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3 Longtime Fletcher Employees Retire



(Left to Right) Herk Harbour, Bob Fletcher, Bill Goad

Three of Fletcher's long time employees took retirement this past year. Hunter Skinner (*not pictured*) has worked for the company since 1971. Hunter was a welder in our Altizer location.

In May of 1961 Bill Goad joined the Fletcher family after graduating from Marshall University. Bill retired as the Manager of our Parts Department and also served on the board.

Herk Harbour came to us from Martin Steel Co. in May of 1956. Herk has held many positions in the company including welder, assembly, Plant Foreman, and sales and service representative for Southern West Virginia. Herk retired a District Sales Manager for Southern WV.

Also, four employees were honored for

being with the company for 25 years. They are Phil Summerfield, Cliff Porter, Gary McConnell and Lester Dunn.

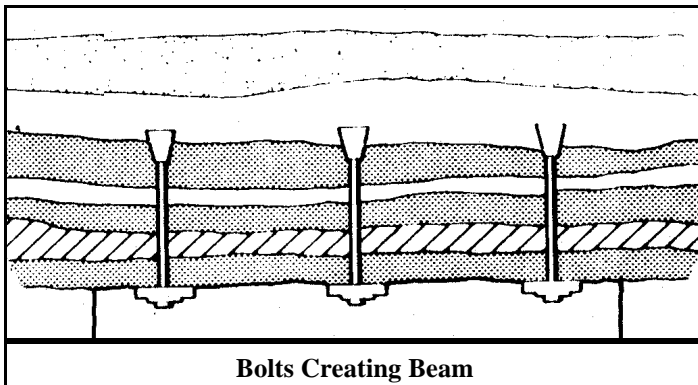
We appreciate the dedication of all of these employees and the role they have played in the development of our products.



Lester Dunn, Gary McConnell,

Sufficient Roof Bolt Torque Is Critical

Mechanical roof bolts provide roof support in two ways. First, they create a beam which pulls together the different geological strata in the mine roof. Suspension is the second method whereby the lower strata is suspended from a stronger higher strata. The roof control plan establishes the minimum torque for an installed roof bolt measured



Bolts Creating Beam

in foot-pounds. The roof bolting machine installs the mechanical bolt. In this process, the torque output of the machine must be sufficient to adequately tighten the bolt into the roof. The torque of the installed bolt is the product of force and distance. If the roof bolt is not tightened sufficiently, it can fail and the roof can fall.

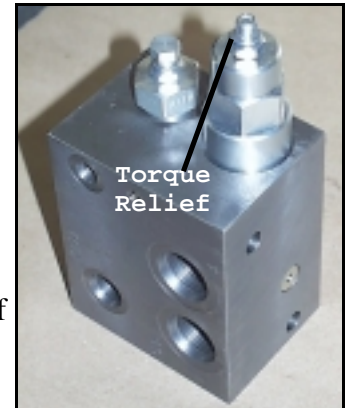


Checking Bolt Torque With Torque Wrench

The only safe means of measuring the torque of an installed roof bolt is to use a hand-held manual

torque wrench. Fletcher does not endorse or recommend the use of machine mounted torque gauges to estimate the torque of an installed mechanical roof bolt. **Machine mounted torque gauges measure only the torque output of the machine, not the torque of the installed bolt.**

The frequency of checking the torque of installed roof bolts is described in the roof control plan. If the torque of the installed bolt is insufficient, the torque out of the Fletcher roof bolting machine needs to be adjusted through the Bolt Tightener and Thrust Relief valve package. Checking and setting the torque output of the machine should only be undertaken by trained and authorized personnel. The Fletcher Service Manual should be consulted. An additional Service Bulletin is also available from Fletcher.



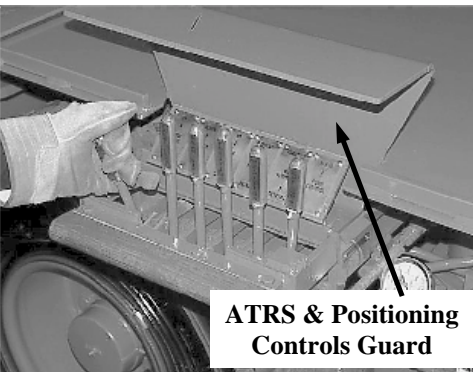
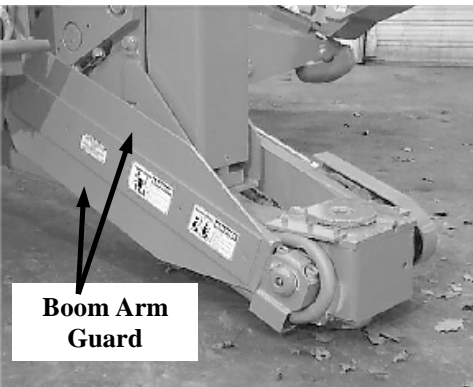
Bolt Tightener and Thrust Relief Valve Package

