



## OLE Stepper FAQ's

**Q: What new Stepper Motors are now available?**

*A: Bimba OLE electric actuators now make available a variety of new and different stepper motor solutions. With this release, Bimba makes available AC stepper motors, DC Stepper motors and integrated stepper motors designated as the Bimba IntelliMotor®.*

**Q: Didn't Bimba already have DC stepper motors?**

*A: Yes, but the only DC stepper motors that were available for purchase were the type that used "flying leads". While acceptable for many application solutions, flying lead stepper motors are often perceived to be non-industrial. Hence, Bimba now makes robust versions of the DC stepper motors available that include 10' shielded cables that emanate from industrial metal motor cable glands. This is why we have characterized the DC stepper motors as new.*

**Q: Why AC Stepper motors?**

*A: AC Stepper motors are often the choice of OEM's that make 120VAC (or 220VAC) available on their machines and/or wish to reduce components and cost by eliminating the need for a 24 or 48 volt power supply.*

**Q: What is an integrated stepper motor?**

*A: An integrated stepper motor is one in which the motor, encoder, drive, controller, I/O and communication are all "integrated" into one singular component.*

**Q: Why would I want to use an integrated stepper motor?**

*A: An integrated stepper motor offers more ease of use when compared to a traditional stepper motor. Using an integrated stepper motor reduces the complexity of integrating the motor since all the connections including the motor-to-drive, motor-to-encoder, controller-to drive are all ready connected internally. This makes the user experience easier and reduces the wiring needed with traditional stepper motors.*

**Q: Are the new stepper motors driven by smart stepper drives?**

*A: Yes, with this release, Bimba introduces a number of new "smart" stepper drives.*

**Q: What is a smart stepper drive?**

*A: A "smart" stepper drive is one in which the drive has a controller built-in to it that allows the user to create tailored motion profiles. That is, these smart drives allow the user to produce advanced motion profiles that offer much more application solving solutions for your most discerning customers. In many cases, a smart stepper drive/controller can replace the need for a PLC potentially saving the customer much overall cost.*

**Q: Will I need some special software to create unique motion profiles?**

*A: Yes. Bimba now makes IQ® Stepper software available on its website as a free download. This is the SW needed to configure and then program any of the Bimba intelligent AC, DC or integrated drives.*

**Q: Is the Bimba IntelliMotor® available for all OLE bore sizes?**

*A: No. The Bimba IntelliMotor® is only available for the OLE-75 and OLE-150 types. When using a Bimba OLE-350, we suggest use of one of available Bimba AC or DC stepper motors.*

**Q: Do the new stepper motors offer optional encoders? Are the encoders of the incremental or absolute type?**

*A: Yes, all Bimba motors are offered with encoders as an option. The motor part number uses an additional 'D' character in the part number to distinguish between stepper motors that do and do not come with an encoder. Please refer to the Bimba OLE How-To- Order found in the OLE catalog for more information.*

**Q: What size stepper motors are part of the new Stepper release?**

*A: Bimba standard stepper motors are available in NEMA 17, NEMA 23 and NEMA 34. Non-standard NEMA 24 motors are available as specials. Please contact Bimba customer service for more information.*

**Q: What are the longest stroke lengths available?**

*A: The OLE offers up to 18" lengths as standard. Longer lengths up to 24" are available by contacting Bimba Customer Service.*

**Q: With so many options, how do I know which type to select?**

*A: Bimba offers a [free downloadable electric sizing software tool](#) on its website that allows one to enter application parameters and that will output the best OLET match for the variables entered.*

**Q: Are all the AC, DC and Integrated motor options available for all OLE bore sizes?**

*A: Nearly. However, currently, we have no IntelliMotor® option available for the OLE-350.*

**Q: How much does the Bimba IQ® Stepper SW cost?**

*A: Nothing – it's free. Bimba IQ® Stepper SW is available for [free download](#) at the Bimba website. You can also register to receive updates when new versions become available.*

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