# **Eye on Operations**

Graco Corporation is not a household name. In fact, Graco carries around such a low profile that it's often mistaken for a kiddy toy-and-furniture manufacturer of the same name. Even the ticker symbol (GGG) is monotonous. Graco is in a greasy-hands business that is highly lucrative. It began operations in 1926 as a manufacturer of vehicle lubrication equipment. Today Graco sells fluids handling equipment to over forty different industries. In October 2006, the Company reported its eighteenth consecutive quarter of higher earnings.

Over the years, Graco has made sweeping moves to drastically cut its overhead costs. A 324,000 square foot manufacturing facility opened in Rogers, Minnesota in November 1996. The new Koch Center (named after Chairman David A. Koch) houses the factory and engineering fabrication shop. The Koch Center is also the distribution hub for all of the Company's products. The company's Minneapolis facility is used as a laboratory for testing and demonstrating all of the Company's products.

# Graco's list of products includes:

Spray pumps for painting buildings

Spray pumps for applying roof sealants.

Specialized pumps for dispensing adhesives.

Mixers for blending chemical compounds.

Paint circulating systems for finishing vehicle chassis.

Lubrication systems for changing oil and greasing gears in automobiles and commercial fleets.

High-pressure washers for striping public highways.

In July 2006, Graco purchased Lubriquip from IDEX Corporation. Lubriquip is a manufacturer of oil and grease lubrication systems used to prolong the life of conveyor systems, packaging machinery, transportation equipment, and food processing equipment to name just a few applications. In 2005, Lubriquip logged sales of \$30 million.

Graco's spray pumps provide fluid pressures ranging from 20 to more than 6,000 pounds per square inch and flow rates from under 1 gallon to 140 gallons per minute. Brush and roller methods of applying paint are becoming a thing of the past. More and more commercial contractors are switching to waterborne paints because these paints are better for the environment and easier to use than solvent-based paints. Domestically, over eighty percent of professional painters use airless spray pumps. In Asian-Pacific markets, less than five percent of professional painters use airless spray pumps. Graco's Tex Spray Gun applies a variety of textures including stone paint, synthetic stucco, cement stucco and anti-skid deck coatings. It applies paint five times faster than hopper guns and seven times faster than hand trowels. Graco's lubricating equipment systems have been purchased by many of the big name oil producers including Kendall, Texaco, Quaker State and Pennzoil. The compact EM5 lubrication meter, weighing only 2.5 pounds, can be read from across the room. The Horizon system allows an auto service mechanic to track and record every drop of lubricant dispensed. It is a portable device with a keyboard for programming a menu of lubricants to be dispensed.

# **Financial Snapshot**

First quarter revenue of \$202 million was up 14% year over year. This is the thirteenth consecutive quarter where all three of Graco's business segments have logged revenue gains. Year to date cash flow from operations was quite strong at \$117 million in spite of significant uses of cash—dividends of \$30 million, property, plant and equipment additions of \$22 million, share repurchases of \$70 million and acquisitions of \$31 million. Graco has no long-term debt.

<u>Industrial segment</u> sales were \$101 million, up 15%. In the Americas sales were up 19% with nice gains in the protective coatings side of the business, the process side of the business and the finishings side of the business. In Europe sales were up 15% with increases in most of the geographic regions that Europe serves and in most of the major product categories. In Asia, sales rose 4% mostly China and Southeast Asia. Korea and Japan were the only weak spots. Operating margin of 31% was up 400 basis points over last year. A combination of higher sales and improved products from the acquired businesses drove that improvement.

In the <u>Contractor segment</u>, third quarter sales were \$79 million, up 4%. In the Americas, sales have leveled off—likely the impact of slower housing starts. However, sales to commercial contractors and the resiliency of the remodeling market is offsetting lagging sales to residential contractors. In Europe sales were up 25% reflecting strong sales in all products categories, particularly airless spray guns. The marketing team in Europe is focused on converting end users, adding new distribution and successfully launching new products. Operating margin in the Contractor segment was 27% up 100 basis points over last year.

The <u>Lubrication segment</u> had explosive growth. Sales were \$22.4 million up 65% from last year. The Lubriquip acquisition contributed 44% of that growth. Operating profit margins slipped 3% to 21% due to acquisition costs for Lubriquip. Graco has incurred \$1.2 million of the projected \$2 million cost of acquiring Lubriquip.

#### Sales Overseas are Propelling Growth

Approximately 41% of Graco's sales are to the foreign markets. Assuming that the US dollar continues to weaken, it is advantageous to own a US company that sells its products overseas.

If you look at the SSG for Graco, you will note a steeper slope (i.e. more rapid growth) in the last five years. The company has a highly efficient business model and sports a gross profit margin of 52.7% that is unmatched any of its competitors. The weakness in the stock price is a unique buying opportunity.

