



6 TIPS FOR MAINTAINING YOUR MCELROY MACHINE



Jesse Smith, a McElroy Technical Service Specialist, offers some important pointers this month for keeping your McElroy equipment in tip-top shape.

Q: WHAT IS THE TOP MAINTENANCE ADVICE YOU RECOMMEND TO CONTRACTORS USING MCELROY FUSION MACHINES?

A: When we look at maintaining our equipment as a whole, it is highly recommended that a contractor have their machines maintained by a properly trained mechanic. Most McElroy distributors have factory-trained mechanics on staff. If a contractor has maintenance people on staff that they prefer to work on their equipment, they could also enroll in training through McElroy University (mcelroy.com/en/university/). Proper maintenance is not just about making a fusion machine last a long time. It is also about making sure that the machine is going to produce a quality product each and every time.

Q: BEYOND THE TOP PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT ARE FOUR THINGS CONTRACTORS CAN DO TO MAKE SURE THEIR PIPE FUSION MACHINES WORK WELL AND HAVE A LONG SERVICE LIFE?

A: The first seems pretty simple, but it is often overlooked and that is cleanliness. We all know that fusion machines work in some really dirty, often wet environments. Dirt and moisture invite corrosion which can be detrimental to things like guide rods or pivot pins that need to move freely for proper operation. Also, we have to remember that electrical components such as heaters and facers or on larger machines, motors, generators or even GFCI circuits can be negatively affected by dirt, moisture and eventually corrosion as well.

Second would be heater care. I have received many phone calls from people using a McElroy heater that is damaged to the point that it cannot perform its intended function. In order for the heater to work correctly, it must have the Teflon-coated butt plates or heater

adapters installed. I know that seems elementary, but it does happen. Not only must the butt plates or adapters be installed, they need to be in serviceable condition which means no scratches or gouges in the area that will contact the pipe and no excessive plastic build up in those same areas. If scratches or gouges are present in an area that could affect the fusion, simply replace those plates or adapters with new parts.

The third thing to address would be cord management. On numerous jobsites, electric cords are tangled up and laid out across the ground to be stepped on or driven over. Electric tools like facers or heaters are only as good as the cord that supplies them with the electricity. Taking a few extra minutes to set up the equipment in such a way that cords are not being walked on or run over is an easy step that will help prevent down time and repair costs due to broken plugs or damaged cords. A quick tip on this subject is to let your extension cords get damaged rather than the cord on the tool. Extension cords are cheaper and easier to replace.

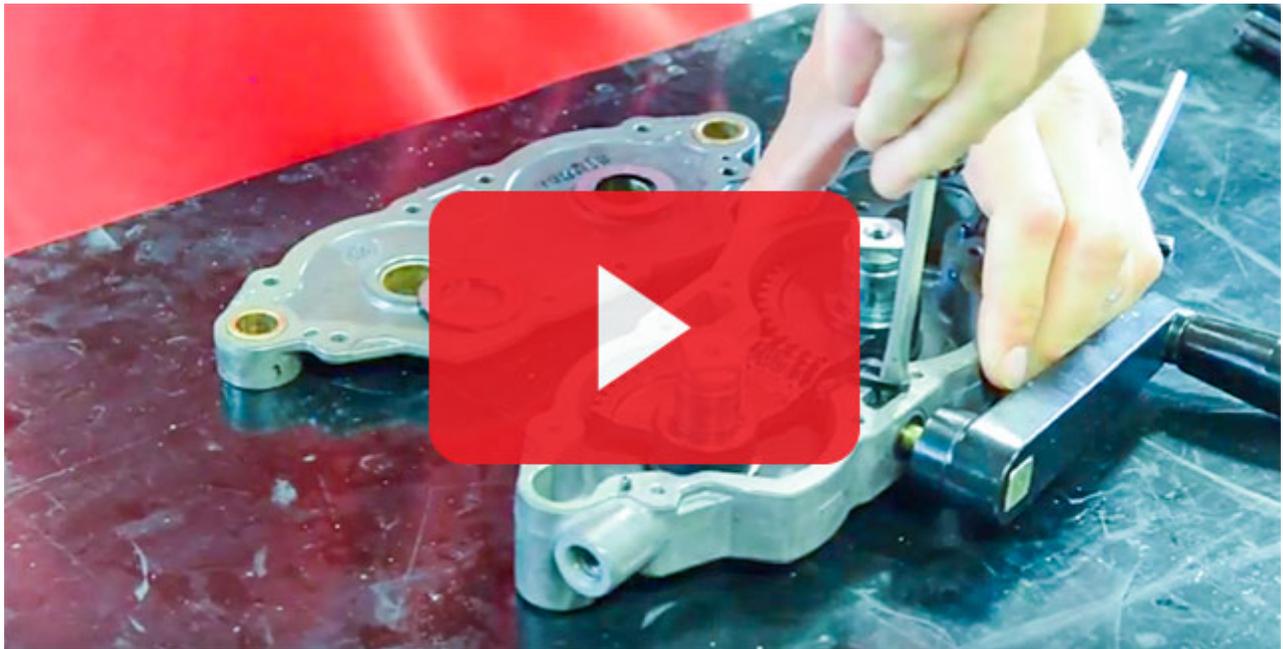
Last would be the importance of regular inspection and scheduled maintenance. Oftentimes, machines go out to the field that have existing problems or have shown signs of potential problems that have not been noticed. Those machines tend to end up broken or incapable of making quality joints. If that same machine would have been inspected prior to deployment, any downtime could probably have been avoided.

