



THE MACHINE BLUE BOOK

INDEPENDENT MACHINE RESEARCH

USED-MACHINE LISTING EVIDENCE CHECKLIST

What is shown. What is claimed.
What remains unknown.



Used-Machine Listing Evidence Checklist

Separate what is shown, what is claimed, and what remains unknown

The Machine Blue Book

Independent machine research for buyers, sellers, shops, and service providers
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The evidence rule

A listing can be useful without being complete. The job is to separate four things:

- 1. **Observed:** visible in a photograph, video, document, or inspection.
- 2. **Reported:** stated by the seller, broker, service provider, or other source.
- 3. **Inferred:** a reasonable conclusion that still requires confirmation.
- 4. **Unknown:** not established by the available evidence.

Do not convert “reported” into “verified” merely because it appears in a polished listing.

1. Identity

Evidence	Received	Verified	Notes
Manufacturer	☐	☐	
Model	☐	☐	
Serial number	☐	☐	
Year	☐	☐	
Nameplate photograph	☐	☐	
Control manufacturer and generation	☐	☐	
Original build or option sheet	☐	☐	
Current physical location	☐	☐	
Legal seller or authorized representative	☐	☐	

Questions

- Does the nameplate match the written listing?
- Does the serial number appear consistently across documents?
- Is the listed year a manufacturing year, installation year, or estimate?
- Is the seller the owner, broker, auctioneer, or another representative?

Research values by manufacturer, model, and year in the [MBB Machine Value Center](#).

2. Configuration

Evidence	Shown	Reported	Unknown
Axis travels	☐	☐	☐
Spindle speed and power	☐	☐	☐
Table, chuck, or work envelope	☐	☐	☐
Tool capacity and taper	☐	☐	☐
Through-spindle coolant	☐	☐	☐
Probing or tool setter	☐	☐	☐
Chip conveyor or auger	☐	☐	☐
High-pressure coolant	☐	☐	☐
Fourth or fifth axis	☐	☐	☐
Bar feeder, subspindle, live tooling, or automation	☐	☐	☐
Transformer	☐	☐	☐
Included tooling and workholding	☐	☐	☐
Manuals, software, parameters, and backups	☐	☐	☐

Ask for a written included-items list. If an item matters to the price or intended process, do not rely on it merely appearing in a photograph.

3. Condition

Visual evidence

- ☐ All sides of the machine
- ☐ Work area
- ☐ Table, chuck, spindle, turret, or cutting zone
- ☐ Toolchanger or magazine
- ☐ Control and powered display
- ☐ Electrical cabinet
- ☐ Hydraulic and lubrication areas
- ☐ Chip conveyor and coolant system
- ☐ Known damaged, repaired, or missing components
- ☐ Floor around the machine for visible leaks

Operating evidence

- ☐ Cold startup
- ☐ Axis movement
- ☐ Spindle operation across a reasonable range
- ☐ Tool change or turret index
- ☐ Included automation operation
- ☐ Alarm and diagnostic screen
- ☐ Test cut or process demonstration
- ☐ Geometry, calibration, or inspection result where relevant

History

- ☐ Current hours or cycle count with explanation of the counter

- ☐ Maintenance records
- ☐ Service invoices
- ☐ Major repair history
- ☐ Crash or collision history as reported
- ☐ Spindle, ballscrew, guideway, control, or drive replacement history
- ☐ Current known faults
- ☐ Reason for sale

“Under power” establishes that power is available. It does not by itself establish geometry, accuracy, repeatability, spindle condition, or fitness for a buyer’s process.

4. Availability and control of the transaction

- Who physically possesses the machine?
- Who owns it?
- Who is authorized to sell it?
- Is it subject to a lien, lease, financing arrangement, bankruptcy, auction, or other claim?
- Is it still in production?
- When can it be inspected?
- When must it be removed?
- What happens if removal is delayed?
- Is loading included?
- Is the machine being marketed by more than one party?
- Which listing is the current source of truth?

MBB does not establish availability merely by displaying or linking to a listing. Contact the actual seller or authorized representative and verify current status.

5. Commercial terms

Obtain the transaction terms in writing.

- Asking price:
- Negotiated price:
- Deposit:
- Payment method:
- Payment timing:
- Inspection right:
- Acceptance or rejection process:
- Included items:
- Excluded items:
- Taxes:
- Buyer’s premium or transaction fee:
- Loading:
- Freight:
- Rigging:
- Removal deadline:
- Storage or delay charges:
- Warranty or “as-is, where-is” language:
- Governing contract:

Read the contract. If a problem or material uncertainty exists, consult qualified counsel before proceeding.

Use the [purchase-agreement and due-diligence guide](#) and [used-machine problems guide](#).

6. Logistics and installed cost

- Machine shipping dimensions:
- Machine shipping weight:
- Center of gravity or lift points:
- Blocking and bracing requirements:
- Loading responsibility:
- Carrier type:
- Permit requirements:
- Destination access:
- Unloading and placement:
- Foundation work:
- Electrical work:
- Utilities:
- Installation:
- Startup and calibration:
- Tooling and workholding:
- Training:
- Contingency:

The cheapest asking price may not produce the lowest installed cost.

Use the [machine readiness worksheet](#) and [total installed cost guide](#).

7. Evidence summary

Established

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Reported but not independently verified

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Material unknowns

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Conditions required before purchase

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Decision

- ☐ Proceed to inspection
 - ☐ Request more evidence
 - ☐ Revise price or terms
 - ☐ Hold
 - ☐ Decline
-

For sellers

A credible listing reduces avoidable uncertainty. Include:

- Exact identity
- Current photographs
- Current operating video
- Written option and included-item list
- Known-condition disclosure
- Service history
- Inspection availability
- Removal conditions
- A direct route to the authorized seller

Good evidence does not guarantee a sale. It gives serious buyers something they can evaluate.

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KNOW THE MACHINE. KNOW THE DECISION.

Independent research for buyers, sellers,
shops, and the people who move the work.

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