# **Analyst Estimates**

The average rating of the six analysts who follow the Company is a buy. The five-year projected growth rate of 18% by Yahoo (Thomson Financial) is far too aggressive in my opinion. Reuters and Standard & Poor's growth projections of 16.5% are more in line but still a tad high.

# Judgments On the SSG

I used the SSG Preferred Procedure to calculate a growth projection of 15%. I used a sales growth rate of 12%, net profit margin of 20%, and shares outstanding of 67.2 million to calculate earnings per share of \$4.19.

The five-year average high and low P/Es are 21.6 and 14.6 were again too aggressive in my opinion. I chose to use the high and low P/E of 19.5 and 14 from the year 2002. The relative value is 103%.

# The Bottom Line

At 25/50/25 zoning and a current price of \$39.55, Graco has an upside potential of 3.3 to 1 with a buy below price of \$40.40. The projected annual return (PAR) is 14.9% and the total return is 18%.

Our club portfolio is underweight Industrials and Graco is a preferred way to boost that sector weighting. I recommend that we buy Graco under \$40 to diversify and potentially improve the total return on our club portfolio.

#### For furthe r reading:

2005 Annual Report and 10K. Standard & Poor's Stock Report Value Line Stock Report 3rd Quarter 2006 Earnings Call Transcript

