THE MACHINE
BLUE BOOK

FIELD GUIDE 01
INDEPENDENT MACHINERY KNOWLEDGE

Beyond the Quote

The machine-to-production dossier

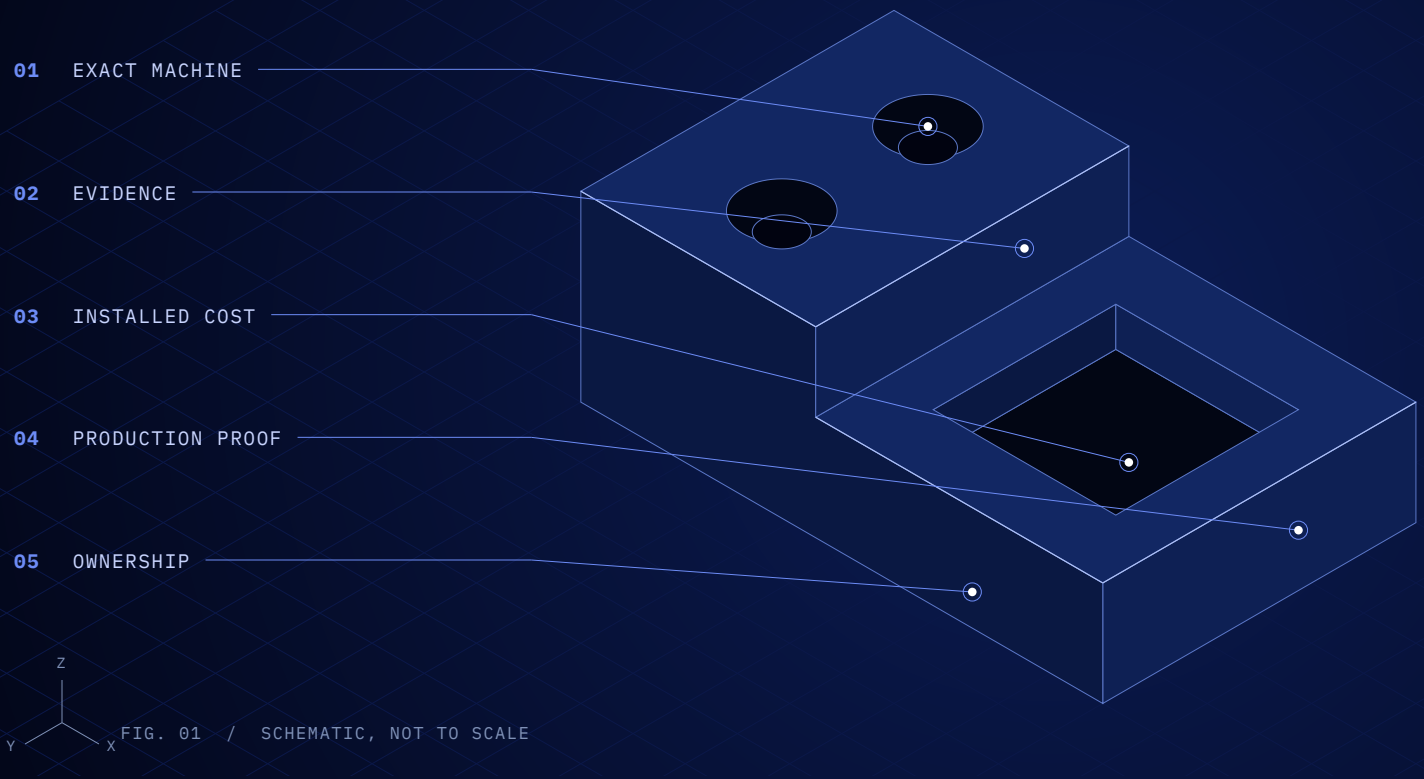


FIG. 01 / SCHEMATIC, NOT TO SCALE

The price is only the beginning.

Compare the machine. Expose the unknowns. Map what it takes to put it to work.

