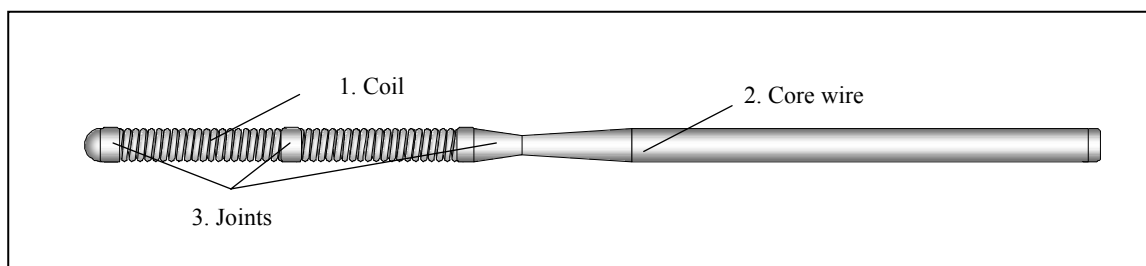


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Yokowo Starts Full-scale Mass Production for Medical Guidewire Unit

- With the objective of maximizing the scale of its micro-precision processing component business, Yokowo Co., Ltd. established the MD (medical device) Business Strategic Department to support business activities for components used in disposable medical catheters, including metal tubes and rings, metal cutting processing parts, and various metal coils. In January of 2011, Yokowo began the commercialization of OEM guidewire.
- Yokowo is supplying Japanese medical device manufacturers with tubes, rings, metal micro-cutting/grinding processing parts, and various micro-coils, such as radiopaque marker bands for catheterization and coils and core wires for guidewires. Now the company has acquired dedicated equipment in an expanded clean room to mass-produce the new guidewires. Full-scale OEM distribution will begin this month.
- The guidewire, which is being marketed as a new product, is a OEM product. The product can be used for interventional therapy, as a PTCA guidewire, or a guidewire that can be attached to various catheters. The product will be offered to medical device manufacturers as an OEM product
- We can manufacture various prototypes for development or assessment according to the customer's specifications and can also mass produce the product. The manufacturing (assembly) process is performed in the clean room of our Japanese plant (Tomioka, Gunma).
- A brief specification of the guidewire unit is shown below.



1. Coil

- Material : SUS304/PtNi/PtW, etc.
- Dimension (diameter of element wire) : $\geq \varnothing 0.03$ mm
- Dimension (outer diameter) : $\geq \varnothing 0.20$ mm
- Dimension (length) : 10 to 500 mm

2 Core wire

- Material : SUS304, NiTi wire
- Dimension (length) : 100 to 5500 mm
- Dimension (minimum outer diameter) : $\geq \varnothing 0.030$ mm (depending on material)
- Maximum taper length : 600 mm
- Maximum taper angle : $\pm 15^\circ$

3 Joints

- Method of joining : soldering, TIG welding, etc.

★ For further information on this matter, please contact the following facilities:

USA : Yokowo America Corporation
San Diego Office

Tel : (858) 547-3520 Fax : (858) 547-3552

E-mail : MDP@yokowo.com

Web : <http://www.yokowo.com>

Japan : YOKOWO CO., LTD.

Tel : (03) 3916-3146 Fax : (03) 3916-3530

E-mail : MDP-Quote@yokowo.co.jp

Web : <http://www.yokowo.co.jp/english/>