TIMELINESS         3         Lowered 9/2206         High: 5:0         5:1         7:8         10.8         10.7         12.7         17.7         20.4         27.1         38.1         41.1         50.0           SAFETY         2         Raised 10/3103         Low: 2:6         3.5         4.6         5.9         5.9         8.4         10.3         14.8         16.7         26.3         31.0         35.5           TIMELINESS         2         Lowered 9/1506         High: 5:0         5:1         7.8         10.8         10.7         12.7         17.7         20.4         27.1         38.1         41.1         50.0           TIMELINESS         Job 2:01         Job 2:01 <th <="" colspan="4" th=""><th>5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         "Cash Flow" per sh         4.           5         Earnings per sh AB         3.           0         Div'ds Decl'd per sh Cm         1.           0         Cayl Spending per sh         5.           5         Book Value per sh         10.           0         Common Shs Outst'g D         60.           Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio         13.</th></th>	<th>5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         "Cash Flow" per sh         4.           5         Earnings per sh AB         3.           0         Div'ds Decl'd per sh Cm         1.           0         Cayl Spending per sh         5.           5         Book Value per sh         10.           0         Common Shs Outst'g D         60.           Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio         13.</th>				5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         "Cash Flow" per sh         4.           5         Earnings per sh AB         3.           0         Div'ds Decl'd per sh Cm         1.           0         Cayl Spending per sh         5.           5         Book Value per sh         10.           0         Common Shs Outst'g D         60.           Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio         13.			
SAFETY         2         Readed 10/31/03           TECHNICAL         3         towered 9/1506	Image: style							
BETA 1.00 (1.00 = Market)         3-for-2 spit 2/94           2009-11 PROJECTIONS           Ann'I total         3-for-2 spit 2/95           Ann'I total         3-for-2 spit 2/96           Nor-2 spit 2/96           3-for-2 spit 2/96           3-for-2 spit 2/96           Staded area indicates recession           Staded area indicates recession           Institutional Decisions           Law         3-for-2         Institutional Decisions           42006         5.for-2         Institutional Decisions           42006         2000         2000         2000         2000         2000         2000         2000         2004         Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2">Colspan="2"         Institutional Decisions           4         4         4         4         4         4         4         4         4         4         4         4         4         4         4 <td>With the second seco</td>	With the second seco							
2009-11 PROJECTIONS Ann'I Total Price Gain Return 1990         3-for-2 (+30%) 40         3-for-2 (+30%) 6%         3-for-2 (+30%) 100 ± 2001           Dife Colspan="6">3-for-2 (+30%) Low 40         3-for-2 (+30%) 100 ± 20%         3-for-2 (+30%) 100 ± 20%         3-for-2 (+30%) 100 ± 20%         3-for-2 (+5%)         100 ± 0 (-5%)           D J F M A M J J A to Buy 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 (0 588)         9 for 2 (+1)         10-10 (+1)         10-2 (+1)         10-2 (+1)         10-10 (+1)           Note: Total 3-for-2 (-5%)         3-for-2 (+1)         10-2 (+1)         10-2 (+1)         10-2 (+1)         10-2 (+1)         10-10 (+1)           Note: Total 3-for-2 (-5%)         3-for-2 (+1)         10-10 (+1)         10-10 (+1)         10-10 (+1)         10-10 (+1)         10-10 (+1)         10-10           Note: Total 3-for-2 (-1)         10-10         3-for-2 (+1)         10-10           10-10         10-10         10-10         10-10           10-10         10-10         10-10         10-10	44							
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	33           24           24           24           24           24           24           24           24           24           24           24           25           26           27           27           27           28           1 yr. 15.6           3 yr. 62.3           3 yr. 62.3           5 yr. 209.7           202.3           204/102           205.7           202.3           205.7           202.3           205.7           202.3           205.7           202.3           205.7           202.3           205.7           205.7           205.7           205.7           205.7           205.7           205.7           205.7           205.7           205.7           205.7           205.7           205.7           205.7           205.7							
High Low         40         (-5%)         %         Options: Yes Shaded area indicates recession         3-for-2         11         10         11         10         0 <th0< td=""><td>22           21           22           12           12           14           15           17           17           18           197.           15.6           3 yr.           62.3           54.1           5 yr.           209.7           102.3           7           © VALUE LINE PUB., INC.           0 5.           307           © Cash Flow" per sh           4.           5           60 Cap'l Spending per sh           5           5 Book Value per sh           0           0 Common Shs Outst'g D           60           Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio           7</td></th0<>	22           21           22           12           12           14           15           17           17           18           197.           15.6           3 yr.           62.3           54.1           5 yr.           209.7           102.3           7           © VALUE LINE PUB., INC.           0 5.           307           © Cash Flow" per sh           4.           5           60 Cap'l Spending per sh           5           5 Book Value per sh           0           0 Common Shs Outst'g D           60           Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio           7							
Insider Decisions           J F M A M J J A (b Buy 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	% TOT. RETURN 9/06         12           STOT. RETURN 9/06         12           STOCK         INDEX           1 yr.         15.6           3 yr.         62.3           5 yr.         209.7           102.3         7           VALUE LINE PUB., INC.         09-11           5 Sales per sh sh ^         17.           5 Sales per sh sh ^         17.           5 Cash Flow" per sh         4.           5 Earnings per sh ^B         3.           0 Div'ds Decl'd per sh <sup>C</sup> =         1.           5 Book Value per sh         10.           6 Common Shs Outst'g <sup>D</sup> 60.           Arg Ann'l P/E Ratio         13.							
In Sum 2 m 2 m 2 m 2 m 2 m 2 m 2 m 2 m 2 m 2	% TOT. RETURN 9/06 THIS VL ARTH. STOCK         8           1 yr.         15.6         8.8           3 yr.         62.3         54.1           5 yr.         209.7         102.3           7         © VALUE LINE PUB., INC.         09-1           5 Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         Book Value per sh         4.           5         Book Value per sh         10.           0         Day'ds Decl'd per sh <sup>C</sup> 5         10.           0         Common Shs Outst'g D         60.           Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio         13.           Relative P/E Ratio         13.							
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	% TOT. RETURN 9/06         8           THIS         VL ARTH. INDEX           1 yr.         156           3 yr.         62.3           5 yr.         209.7           7         © VALUE LINE PUB., INC.           9 yr.         62.3           7         © VALUE LINE PUB., INC.           9 yr.         62.3           7         © VALUE LINE PUB., INC.           9 Div'ds Decl'd per sh         4.           5         Book Value per sh           0         Div'ds Decl'd per sh           5         Book Value per sh           0         Common Shs Outst'g D           0         Ang Ann'l P/E Ratio           7         Relative P/E Ratio							