DOCUMENT	EDITION	CONTENTS	SCOPE
MBB-FG-01	OCTOBER 2026	18 PP / 3 WORKING SHEETS	NEW + USED MACHINERY

A quote answers the price. Not the whole decision.

For buyers, operators and people responsible for turning a machinery decision into a working operation.

01 **What exact machine am I comparing?**

Model, generation, control and included options. A shared model name is not a shared configuration.

02 **What is established, and by whom?**

A source-backed specification is useful. It does not establish the condition of a serial-numbered unit.

03 **What will it cost beyond the quote?**

Removal, transport, placement, utilities, tooling and startup. Unknown amounts stay unknown.

04 **What must be proved on my actual job?**

Material, setup, cycle, inspection and acceptance. A striking demo is not the same as your production test.

05 **Who owns the next unresolved step?**

Give every consequential unknown an owner, a source request and a decision date.

Read the example. Then make your own dossier on pages 13-15. No universal score or hidden recommendation.

SOURCE BASIS: MBB SYNTHESIS / S1-S5

The machine is one node. The decision is a system.

A research map, not an engineering sequence. Some workstreams run in parallel; the exact machine and facility determine the dependencies.



The end is not delivery. It is an agreed handoff into useful operation, followed by a repeatable ownership plan.

RESOURCE **Explore the full MBB ownership map** OPEN →

SOURCE BASIS: MBB SYNTHESIS / S8; INSTALLATION CONTEXT S7

Compare the job first.
Then compare the machines.

Do not rank unlike configurations using a single headline specification. Build a comparable decision boundary first.

NORMALIZE THIS	BEFORE A SPECIFICATION BECOMES A DECISION
Actual job	Material, part envelope, setup and acceptance criteria
Identity	Exact model, generation, control and quoted options
Capability	Travels, work envelope, spindle, axes and tooling
Infrastructure	Input power, air, space, access and foundation
Condition / support	Unit inspection, warranty scope and service availability
Terms / scope	Currency, date, inclusions, removal and startup responsibility

Standard and metric are a reading aid.

A unit conversion does not change a machine. Preserve the source unit and rounding, and distinguish calculated equivalents from published values.

RESOURCE **Compare up to four references at the research desk** OPEN →

SOURCE BASIS: S1 / S3 / ORIGINAL DECISION SYNTHESIS

A specification tells you plenty. And leaves plenty to prove.

Haas VF-2SS model reference, read on MBB on October 14, 2026. Reference page updated October 10. These are compiled model values, not an inspection.

TRAVELS X / Y / Z

30 / 16 / 20

inches; 762 / 406.4 / 508 mm*

SPINDLE MAXIMUM

12,000

rpm; speed is not a production result

TOOL CAPACITY

30 + 1

reference capacity; verify included configuration

SPINDLE MOTOR RATING

30 hp

not the machine's total connected load

* Metric travel equivalents calculated from the inch values using 25.4 mm/in. The imperial figures are the MBB-reported source values; no independent OEM revalidation of this table was completed.

Still unresolved for your decision

EXACT UNIT	Which control, spindle and options are actually included?
YOUR SITE	What do the data plate and drawings require at your facility?
YOUR PART	Can the machine meet the agreed job and acceptance test?

RESOURCE **Read the attributed model reference** OPEN →

SOURCE BASIS: S6; CALCULATIONS IDENTIFIED / EDUCATIONAL EXAMPLE, NO ENDORSEMENT

Useful information has a source. Useful decisions have a scope.

Use MBB's evidence vocabulary. A published fact and a machine-specific verification are different things.

OBSERVED	A cited passage was read and retained. It establishes what that source published, not a physical measurement of your machine.
REPORTED	A named value is available, but the passage may not have been retained or re-read in this review.
INFERRED	A transparent calculation or summary. Keep its assumptions and inputs visible; it cannot repair a weak source.
UNKNOWN	Not captured. It means neither zero nor no. Assign a source request rather than inventing a value.

> Also retain: conflict, configuration-dependent, historical, not captured and not applicable. A single green check should never erase these distinctions.

