

FROM A HAND-DUG BASEMENT TO PROVIDING CRITICAL DOD COMPONENTS, JAIDINGER MANUFACTURING ON A GROWTH TRAJECTORY

On West Hubbard Street in Chicago, a manufacturing powerhouse has been shaping American industry for seven decades. **Jaidinger Manufacturing**, a third-generation, family-owned company, has forged its legacy through ingenuity, resilience, and the kind of loyalty that only comes from being deeply rooted in your hometown.

A CHICAGO STORY STILL BEING WRITTEN

Jaidinger has been part of the industrial fabric of the **Kinzie Industrial Corridor** since the 1950s. The neighborhood is just north of the United Center, the largest arena in the country. The scent of metal and oil hangs in the air as stamping and tool-and-die makers continue centuries-old craftsmanship. While many manufacturers left the city, Jaidinger stayed, believing that Chicago needs companies that make things.

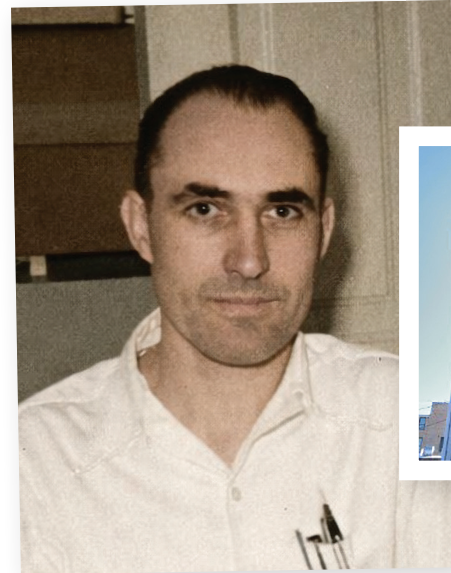
With 25 employees, few companies of Jaidinger's size serve such a wide range of industries. Their components support pinball machines, home appliances, industrial, and maritime products, as well as critical Department of Defense components.

This diversity has created local stability and global reach. Jaidinger intentionally sources from local vendors, helping sustain Chicago's manufacturing ecosystem. "Most of our business suppliers and vendors are local, but our products go all over the world," says Julie Jaidinger, the company's president and granddaughter of the founder.

Manufacturing is vital to communities like West Town, one of 77 neighborhoods in Chicago, providing jobs that stick, supply chains that don't break, and the chance for families to build promising futures. Companies like Jaidinger are the reason Illinois is the fifth largest economy in the country.¹

Today, the business operates out of two facilities, the original 6,150-square-foot home and a newer 20,000-square-foot location in neighboring Humboldt Park. "We've been here so long that the neighborhood feels like part of the business," says Jaidinger.

That commitment to place makes Jaidinger an ideal participant in IMEC's Made in My Hometown series, a year-long look at how manufacturers are woven into the life of their communities, contributing far more than just their bottom line.



SHINING A BRIGHT LIGHT ON ILLINOIS MANUFACTURING

After working at every level in manufacturing, from the production floor to leading world-class operations, the one thing I've seen again and again is the pride people have in their work. More than just products, manufacturing strengthens families, neighborhoods, and markets around the world.

This is the difference Jaidinger Manufacturing is making on Chicago's Near West Side. It's a great story on how a local family-owned company can evolve, innovate, and create an impact that reaches far beyond its hometown, while remaining deeply rooted.

The companies profiled in the Made in My Hometown series reveal a ripple effect: When a manufacturer succeeds, it strengthens employees and their families, supports local suppliers, and fuels the broader economy. Jaidinger, and other manufacturers highlighted here, are leading the way in the modern era of industrial reinvention. We hope you enjoy reading about them.

To the bright future ahead,

John Azara
IMEC
Director of Client Engagement

¹ University of Illinois Chicago, <https://illinoisdefense.uic.edu/about/>





IMEC PARTNERSHIP FUELS THE NEXT PHASE

As the only public-private partnership focused on Repeatable Excellence™, IMEC gives companies like Jaidinger a trusted ally inside their four walls.

Support from IMEC has sharpened Jaidinger’s public presence, preparing it for long-term growth. IMEC grants led to a full website refresh, improved marketing, and technical support that positioned the company for new revenue opportunities.

“In December (2025), we had a factory assessment with IMEC’s **Tom Grant** and **Jim Floyd** to see how we can boost efficiency and streamline workflow,” said Jaidinger. “That’s the next step.”



Grant, an IMEC regional manager, sees enormous potential for Jaidinger. “What we saw reinforces what we’ve always believed. It is a strong company, but they’re not done growing,” he said. “We’re going to help them optimize their workflow, modernize processes, and identify opportunities for automation that match their size and pace. It’s about respectful growth. We’re meeting them where they are and helping them get to where they want to go.”

That December walk-through set the stage for 2026 improvements tied to equipment investment and modernization. With IMEC’s guidance, Jaidinger applied for a Cook County grant to reinvest in new technology in order to stay competitive.