Institutional Decisions           402005         102006         202065         102006         202065         102006         202065         102006         202065         102006         202065         102006         202065         102006         202065         102006         202065         102006         202065         102006         202065         102006         202065         101         121         113         133         1	THIS VILARITH: STOCK INDEX           1 yr.         15.6         8.8           3 yr.         62.3         54.1           5 yr.         209.7         102.3           7         © VALUE LINE PUB., INC.         09-1           5 Sales per sh sh A         17.           5 Cash Flow" per sh         4.           5 Earnings per sh AB         3.0           0 Div/ds Decl'd per sh C=         1.           0 Cayl Spending per sh         10.           0 Common Shs Outst'g D         60.           Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio         13.           Relative P/E Ratio         13.							
b Buy bosh         104 bosh         103 stares         121 stares         c b bar stares         111 stares         111 stare         111 stare         111 sta	1 yr.         15.6         8.8           3 yr.         62.3         54.1           5 yr.         209.7         102.3           7         © VALUE LINE PUB., INC.         09-1           5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         Sales per sh AB         3.0           0         Divids Decl'd per sh C=         1.           0         Cap'I Spending per sh         4.           5         Book Value per sh         10.           0         Common Shs Outst'g D         60.           Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio         13.           Relative P/E Ratio         13.							
1990         1991         1992         1993         1994         1995         1996         1997         1998         1999         2000         2001         2002         2003         2004         2005         2006         2007           3.93         3.68         3.73         3.71         4.17         4.42         4.54         4.80         6.37         6.42         7.23         6.75         6.83         7.75         8.77         10.70         12.10         13.4           32         2.22         2.22         2.20         3.00         4.44         5.5         6.67         9.0         1.07         1.25         1.20         1.31         1.53         1.83         2.18         2.75         3.0           .21         .11         .12         .11         .17         .31         .40         .50         .60         .84         1.01         .92         1.05         1.23         1.55         1.80         2.20         2.4           .50         .66         .06         .07         .07         .09         .01         1.3         .13         .16         1.8         .20         .26         .41         .54         .58         .7.3         .10 <td< td=""><td>5 ýr.         209.7         102.3           7         © VALUE LINE PUB., INC.         09-1'           5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         "Cash Flow" per sh         4.           6         Earnings per sh AB         3.           0         Div'ds Decl'd per sh C=         1.           0         Cap'l Spending per sh         5.           5         Book Value per sh         10.           0         Common Shs Outst'g P         60.           Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio         13.           Relative P/E Ratio         13.</td></td<>	5 ýr.         209.7         102.3           7         © VALUE LINE PUB., INC.         09-1'           5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         "Cash Flow" per sh         4.           6         Earnings per sh AB         3.           0         Div'ds Decl'd per sh C=         1.           0         Cap'l Spending per sh         5.           5         Book Value per sh         10.           0         Common Shs Outst'g P         60.           Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio         13.           Relative P/E Ratio         13.							
3.93       3.68       3.73       3.71       4.17       4.42       4.54       4.80       6.37       6.42       7.23       6.75       6.83       7.75       8.77       10.70       12.10       13.4         .32       .22       .22       .22       .30       .44       .55       .67       .90       1.07       1.25       1.20       1.31       1.53       1.83       2.18       2.75       3.0         .21       .11       .12       .11       .17       .31       .40       .50       .60       .84       1.01       .92       1.05       1.23       1.55       1.80       2.20       2.4         .05       .06       .06       .07       .07       .09       .09       .11       .13       .13       .16       .18       20       .26       .41       .54       .56       .77         .15       .10       .12       .19       .27       .23       .35       .23       .18       .13       .21       .43       .17       .22       .24       .56       .77         .10       .12       .19       .27       .23       .35       .23       .18       .13       .21       .43 <td>5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         "Cash Flow" per sh         4.           5         Earnings per sh AB         3.           0         Div'ds Decl'd per sh Cm         1.           0         Cayl Spending per sh         5.           5         Book Value per sh         10.           0         Common Shs Outst'g D         60.           Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio         13.</td>	5         Sales per sh sh A         17.           5         "Cash Flow" per sh         4.           5         Earnings per sh AB         3.           0         Div'ds Decl'd per sh Cm         1.           0         Cayl Spending per sh         5.           5         Book Value per sh         10.           0         Common Shs Outst'g D         60.           Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio         13.							
.32         .22         .22         .22         .22         .22         .22         .30         .44         .55         .67         .90         1.07         1.25         1.20         1.31         1.53         1.83         2.18         2.75         .30           .21         .11         .12         .11         .17         .31         .40         .50         .60         .84         1.01         .92         1.05         1.23         1.55         1.80         2.20         2.4           .05         .06         .06         .07         .07         .09         .09         .11         .13         .16         .18         20         .26         .41         .54         .56         .77           .15         .10         .12         .19         .27         .23         .35         .23         .18         .13         .21         .43         .17         .22         .24         .29         .30         .31           .10         .12         .19         .27         .23         .35         .23         .18         .13         .21         .43         .17         .22         .24         .29         .30         .33           .10<	5         "Cash Flow" per sh         4.           5         Earnings per sh AB         3.           0         Divids Decl'd per sh C=         1.           0         Cay'l Spending per sh         5.           5         Book Value per sh         10.           0         Common Shs Outst'g □         60.           Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio         13.           Relative P/E Ratio         13.							