RESOURCE **Read MBB's published evidence standard** OPEN →

SOURCE BASIS: S3; WORDING CONDENSED AND ILLUSTRATED

A 40,000 purchase difference. A 2,000 entered-cost difference.

Hypothetical USD assumptions. Not a market quote, valuation, typical-cost benchmark or price for the Haas example. Unknown costs remain outside the subtotal.

ASSUMED CASH COST	NEW ROUTE	USED ROUTE
Machine acquisition	120,000	80,000
Freight and removal	3,000	6,000
Rigging and placement	2,000	4,000
Facility and utilities	4,000	12,000
Tooling and software	5,000	10,000
Startup, training and repair	3,000	20,000
Scenario contingency	2,000	5,000
Entered example subtotal	139,000	137,000

40,000	–	−38,000	=	2,000
ACQUISITION GAP		OTHER COST GAP		REMAINS

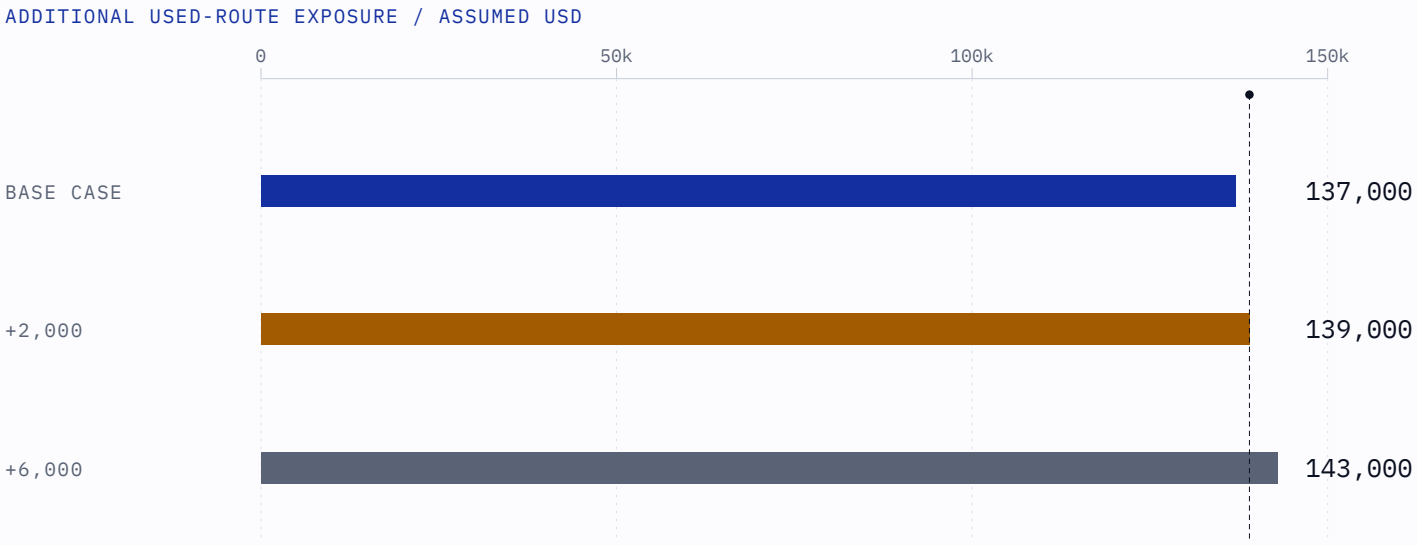
New-route extras: 19,000. Used-route extras: 57,000. The difference absorbs 38,000 of the purchase gap. Taxes, duties and financing are unpriced; these subtotals are not complete budgets.

RESOURCE **Build your own entered-cost plan** OPEN →

SOURCE BASIS: ORIGINAL HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIO; CATEGORY CONTEXT S2 / S5

The most valuable question: what could reverse the decision?

Continue the hypothetical example. A lower entered subtotal is not evidence of a better outcome. Test the uncertainties before treating the gap as a saving.