COMPANY OVERVIEW

\$3 MILLION
ANNUAL REVENUE IN 2025

\$2 MILLION
COVID-YEAR REVENUE

KEY OPERATIONAL FACTS

- ✓ **2 Facilities:** Humboldt Park factory/ warehouse and original house-factory on Hubbard Street
- ✓ **House factory:** 4 floors, including a hand-dug basement used for metal stamping
- ✓ **Products:** Metal stamping, plastics molding, military components, pinball machine parts and small electronics

IMEC ENGAGEMENTS COMPLETED

- ✓ **Lean/OPEX assessment**
- ✓ **Website redesign**
- ✓ **Lead generation** (8-part email campaign)



“Most of our suppliers are local...but our products go all over the world.”



A FOUNDER WHO LEARNED BY DOING

John H. Jaidinger was a self-taught inventor who never finished high school. After completing eighth grade, he worked to support his mother and sisters. What he lacked in formal education, he made up for in resourcefulness, earning seven patents through trial and error.

His determination defined the company. When he needed room to install new manufacturing equipment, he dug the entire basement by hand, carving out the future of the company one shovel at a time. "That tells you everything you need to know about Jaidinger," said Grant.

"This place was built on grit."

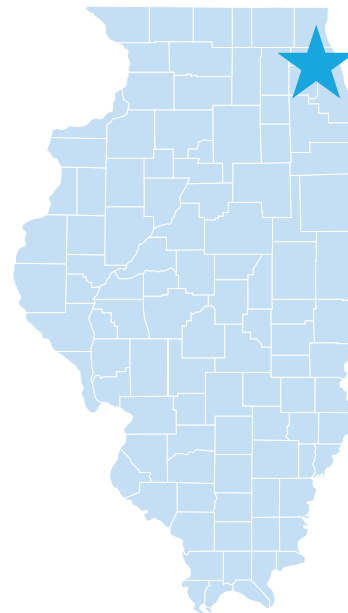
"He (John H.) wasn't impressed by college degrees," said Julie. "He believed in problem-solving above all else." His vision was to be the company customers call when they have a challenge no one else can solve.

Today the company carries that spirit forward, climbing from a COVID-era dip of roughly \$2 million in annual sales to more than \$3 million today, a steady, disciplined growth driven by loyalty, trust, consistency, and guidance from IMEC.



JAIDINGER MANUFACTURING

1921 West Hubbard Street
Chicago IL 60622-6239



GUADALUPE JASSO'S FIVE DECADES OF LOYALTY

A growth-driven manufacturer changes lives and futures. Just ask Guadalupe Jasso.

At 18, Lupe joined Jaidinger as a part-time assembly worker before moving into coil winding. Over the years, she became a supervisor, office manager, and now contributes to estimating, advancing because the company recognized her work.



"They treat you like family," said Jasso. "When I had my four kids, they always gave me the time I needed. That's a big plus right there."

Her relationship with the Jaidinger family is deeply personal. She fondly recalls how founder John H. recorded Linda Ronstadt songs for her because he knew she was a fan. She still has the tape. When she once became sick at work, Julie's father John S. Jaidinger drove Jasso 30 minutes to her doctor and stayed until her husband arrived.

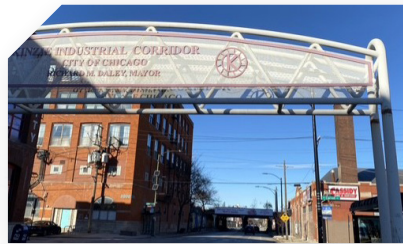
"Who does that?" she asks. "That's family."

Jasso speaks about her life with pride. She has a nearly paid-off house, successful children, including two in the military, a schoolteacher, and another working in healthcare. "The Jaidingers are old school. Respectful. Caring. It's been wonderful working here," she said.

WHY JAIDINGER MATTERS TO CHICAGO

In a city that once defined American manufacturing, Jaidinger reaffirms that the spirit of making things is still alive in Chicago.

It matters because it supports local suppliers. It matters because it creates stability for workers here. It matters because the company stayed true to its neighborhood when others left. It matters because its legacy of curiosity, hard work, and problem-solving continues.



All of this starts in one place: the hometown of people who make things the world needs.

MADE IN MY HOMETOWN SERIES

In every Illinois hometown, manufacturing impacts families, community, state, and country – and IMEC is there. We're the first stop to taking small and midsize manufacturers from status quo to unstoppable. You bring the can-do spirit, we bring the know-how to scale your goals.

Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC)

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IMEC PROJECT IMPACT

\$15,000
NEW SALES GENERATED

\$125,000
RETAINED SALES

\$64,000
COST SAVINGS

\$50,000
COST AVOIDANCE

\$102,000
TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT

- ✓ Information systems: \$13,000
- ✓ Employee skills/training: \$8,000
- ✓ Plant & equipment: \$78,000
- ✓ Other: \$3,000

IMEC PROJECT IMPACT ON LEAD GENERATION

\$255,000
NEW SALES GENERATED

\$2 MILLION
RETAINED SALES

IMEC PROJECT IMPACT ON MEASURABLE GROWTH

\$1 MILLION
REVENUE INCREASE FROM
\$2 MILLION TO \$3 MILLION
ANNUAL REVENUE



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