.05         .06         .06         .07         .07         .09         .09         .11         .13         .13         .16         .18         .20         .26         .41         .54         .58         .77           .15         .10         .12         .19         .27         .23         .35         .23         .18         .13         .21         .43         .17         .22         .24         .29         .30         .3.3           1.10         1.13         1.15         .84         .93         1.19         1.46         1.83         .14         .91         1.62         2.48         3.44         2.46         3.35         4.21         4.90         5.6           81.84         84.81         85.97         86.39         86.30         86.24         67.83         68.42         70.00         71.30         69.06         68.98         66.09         64.00           83         18.9         18.8         24.3         15.2         11.9         10.1         12.4         14.4         10.5         9.7         14.8         17.1         18.1         20.0         20.1         Boid figures are           .62         1.21         1.14         1.44	0     Div'ds Decl'd per sh C=     1.       0     Cap'l Spending per sh     5.       5     Book Value per sh     10.       0     Common Shs Outst'g D     60.       Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio     13.       Relative P/E Ratio     13.							
.15         .10         .12         .19         .27         .23         .35         .23         .18         .13         .21         .43         .17         .22         .24         .29         .30         .33           1.10         1.13         1.15         .84         .93         1.19         1.46         1.83         .14         .91         1.62         2.48         3.44         2.46         3.35         4.21         4.90         5.6           81.84         84.81         85.97         86.95         86.39         87.40         86.30         86.24         67.83         68.90         68.42         70.00         71.30         69.06         68.98         68.09         66.00         64.0           8.3         18.9         18.8         24.3         15.2         11.9         10.1         12.6         14.4         10.5         9.7         14.8         17.1         18.1         20.0         20.1         Bold figures are           .62         1.21         1.14         1.44         1.00         .63         .75         .60         .63         .76         .93         1.03         1.06         1.07         Value Line	0     Cap'l Spending per sh							
1.10         1.13         1.15	5     Book Value per sh     10.       0     Common Shs Outst'g D     60.       Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio     13.       Relative P/E Ratio     13.							
8.3         18.9         18.8         24.3         15.2         11.9         10.1         12.6         14.4         10.5         9.7         14.8         17.1         18.1         20.0         20.1         Boid figures are           .62         1.21         1.14         1.44         1.00         .80         .63         .73         .75         .60         .63         .76         .93         1.03         1.06         1.07         Value Line	Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio 13 Relative P/E Ratio .							
.62 1.21 1.14 1.44 1.00 .80 .63 .73 .75 .60 .63 .76 .93 1.03 1.06 1.07 Velve Line	Relative P/E Ratio							
3.1% 2.8% 2.9% 2.6% 2.8% 2.3% 2.3% 1.8% 1.5% 1.5% 1.7% 1.3% 1.1% 1.2% 1.3% 1.5% 1.5% • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •								
	Avg Ann'l Div'd Yield 2.2							
	0 Sales (\$mill) A 10 6 Operating Margin 34.0							
Leases, Uncapitalized Annual rentais \$1.7 mill. 35.1 44.3 47.3 59.3 70.1 65.3 75.6 86.7 108.7 125.9 150 16	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·							
Pension Assets-12/05 \$185 mill. Oblig. \$191 mill. 31.5% 29.6% 33.8% 33.2% 33.8% 33.0% 32.3% 32.3% 32.4% 33.5% 35.0% 35.0% 9.0% 10.7% 10.9% 13.4% 14.2% 13.8% 15.5% 16.2% 18.0% 17.2% 18.7% 18.5%								
Stock None         Stock N								
8.1 6.2 112.6 65.7 18.1 NII N								
Common Stock 67,846,000 shares         126.1         157.5         9.3         62.9         110.9         173.7         245.4         169.8         230.8         287.7         320         36           as of 7/20/06         26.4%         27.2%         39.6%         47.1%         55.6%         37.6%         30.8%         51.1%         43.7%         46.5%         44.0%								
27.9% 28.1% 507.6% 94.3% 63.2% 37.6% 30.8% 51.1% 47.1% 43.7% 46.5% 44.0%								
MARKET CAP:         \$2.9 billion (Mid Cap)         21.3%         22.0%         392.7%         80.1%         53.0%         30.5%         25.2%         42.1%         36.0%         31.3%         34.0%         31.5%           CURRENT POSITION         2004         2005         6/30/06         24%         22%         23%         15%         16%         19%         18%         18%         24%         28%         27%         28%								
(\$MILL)	obotics, Inc., 6/91; Lockwood Tec							
Receivables 109.1 122.9 138.5 ment, including specialized pumps, air & airless spray guns, regu- nical, Inc., 4/92. Has about 2,10	0 empls. '05 depr. rate: 9.2%. B							
Other <u>17.3</u> <u>15.8</u> <u>18.6</u> radius, interest, and varies, for informing and approximation and series	ns 10.9% of common; officers a airman, CEO, and President: Day							
Accts Payable 18.6 24.7 27.3 plastic industries. Industrial/automotive unit accounted for 50% of A. Roberts. Inc.: MN. Addr.: 88	c industries. Industrial/automotive unit accounted for 50% of A. Roberts. Inc.: MN. Addr.: 88 Eleventh Ave. N.E., Minnea							
Debt Due 6.0 8.3								
Current Liab. 90.8 111.6 100.9 performance in the third guarter. locations, one in Oh.	l its operations at tw io and one in Wiscor							
ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est d'03-05 Note: The company's earnings report was sin. The consolidation	on into one plant wi							
Sales 8.5% 6.5% 11.5% 10 be released shortly after this issue went increase operating en	lower than Graco'							
Earnings $22.5\%$ 13.5% 14.5% earnings likely came in at \$0.54, 23% overall percentage.	arnings likely came in at \$0.54, 23% overall percentage. Management expects							
Book Value 13.0% 30.0% 20.5% I figher than the year-ago quarter. An three that it will take	between 18 and 2 equired business is op							
Cal QUARIERLY SALES (S mill) Full dustrial, Contractor, and Lubrication) erating at margins	that are equal to th							
mar mar. Per Jun. Per Septrer Dec. Per Year have been growing at a healthy clip, and rest of the company.								
2004 [135.0 160.2 149.0 160.8 605.0] ture We also expect some share repur- <b>timely</b> . It is now ta	135.0 160.2 149.0 160.8 605.0 ture We also expect some share reput. timely It is now ranked 3 (Average) for							
2006 192.2 218.6 790 799.2 800 also in 2007 aiding per-share figures We shares offer helow-s	nance. Also, thes							
2007 200 200 200 200 000 have hiked our 2006 and 2007 share-net potential over the	<u>007 205 230 205 220 860</u> also in 2007, along per-share ingures, we shares oner below-average capital gains							
Cal. LARNINGS PERSIANE AB Full estimates by a nickel each, to \$2.20 and though the company	is running well an							
2003 .25 .34 .33 .31 1.23 A new facility was recently nur-decade are likely fi	A new facility was recently pur- decade are likely the stock is current							
$\frac{2004}{38}$ $\frac{32}{38}$ $\frac{43}{14}$ $\frac{31}{47}$ $\frac{35}{180}$ <b>chased.</b> A 207,000-square-foot building in trading at a price	-to-earnings multipl							
2006 51 60 .54 .55 2.20 Arrora, Minnesota (near the company's that we let is inflat	ed. Until the P/E rati normalized level, w							
2007	ing on the sidelines							
andar Mar 21 Jun 20 San 20 Dag 21 Vaar Was Dulit III 1995, Will be used by the However, cautious I	investors may be in e-Average Safety rani							
2002 .049 .049 .049 .049 .20 recently acquired lubrication company (2).	Beta, and excellen							
$\frac{2003}{002}$ 002 002 005 005 005 27 that had previously been a subsidiary of ratings for Earning	gs Predictability an							
2005 13 13 13 145 54 facility beginning in 2007 Lubriduin had Tarm Nikic	ence. October 27, 200							
A) Fiscal year ends on last Friday of calendar ings report due late Jan. on 3/25/04. Company'	s Financial Strength B++							
year. (B) Primary earnings through '96, then (C) Dividends historically paid on the first Wed-   = Dividend reinvestment plan available.   Stock's Pr	ice Stability 80 wth Persistence 100							
22, d29¢; '96, 3¢; '97, 2¢; '99, 13¢. Next earn- ber. Special dividend of \$1.50 per share paid 2006, Value Line Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind.	Predictability 95							