139,000: new-route entered subtotal

Four days can matter. Or none can.

At a separately assumed delay allowance of 500/day, four days absorb a 2,000 gap. This is a planning assumption, not a measured downtime rate or a lost-profit estimate. Your actual exposure may be entirely different.

Avoid double counting: if the same exposure is already in the contingency or repair line, do not add it again. Ask which fact, quote or test would shrink the uncertainty.

SOURCE BASIS: ORIGINAL SCENARIO / TRANSPARENT ASSUMPTIONS, NO EMPIRICAL SAVINGS CLAIM

A demonstration is a spectacle. Your acceptance test is evidence.

Define success before the impressive machine demo. Have the OEM, supplier and qualified production team agree what will be shown and recorded.

01	**JOB**	Material, part family, batch size and setup. Use an approved representative part; do not expose confidential drawings unnecessarily.
02	**PROCESS**	Required operations, workholding, tooling, program and inspection method. Identify what is included versus supplied by someone else.
03	**RESULT**	Agreed tolerances, repeatability expectations, cycle assumptions and quality evidence. Record the conditions of the demonstration.
04	**HANDOFF**	Who owns training, prove-out, service and open deviations? An attractive video is not an acceptance record.

> **Ask for evidence of your agreed job, not a promise that a headline spindle speed will produce it.**

SOURCE BASIS: ORIGINAL EDITORIAL CHECKLIST; MODEL/EXACT-UNIT DISTINCTION S4

No mysterious “someone”. Give the unresolved step an owner.

A planning conversation for the real people doing the work. Competence, local requirements and machine-specific instructions control the actual installation.

SUPPLIER / OEM	Exact configuration, manuals, options, installation documents and included commissioning scope.
QUALIFIED SITE TEAM	Facility assessment, power and utilities, foundations and access. Use relevant licensed or qualified professionals.
RIGGER / CARRIER	Removal boundary, handling plan, transport scope, placement responsibilities and insurance terms.
PRODUCTION / QUALITY	Representative part, tooling, program, inspection and the agreed acceptance record.
PURCHASE OWNER	Costs, contractual inclusions, open evidence requests and who can authorize the decision.

The Haas checklist explicitly covers installation dependencies. It does not establish a facility's readiness. Obtain the current documents for the actual equipment and qualified review for the actual site.

SOURCE BASIS: ORIGINAL OWNERSHIP SYNTHESIS / S7 PRIMARY OEM CHECKLIST

New and used are not opposing teams. They are different questions.

Keep the same job and facility boundary. Then identify what each purchase route still needs to prove.

NEW ROUTE	USED ROUTE
Configuration Confirm the quoted build, software, options and what is standard versus additional.	**Exact unit** Confirm serial, year, control, installed options and what remains with the machine.
Support / terms Read warranty scope, exclusions, response route, training and commissioning inclusions.	**Condition / records** Request relevant operating evidence, maintenance history and a scoped inspection.
Timing / site Confirm current lead time, acceptance conditions and site responsibilities in writing.	**Removal / restart** Identify deinstallation, transport, licensing transfer, repair and startup responsibility.

A published asking price is not a completed sale.

Confirm date, currency, terms and scope. A removed listing or sold badge does not prove the price paid. Keep price evidence separate from installed cost.

SOURCE BASIS: S4 / S5; ORIGINAL PURCHASE-ROUTE PROMPTS

Ask for a decision packet. Not another brochure.

Copy and adapt this request for a shortlist supplier. Replace the bracketed details and avoid sending confidential designs before you have an approved disclosure process.

SUPPLIER EMAIL / WORKING TEMPLATE

Hello [name],

We are assessing [exact machine / quote / serial] for [application] at [facility]. To compare it properly, could you help us confirm the following?

1. The exact build: control, spindle, axes, options, tooling and software included, with the current specification and installation documents.

2. The evidence: source/date for key claims, and for a used unit, relevant condition, maintenance and inspection records.

3. The boundary: price currency and validity, exclusions, removal/transport/startup responsibilities, warranty and service route.

