



CASE STUDY BENDER, INC.

Bender, Inc. Improves OEM Efficiency with AttaBox Series Enclosures

When safety systems go into harsh, high-traffic environments, enclosures have to do more than house wiring and electronics.

Bender, Inc. is a global electrical safety company serving multiple markets. Many of its products, such as ground fault monitoring systems, are installed on shipping docks and marina docks, where equipment and electronics face constant physical exposure and weather.

"Our products are often installed in heavy traffic areas with a lot of forklifts," said Rusty Hansell, Supply Chain Manager at Bender. "So the quality of the enclosures we select is always top of mind for us. The strength of the box is important, and they're often installed in smaller spaces, so size is a real benefit. In marine applications, waterproof capabilities are something we look for as well."

For Bender, enclosure performance is tied directly to jobsite realities, user safety, and the long-term reliability of their systems. But as they looked to scale projects and introduce new product improvements, internal enclosure modification became a growing inefficiency. Preparing enclosures in-house pulled skilled labor away from wiring and assembly.

"We were drilling holes and applying labels, and that was really taking our team members out of the workflow," Hansell explained. "Instead of focusing on wiring and assembly, they were at a drill press. It was disruptive to the operation."

Bender needed an enclosure partner that could remove unnecessary steps from production while improving consistency and appearance.

"They were quick to respond to our needs..."



The Solution: Streamlined Customization with Stahlin

Bender was introduced to Stahlin during the development of a new project. From the outset, the relationship focused on practical improvements rather than off-the-shelf selection.

"They came to us with solutions that helped improve our product," Hansell said, "both from an assembly standpoint and from an aesthetics standpoint. They were quick to respond to our needs, so we were able to get to market quickly."

Stahlin provided tough, durable AttaBox Series polycarbonate enclosures with pre-drilled holes in precise locations, as well as printed graphics on back panels—and later front panels—eliminating manual modification and label application.

"The enclosures we received from Stahlin made the product look a lot nicer than our labels did," Hansell said. "The consistency was much better, and it saved our team a lot of time."

Early collaboration also helped Bender move faster through design and compliance requirements.

"They helped point us in the right direction early," Hansell said. "They gave us tips on UL requirements, provided drawings, and helped take some of the work off our engineering team."

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Engineering Benefits

For Bender's engineering team, Stahlin's digital resources and responsiveness reduced design time and simplified iteration.

"To sit down and draw every part, measure everything out, and make sure it's accurate takes a lot of time," said Ernest Bethrant, Senior Mechanical Designer at Bender. "Being able to download the STEP files for the exact box we need saves a huge amount of time."

Beyond customization, enclosure features played a key role in Bender's designs. In addition to utilizing custom dead front panels—which protect users from exposure to high voltage when the box is opened—Bethrant also pointed to the built-in mounting flexibility of AttaBox Series enclosures as a benefit.

"The T-slots are a great feature," he said. "They let us mount components at different heights without extra standoffs, which gives us more flexibility in how we design the system."

And after seeing Stahlin's printing and panel capabilities in printed literature and on their website, Bender decided to implement more complex graphics into their custom enclosure designs. It also helped Bender consolidate vendors—an important advantage for an OEM without in-house graphics resources.

"We don't have a graphics department," Bethrant said. "So being able to design the graphics and have Stahlin implement them directly on the boxes and plates eliminated the need to subcontract with different vendors. That made things a lot easier."

The Results: Efficiency, Consistency, and Reliability

Across engineering, production, and supply chain teams, Bender consistently highlighted ease of collaboration and responsiveness when working with Stahlin.

"Everyone's been extremely responsive—quick to reply and easy to work with," Hansell said. "Every time we needed to make a change or had a drawing or approval come up, everything was handled very efficiently. They're very solution-focused."

Bethrant echoed that experience.

"If you give them a drawing of what you need, they'll be your guide as to how you want your box to be built, and they can deliver on it," he said.



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Conclusion

For Bender, partnering with Stahlin reduced production friction, improved product consistency, supported faster design cycles, and simplified vendor coordination, all while meeting the durability demands of harsh industrial and marine environments.

"Stahlin has great products and provides real solutions," Hansell concluded. "They leverage their expertise so you can focus on what you're good at."

MODRIGHT™ Factory-Modified Custom Enclosures

Why modify in-house when Stahlin can do it for you? Our ModRight™ program streamlines production by eliminating secondary processing, reducing material handling, and ensuring every cutout, window, shield, and print meets exact specifications. Save time, reduce costs, and increase productivity. When time and accuracy matter, ModRight makes the difference.