(A) Fiscal year ends on last Finday of calendar | ings report due late Jan.
 (A) Fiscal year ends on last Finday of calendar | ings report due late Jan.
 (A) Findary earnings through '96, then | (C) Dividend shistorically paid on the first Wed (D) In millions, adjusted for stock splits.
 '92, d29¢; '96, 3¢; '97, 2¢; '99, 13¢. Next earn (D) Excludes no recurring items: 'Person Special dividend of \$1.50 per share paid
 (D) In millions, adjusted for stock splits.
 2006, Value Line Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind.
 THE FUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product.

To subscribe call 1-800-833-0046.





#### Date 01/08/2007

#### NAME OF COMPANY

ATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INVESTORS CORPORATION INVESTMENT EDUCATION FOR INDIVIDUALS AND CLUBS SINCE 1951	paris	Date01/08/2007_ Date01/08/2007_ See Chapter 15 of the <i>layestars Manual</i> for complete instructions					
GROWTH COMPARISONS (From Section 1 of the BetterInvesting Stock Selec	GRACO INC tion GuideGGG	IDEX CORP IEX	ILLINOIS T ITW				
(1) Historical % of Sales Growth	6.0 %	6.7 %	10.9 %				
(2) Projected % of Sales Growth	12.0 %	12.0 %	10.0 %				
(3) Historical % of Earnings Per Share Growth	16.8 %	4.5 %	9.0 %				
(4) Projected % of Earnings Per Share Growth	15.0 %	15.0 %	10.0 %				

#### **MANAGEMENT COMPARISONS**

(From Section 2 of the BetterInvesting Stock Selection Guide)

**Stock** 

5	(5) % Profit Margin Before Taxes (Average for last 5 Years)	(2A) Trend	24.0 UP	12.6 UP	15.7 UP	
4	(6) % Earned on Equity (Average for last 5 Years)	(2B) Trend	41.5 UP	11.2 UP	15.4 UP	
	(7) % of Common Owned by Management		NONE	NONE	NONE	