Never attempt to measure the torque output of the machine or the torque of an installed roof bolt by inserting a torque wrench or any other device into the drill head and stalling the circuit. If attempted, serious injury or death could occur. Make sure the manual torque wrench is properly calibrated to insure proper readings. In high coal, use an appropriate extension to reach the bolt when checking its torque and never stand on the drill head. Failure to achieve and confirm proper torque of installed roof bolts can cause roof falls, serious injury and death.

If you cannot locate the Service Manual and/or Service Bulletin previously provided, contact the Risk Management Department to receive an additional copy of each so that the machine's torque output can be checked and set on a regular basis. Call today, 304-525-7811, Extension 240.

Maintain the Guards

Various machine guards are placed on all Fletcher roof bolters to protect the operator from pinch points, crushing hazards, and inadvertent handle actuation. But these guards are ineffective if they are in poor condition. Inspect the guards every shift to make sure they are secure and not torn or broken. Replace the guards immediately if a problem exists. Guards and warning tags can be ordered from J. H. Fletcher & Co. or an authorized parts distributor.



SAFETY NOTICE

J. H. Fletcher & Co. has received a notice that grease used in bearings produced prior to November 15, 1996, and used in our product may have contained reportable levels of 4,4' methylenedianiline, also known as MDA. According to the grease manufacturer Amoco, "Some scientific evidence suggests that MDA may cause adverse effects on the liver. MDA has also been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals, but the available information is inadequate to determine if this material can cause cancer in humans."

Current records indicate that the bearing company supplied us with the following spherical roller bearing: J. H. Fletcher & Co. Part Numbers: 40001, 40172, 48863, 145027, and 145230.

Our records indicate we sold or utilized these bearings prior to November 15, 1996. However, because we have no way of knowing whether any of those bearings still exist, or that they contain MDA above regulated levels, it is virtually impossible to identify which machine or service order may have utilized this product. Therefore, J. H. Fletcher & Co. is notifying all potential users of our products.

As such, we believe that you should review with employees this notice and any time old machines are rebuilt or old inventory is utilized, precautions outlined in a MSDS provided by the grease manufacturer should be followed.

For copies of the original information provided by Amoco, please call David P. Cooper at J. H. Fletcher & Co.

Component Drawing Update

A component drawing has been updated for a RRII (Roof Ranger II) parts book. In the cylinder section of your parts book, check to see if you have drawing No. HC 463. If your parts book has this drawing, call Terry Meredith at J. H. Fletcher & Co., 304-525-7811, ext. 269 for your free copy of the updated drawing.



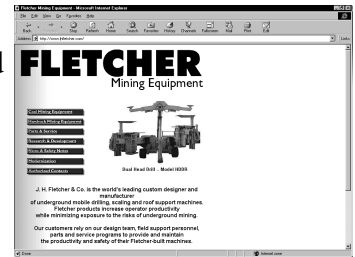
We are just months away from the year 2000 and all the buzz among the computer community is the Y2K Glitch. J. H. Fletcher & Co. has had questions from customers regarding our computer conver-

sion for the year 2000.

J. H. Fletcher & Co. computers are in compliance with Y2K information technology. All necessary changes and modifications have been accomplished in relationship to processing procedures.

One area of concern among our customers is the Moog and Structured Mining radio remotes used on some of our equipment. These systems are not at all affected by the year 2000 calendar year.

J. H. Fletcher & Co. can now be found on the World Wide Web. The address is **www.jhfletcher.com** The site offers information on Fletcher equipment, Parts & Service, Research & Development, News and Safety Notes, Modernization and Authorized Contacts. Check the site for occasional updates and new information.



Drop Us A Note

We would love to hear your comments, questions or ideas for the Fletcher Product Newsletter. Drop us a line via e-mail to jhf@jhfletcher.com



The information contained in this newsletter has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, and the editors have exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy. However, J. H. Fletcher & Co. does not guarantee that contents of this publication are correct and statements attributed to other sources do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of J. H. Fletcher & Co.

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