops.

Although manual, the mechanism maintains good surface finish and dimensional accuracy.



**Observations:**

Surface roughness achieved: 0.85–1.1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Aluminum required slower feed rates.

MDF and Acrylic allowed moderate speeds without surface defects.

**Limitations:**

Operator-dependent feed rate variations.

Restricted to 2D convex surfaces.

**Advantages:**

Very low initial and maintenance cost.

Simplicity of operation and setup.

**IX. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE**

The manually operated convex milling mechanism successfully mills curved profiles without CNC dependency.

Future improvements include:

- Motorized platform movement.
- Automated angle adjustment.
- Better surface finish strategies.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

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