#### **PRICE COMPARISONS**

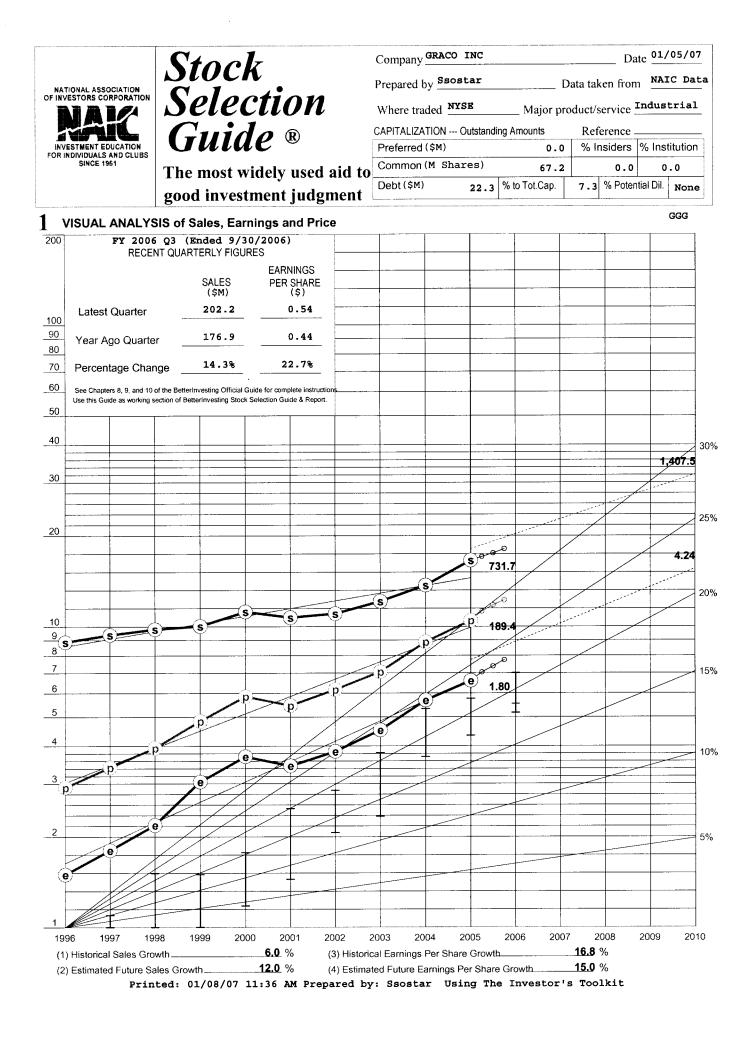
(From Section 3-5 of the BetterInvesting Stock Selection Guide)

0 (8	(8) Estimated Total Earnings Per Share For Next 5 Years		16.36	18.22	19.88		
(9	(9) Price Range Over Last 5 Years High (3A) Low (3B)		10.30~41.10	16.60~45.40	24.60~48.40		
(1	(10) Present Price		39.55	46.11	46.00		
0	Price Earnings Ratio Range Last 5 Years	(11) Highest	(3D)	24.60	29.10	27.50	
0		(12) Average High	(3D7)	21.60	24.30	23.70	na n
		(13) Average	(3-8)	18.10	20.30	20.30	
0 <sup>L</sup>		(14) Average Low	(3E7)	14.60	16.40	16.90	
0		(15) Lowest	(3E)	11.00	13.90	15.10	
3 (1	6) Current Pric	e Earnings Ratio	(3-9)	18.70	19.62	15.54	
	Estimated Price Zones	(17) Lower-Buy	(4C2)	26.34~40.43	26.53~43.55	29.60~44.85	
		(18) Middle-Maybe	(4C3)	40.43~68.61	43.55~77.58	44.85~75.35	
		(19) Upper-Sell	(4C4)	68.61~82.70	77.58~94.60	75.35~90.60	
3 (2	20) Present Pric	e Range	(4C5)	-Buy-	-Hold-	-Hold-	
3 (2	(21) Upside Downside Ratio		(4D)	3.27	2.48	2.72	
3 (2	22) Current Yiel	t	(5A)	1.47	1.30	1.83	
5 (2	3) Project	ed Average Retur	n (5C)	14.85	13.60	10.38	

#### **OTHER COMPARISONS**

	(24) Number of Common Shares Outstanding	67.24	53.48	566.88	
0	(25) Potential Dilution from Debentures, Warrants, Optic	ons None	None	None	
0	(26) Percent Payout (3G7)	40.70	31.20	27.30	
5	(27)Relative Value	103.3 %	96.7 %	76.6 %	
5	(28) Debt/Capital Ratio	7.0 %	17.0 %	16.0 %	
	(29) Date of Source Material	10/30/2006	1/5/2007	1/5/2007	
	(30) Where Traded	NYSE	NYSE	NYSE	

© 1996. National Association of Investors Corporation; 711 West Thirteen Mile Road, Madison Hgts., Michigan 48071



