

Inside

Page 2

Cable Reel Adjustment

Discontinued Drillhead Sockets

Page 3

Slower is Sometimes Faster

Guarding the Operator

Split/Combine

Page 4

About Us

Fletcher Merchandise

Fluid Sampling Kit



Check for regular updates, news, and downloads on our website at www.jhfletcher.com

Rib Access Booms

J.H. Fletcher & Co. (Fletcher®) developed the HDDR Walk-thru roof drill over 30 years ago. This drill provides operators access to high roof conditions through an operator lifting platform, along with better protection from rib rolls by placing the boom between the



rib and operator. Throughout the history of this roof drill, Fletcher has continued to improve and refine the machine by constantly reviewing the design and listening to customer concerns and suggestions for improvement. In Fletcher's latest development of this machine, Fletcher has completely redesigned the boom for better access to the ribs. The new design has seen great success with Fletcher customers, with the Rib Access HDDR boom in the western U.S. becoming a standard feature. In the eastern U.S. where there are low seam heights and difficult mining conditions, the walkthru DDR with non-

lifting boom has become one of Fletcher's top sellers. The main reasons customers are choosing this new boom when rebuilding are:



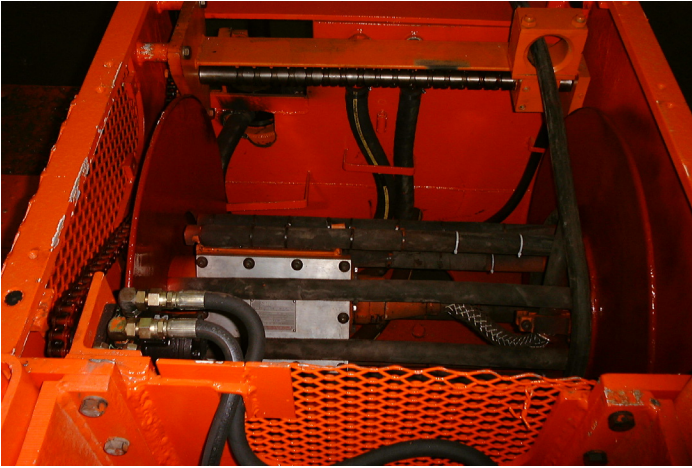
- the new boom provides more room for the operator to work while installing roof and rib bolts through a redesigned work station;
- the new boom provides much better access to the ribs when installing glue into the ribs or installing truss bolts;
- there is a new canopy rib guard that moves with the drill canopy thereby protecting the operator from rib rolls regardless of the canopy height; and
- the new hose routing has been incorporated into this design, reducing downtime due to broken hoses.

Having rib access from a designated safe position when installing bolts is a valuable enhancement to current designs because it aids in protecting miners from rib hazards and also provides ergonomic features with respect to material handling. Fletcher's main goal

in this development was to provide full protection to the miners at all times.

Cable Reel Adjustment Procedure

The purpose of the cable reel is to release trailing cable as the machine is trammed forward and take-up trailing cable as the machine is trammed in reverse.



A manual control is provided to allow the machine operator to turn the cable reel ON and OFF as required. The cable reel valve package is located in the circuit to regulate the trailing cable take-up speed and tension. This valve package also contains a relief valve to eliminate cable backlash.

There are three adjustments on the cable reel valve package:

1. Cable take-up speed.

Turning this adjustment inward (clockwise) decreases the cable reel take-up speed. Turning this adjustment outward (counterclockwise) increases the cable reel take-up speed. When this control is adjusted correctly, the reel will take up cable just fast enough to keep from running over the cable when the machine is trammed in reverse at full speed. Never set the cable take-up speed any faster than required to keep from running over the trailing cable when tramping at full speed in reverse. Excessive cable take-up speed can create a hazard to personnel in the area around the machine.

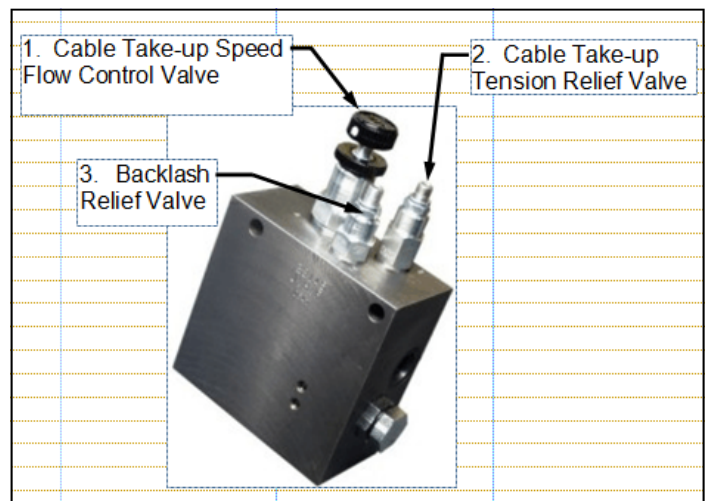
2. Cable take-up tension.