4. The proof: how we can demonstrate [representative job] against agreed acceptance criteria, and who owns any unresolved questions.

If something is not yet known, please label it as open rather than assuming it is included. Thank you.

Keep the response with the decision.

Save the dated reply and documents. Record who supplied each fact, which machine it concerns and what permission applies before republishing someone else's materials.

SOURCE BASIS: ORIGINAL TEMPLATE; SCOPE DISTINCTIONS S3-S5

Your machine decision brief.

Fill these pages in a compatible PDF reader, save a copy, or print. Fields are local to the PDF; the document does not send your entries to MBB.

PROJECT / DECISION OWNER

DECISION DATE

ACTUAL JOB / MATERIAL / ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

THREE CANDIDATES / EXACT MODEL, YEAR, CONFIGURATION OR QUOTE ID

A

B

C

WHAT COULD REVERSE THIS DECISION?

FIRST EVIDENCE REQUEST + PERSON RESPONSIBLE

SOURCE BASIS: ORIGINAL WORKSHEET / NO AUTOMATIC SCORE, RECOMMENDATION OR SUBMISSION

Entered costs. Visible unknowns.

One candidate per saved copy. Blank is unknown; write 0 only when deliberately verified as zero. Subtotals must never silently replace missing amounts.

EXACT CANDIDATE / SCOPE

CURRENCY / AS-OF DATE

COST CATEGORY	AMOUNT	BASIS / OPEN?
Machine purchase		
Taxes / duties / acquisition fees		
Removal and preparation		
Freight / permits / escorts		
Rigging and placement		
Foundation / site preparation		
Electrical / power conversion		
Air / coolant / chiller / extraction		
Tooling and workholding		
Metrology and inspection		
Software / CAM / integration		
Installation and commissioning		
Training and prove-out		
Financing / closing costs		
Other known costs / contingency		

ENTERED SUBTOTAL

UNPRICED ITEMS / NEXT SOURCE REQUEST

Manual worksheet, no automated calculation. Keep cost sources and owners on page 15. Do not add financing principal to a purchase already counted, or double count contingency.

SOURCE BASIS: COST CATEGORIES ADAPTED FROM S2 / NO FINANCIAL ADVICE

The evidence and owner log.

Keep the question, source and next action together. Attach supporting documents in your own approved records; the PDF has no upload mechanism.

EXACT MACHINE / PROJECT

RECORD 01

Claim or consequential unknown

Evidence label / scope

Source / document / date

Owner / due / next action

RECORD 02

Claim or consequential unknown

Evidence label / scope

Source / document / date

Owner / due / next action

RECORD 03

Claim or consequential unknown

Evidence label / scope

Source / document / date

Owner / due / next action

Use labels from page 6. An owner's answer is not automatically independent proof. Keep source passages, document versions and conflicting information visible.

SOURCE BASIS: ORIGINAL WORKSHEET / EVIDENCE LABELS S3

Keep the research moving. Keep the decision yours.

MBB is the reference behind this dossier. Use it to connect machinery facts with the questions around buying, installing, operating and selling.

01 **Build a comparable shortlist** RESEARCH DESK

Machine references, units and evidence context.

OPEN RESOURCE →

02 **Make the missing costs visible** PRODUCTION READY COST

Use the private entered-cost planning surface.

OPEN RESOURCE →

03 **Map what comes next** OWNERSHIP MAP

Follow the ownership stages and service research paths.

OPEN RESOURCE →

04 **Check the language of evidence** EVIDENCE STANDARD

Separate public claims, calculations and exact-unit proof.

OPEN RESOURCE →

Have a missing model, source or correction? Use the site's contact route. Do not send confidential production information without agreeing how it should be handled.

SOURCE BASIS: S1 / S2 / S3 / S8; NO COMPATIBILITY OR ENGINEERING DETERMINATION

Inspectable sources. Explicit boundaries.

Public-page review: October 14, 2026. This is original educational synthesis, not a market census or a comparative product test.