#### Company GRACO INC (GGG) 01/05/07 **EVALUATING MANAGEMENT** TREND LAST 5 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 YEAR AVG UP DOWN % Pre-tax Profit on Sales 24.0 13.5 14.9 16.5 19.8 21.4 20.9 22.9 23.9 26.6 25.9 UP Α (Net Before Taxes + Sales % Earned on Equity 28.0 26.9 435.0 90.9 62.2 37.8 30.4 50.1 46.3 42.8 41.5 IIP В (E/S + Book Value) 3 **PRICE-EARNINGS HISTORY** as an indicator of the future This shows how stock prices have fluctuated with earnings and dividends. It is a building block for translating earnings into future stock prices. 50.000 36.910 39.550 HIGH THIS YEAR PRESENT PRICE LOW THIS YEAR Н А В Ċ n Е F G PRICE Dividend Earnings Price Earnings Ratio % High Yield % Payout Year Per Per HIGH A ÷ C LOW B + C F + C X 100 F + B X 100 HIGH LOW Share Share 0.94 11.0 0.163 17.4 1.6 1 2001 17.7 10.3 18.9 2 1.3 2002 20.4 14.8 1.05 19.5 14.1 0.196 18.7 3 2003 27.1 16.7 1.23 22.0 13.5 0.220 17.8 1.3 4 1.873 120.8 7.1 2004 38.1 26.3 1.55 24.6 17.0 5 2005 41.1 31.0 1.80 22.8 17.2 0.520 28.9 1.7 6 TOTAL 107.8 72.8 203.6 99.1 7 14.6 40.7 AVERAGE 19.8 21.6 9 CURRENT PRICE EARNINGS RATIO 18.7 8 AVERAGE PRICE EARNINGS RATIO 18.1 Proj. P/E [16.30] Based on Next 4 qtr. EPS [2.Gasdrent P/E Based on Last 4 qtr. EPS [2.11] EVALUATING RISK and REWARD over the next 5 years PEG=109 PEG=109 Assuming one recession and one business boom every 5 years, calculations are made of how high and how low the stock might sell. The upside-downside ratio is the key to evaluating risk and reward. A HIGH PRICE -- NEXT 5 YEARS 82.7 19.5 X Estimate High Earnings/Share Avg. High P/E 21.6 4.24 = Forecast High Price \$ (4A1) (3D7 as adj.) B LOW PRICE -- NEXT 5 YEARS \_14-6 1.80 14.0 X Estimated Low Earnings/Share **2.11** = \$ 29.5 (a) Avg. Low P/E (b) Avg. Low Price of Last 5 Years = 19.8 (3B7) (c) Recent Severe Market Low Price = 26.3 0.580 8.1 Present Divd. (d) Price Dividend Will Support (H) 0.071 High Yield 26.3 Selected Estimate Low Price (4B1) C ZONING 14.1 82.7 High Forecast Price Minus 26.3 56.4 Low Forecast Price Equals Range. 1/3 of Range = (4A1) (4B1) (C) (4CD) (4C2) Lower 1/3 = (4B1) 26.3 40.4 to \_(Buy) Note: Ranges changed to 25%/50%/25% (4C3)<sup>Middle 1/3 =</sup> 68.6 40.4 to (Mavbe) (4C4) Upper 1/3 = 68.6 82.7 to (4A1) (Sell) 39.550 Buy Present Market Price of is in the Range (4C5)D UP-SIDE DOWN-SIDE RATIO (Potential Gain vs. Risk of Loss) High Price (4A1) 82.7 Minus Present Price 39.550 43.2 3.3 To 1 39.550 Minus Low Price (4B1) 26.3 Present Price 13.2 (4D) E PRICE TARGET (Note: This shows the potential market price appreciation over the next five years in simple interest terms.) High Price (4A1) 82.7 109.1 % Appreciation = ( \_ **2.091** ) X 100 = ( **209.1** ) - 100 = \_\_\_ 39.550 (4E) Present Market Price Relative Value: 103.3% Proj. Relative Value: 90.1% **5-YEAR POTENTIAL** This combines price appreciation with dividend yield to get an estimate of total return. It provides a standard for comparing income and growth stocks. Note: Results are expressed as a simple rate; use the table below to convert to a compound rate. 0.580 A Present Full Year's Dividend \$ 1.5 0.015 X 100 = Present Yield or % Returned on Purchase Price Present Price of Stock 39.550 (5A) **B AVERAGE YIELD OVER NEXT 5 YEARS** 3.21 X Avg. % Payout (3G7) 40.7 Avg. Earnings Per Share Next 5 Years = 130.6 3.3 % (5B) Present Price \$ 39.550 C ESTIMATED AVERAGE ANNUAL RETURN OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS P.A.R. Tot. Ret. 5 Year Appreciation Potential (4E) 109.1 2.4% Average Yield 2.1% 21.8 % 5 Average Yield (5B) Annual Appreciation 12.4% 15.9% 3.3 % Average Total Annual Return Over the Next 5 Years (5C) 25.1 % Compd Ann Rate of Ret 14.9% 18.0% %

© 1996. National Association of Investors Corporation; 711 West Thirteen Mile Road, Madison Hgts., Michigan 48071 Printed: 01/08/07 11:36 AM Prepared by: Ssostar Using The Investor's Toolkit