Turning this adjustment inward (clockwise) increases the cable

take-up tension. Turning this adjustment outward (counterclockwise) decreases the cable take-up tension. Adjust the cable take-up tension to provide sufficient cable tension to assure that the cable will take up during reverse tramping, but low enough to keep from pulling down cable hangers or damaging the cable.

3. Backlash relief valve.

Turning this adjustment inward (clockwise) increases the backlash tension. Turning this adjustment outward (counterclockwise) decreases the backlash tension. This setting should be high enough that the trailing cable will not backlash, but low enough that cable can be pulled off the reel by hand.



WARNING

IMPROPER CABLE REEL ADJUSTMENT CAN CAUSE EXCESSIVE CABLE TAKE-UP SPEED AND/OR TENSION.

ALWAYS TEST CABLE REEL FOR PROPER OPERATION AFTER MAKING ADJUSTMENTS.

EXCESSIVE CABLE REEL SPEED AND/OR TENSION CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY AND/OR DAMAGE THE CABLE.

Discontinued Drillhead Sockets

In an effort to increase the safety of Fletcher roof bolters, the TL2 (Twistlok 2) drillhead sockets will no longer be made available. The Fletcher Engineering Department, along with Risk Management, did not feel that there was sufficient engagement of the drillsteel into the socket. Due to the large number of available drillhead configurations, Fletcher does not have a "fits all" replacement. If your drillhead socket is among one of the ones listed in the table to the right, you can contact the Fletcher Service Department and they will work with you to come up with the best solution.

Discontinued TL2 Sockets

55821	301757	55798	55858
301806	155840	293284	31333
31344	55733	55880	530780
301795	401984	400560	155837
155876	55891	301800	55682
55879	293284		

Slower is Sometimes Faster

J. H. Fletcher has been working with several customers recently to quantify the effects of slowing down their drill head motor rotation speed. There have been several positive outcomes from doing this. For many years the most popular combination of drill head torque and speed has been what is provided by 1-1/2" wide gear set motor. These motors are gear motors and, as such, the amount of flow/speed is directly proportional to the width of the gear set. We have supplied wider gear set motors over the years usually when there is hard drilling strata to contend with or a need for high torque bolt installation. There are several wider gear sets but a 2" gear set has been providing some remarkable benefits. The wider gear set slows down the drill head rotation speed and increases the torque which are directly related. Some of the benefits we are seeing are reduced pressures for rotation, faster drilling, increased bit life, larger bites of rock per rotation of the bit which means less dust fines, which leads to less dust bag/filter changes as well as less dust box cleaning, decreased noise, and longer component life.

We plan to present our findings in more detail during the International Ground Control Conference in Morgantown this summer and at SME next year, if the paper is accepted. We hope you can attend. If you would like to know more now please contact us for a discussion specific to your roof bolters.



Guarding the Operator

Throughout the years J.H. Fletcher & Co. has provided a guard at the positioning controls of various machines. This guard is designed to make the operator aware of potential danger. While using the positioning control, the operator will make contact with the guard before they run over their own foot. If your machine is equipped with this guard, Fletcher believes it should be maintained unless the mine does their own hazard analysis and finds the guard is less safe than having it in place. For information on these guards contact Mike Gissel or the Risk Management Department.



Split/Combine Control

J.H. Fletcher & Co. provides a split/combine control lever on its coal machines. The purpose of this control valve is to allow the machine to be temporarily trammed with only one electric motor running. In the event one electric motor should become inoperable, the machine can be trammed out of the working place to a more suitable location for making repairs. When the selector is placed in this mode, the machine could be difficult to steer, possibly resulting in serious injury or damage to the equipment. Never permanently wire this function down. For more information on this valve, review J.H. Fletcher & Co.'s newsletter, Volume 3, Issue 1, March 1991 or your operator's manual.



About Us



Want to know a little more about J. H. Fletcher & Co.? Go to our website, www.jhfletcher.com, and click on "About Us". From there you can watch our new company video showcasing our equipment from concept to working underground. In addition, you can read about the company's history and the impact it has had on the mining industry.

Merchandise

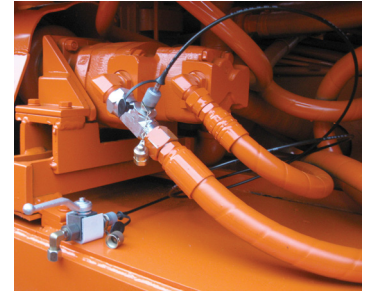


J.H. Fletcher is excited to announce the launch of their online store. The store can be accessed through Fletcher's website: www.jhfletcher.com. The merchandise line currently includes branded hats, shirts, and stickers. Fletcher hopes to expand the store's product line in the near future and as always, is open to customer suggestions.

Fluid Sampling Kit

Optional for new machines, J.H. Fletcher & Co.® now offers a fluid sampling kit as an aftermarket product, which can be installed on any machine.

This kit is item #414762 and can be ordered by calling Fletcher Service or an authorized distributor.



Information on job opportunities and how to apply can be found on our website: www.jhfletcher.com
(AA/EEO Employer)

J. H. Fletcher & Co. on the Web:
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