S1 **MBB research desk**
themachinebluebook.com/compare/research-desk/

S2 **MBB production-ready cost planner**
themachinebluebook.com/production-ready-cost/

S3 **MBB evidence standard**
themachinebluebook.com/evidence-standard/

S4 **MBB market-evidence glossary**
themachinebluebook.com/machine-market-evidence/

S5 **MBB valuation methodology**
themachinebluebook.com/methodology.html

S6 **MBB Haas VF-2SS model reference**
themachinebluebook.com/reference/vertical-machining-centers/haas-vf-2ss/

S7 **Haas pre-installation checklist**
www.haascnc.com / Technical Publications / pre-install_checklist.pdf

S8 **MBB ownership map**
themachinebluebook.com/ownership-map/

Read the limits with the figures.

The Haas numbers are MBB-reported model values. They were not independently revalidated against an exact OEM configuration in this review. All cost and delay examples are explicitly assumed, not quotations or observed outcomes. Missing costs are not zero.

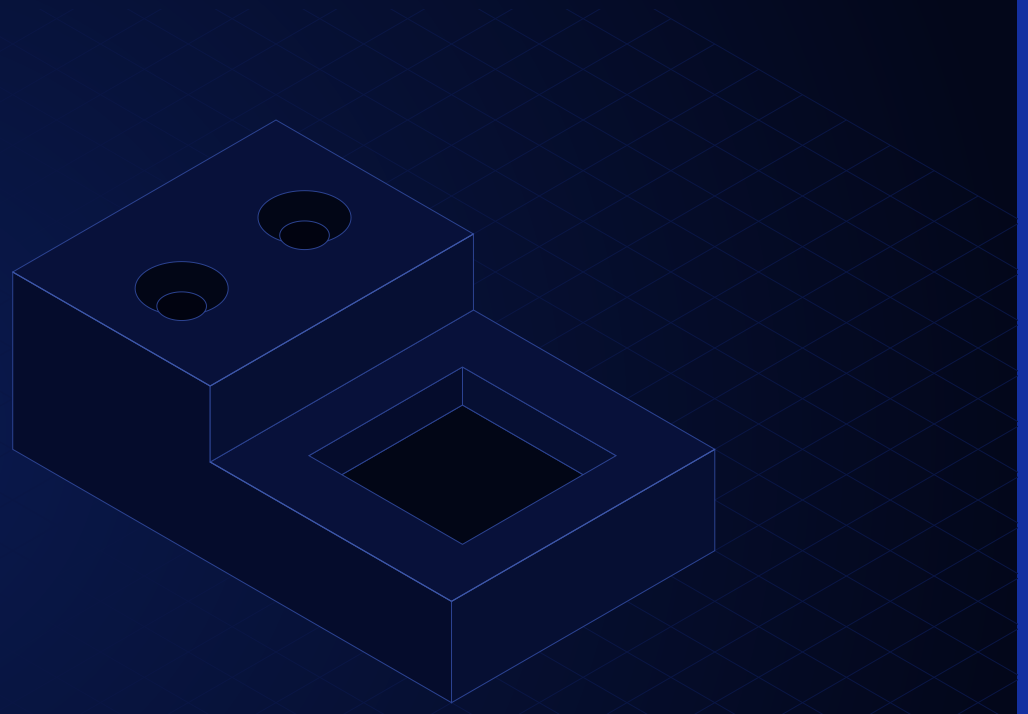
No inspection, engineering approval, credit decision, appraisal, equipment endorsement or promised production result is provided. Obtain current machine-specific documents and qualified advice for the actual decision. Public sources and live tools can change.

AI-assisted drafting, graphics and consistency checks. Source-backed synthesis. Original vector graphics; no OEM photos or implied affiliation.

Know the machine. Know what comes next.

Independent research for the complete machinery decision.

01 / MACHINE	02 / MARKET	03 / OWNERSHIP
Identity and capability	Evidence and context	The full path to use



THE MACHINE BLUE BOOK

SCAN TO OPEN

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