There is an inspection checklist in the product manual that comes with every McElroy fusion machine. This checklist is a great place to start an inspection and maintenance program. The manual also calls out service intervals for things like hydraulic oil and filter changes, engine oil changes, etc.

Q: IS THERE A MAINTENANCE STEP THAT IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED BY CONTRACTORS?

A: The one thing most often overlooked that affects machine functionality and longevity is not so much a maintenance issue as it is an operations issue. Equipment is most often broken due to an operational issue like poor jobsite setup. Use of pipe stands and rollers to minimize the stress being put on the machine is often looked at as an additional unnecessary expense, but if you look at the time saved and reduced equipment maintenance costs that set-up and handling tools deliver, the cost is usually far outweighed by the benefit.

NEW SPIDER™ 125 REPAIR VIDEO



This new video offers step-by-step instructions for replacing the wear washers on the Spider 125. The wear washers need to be replaced occasionally due to the friction created by the worm-gear drive within the machine body. To see more repair videos, visit the [McElroy University YouTube channel](#) or the [Spider 125 product page](#). This new repair video is also available in Spanish.

[View The Video](#)

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PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT — TRACSTAR[®] 1200



The TracStar 1200 brings larger pipe capability to McElroy's line of self-propelled, track-mounted fusion machines. Designed to butt fuse pipe from 16" OD to 48" OD (450mm to 1200mm), it can traverse most any terrain.

The self-contained machine features an on-board generator for powering the heater and facer, which is positioned between the fixed jaws for easier pipe transfer. The carriage can be easily removed for in-ditch use. The engine is designed with advanced emission control technology that meets the EPA's latest Tier 4 standards, eliminating the need for diesel exhaust fluid (DEF). An Automatic TracStar 1200 is available upon request.

FEATURES

- ISO-compliant industrial Teflon-coated heater plates
- Advanced blade design for smooth face and long life
- DataLogger® compatible
- Removable 3- or 4-jaw carriage for in-ditch use
- Hydraulic outriggers for machine stability and leveling
- Dual hydraulic pipe lifts aid in loading and unloading pipe
- Serrated jaws and inserts keep pipe from slipping during fusion
- Hydraulic pivoting heater and facer
- Wireless remote driving control
- Ergonomic operator platform
- Redesigned cowling allows easy access for machine maintenance
- Remote engine stop/start capabilities

[Learn More](#)

NEW CATALOGS OUT!



McElroy has now released the new fusion catalogs. We hope you enjoy the fresh new look and streamlined presentation of our machines and accessories. All of our latest products — including the DataLogger[®] 6 and the TracStar[®] 1200 — and machine updates are included.

To flip through the catalog now, [download a free online PDF](#) or order one from our website.

Get Your Catalog Today

MCELROY AROUND THE WORLD

DATALOGGER[®] 6 ON THE JOB!



This photo comes from rural Hinsdale, NY, where National Fuel Gas Company is debuting the DataLogger 6 on a six-mile gas distribution project. The energy company has quickly embraced the new technology and will be using it for all of their joint data reporting on the project from start to finish. This Kandey Company fusion operator is a natural to the new device. Other equipment supplied by UPSCO included a TracStar[®] 618 and Compact PolyHorse[®] with PowerAssist.

UPCOMING TRADESHOWS

ICUEE

October 3-5, 2017

Louisville, KY

Booth: K140

WE'RE PACKED AND READY!

LET US KNOW ABOUT UPCOMING JOBSITES!

Contact us at marketing@mcElroy.com or 918-831-9286. Let McElroy's marketing department know about your upcoming job, and you could be featured in this newsletter!



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