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Your E-Mail

J.H. Fletcher & Co. appreciates you sending us E-mail and answering our web site survey. However, if you are sending in E-Mail requests, we ask that you provide us the following information: NAME, A FULL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR E-MAIL TO: dcooper@jhfletcher.com

New Generation Degas Drill

Fletcher has designed a new generation Degas Drill, also known as Fletcher LHD. The LHD drills long holes from several hundred feet to over 5000 feet in length. It has feed thrust ability from 20,000 to 50,000 pounds in conjunction with a hollow shaft drill head and chuck. LHDs are used as probe drills for ore body obstructions, old works, and to produce both liquid and gas drainage holes. The new LHD uses a closed loop hydraulic control system. The new system doesn't change the overall operation of the machine; however, it does offer several advantages over previous designs. The greatest advantage of this design is the efficiency with which the hydraulic system operates. A machine that runs too hot will not operate efficiently. With the closed loop hydraulic system, each time oil passes from the pump, through the system, and back to the pump a small amount of oil is stripped away and replaced with cooled oil from the charge pump. This process allows the machine to run cooler, resulting in better efficiency, improved control and ease of operation.

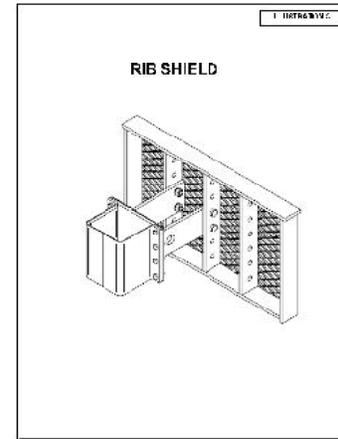
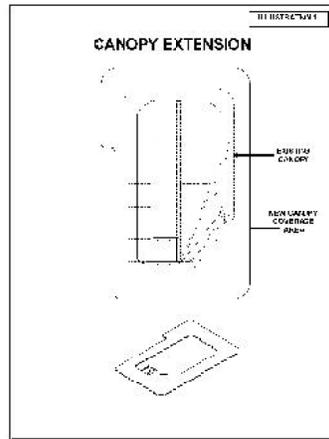
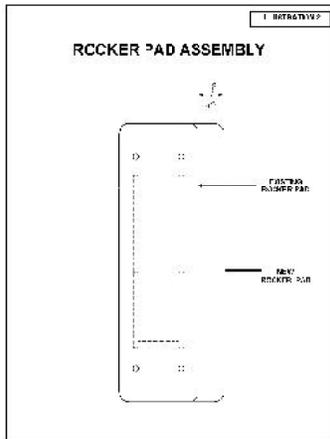


Your maintenance crew will have to spend a little more time learning how the new system operates and how to bleed the system, but the amount of time is minimal compared to the advantages of this system.

If you're interested in purchasing degas equipment contact Fletcher sales department and ask about the new generation Fletcher Degas Drill (LHD) with the closed loop hydraulic control system. Contact Ben Hardman at 304/528-7811, ext. 544 to find out more.

Information Bulletin 107

In January 2008 Fletcher released Information Bulletin 107. This bulletin provides information on design enhancements that are available for Fletcher models HDDR and CHDDR roof drills. The enhancements discussed are larger HDDR drill canopies, larger rocker pads for the L-style TRS, and a rib shield for the drill boom operator. If you own a Fletcher HDDR or CHDDR you may want to purchase one or more of these design enhancements. If you did not receive Information Bulletin 107 contact our Risk Management Department to request a copy.



Questions from the Field

Q Can a methane detector be installed on roof bolters?

A YES. Methane detectors can be placed on roof drills, usually around the ATRS. Fletcher installs methane detectors on new and modernized roof drills. If you choose to install a methane detector on a roof drill without the assistance of Fletcher service personnel, you may be required to obtain field approval from MSHA. There are numerous brands of methane detectors available. Contact Fletcher to see if your roof drill can be equipped with a detector and be sure to request that any new machine purchased be equipped with a detector.

Perforate the Plug

Before using the Fletcher Vacuum Gauge, part number 132121, make sure the plug is punctured to vent the gauge. The gauge will not work properly unless this step has been taken. Instructions for use are included with the gauge assembly.



Document Tube



In the past, Fletcher only provided a set of a laminated electrical prints with each new machine when shipped. In response to customer requests, Fletcher now includes a set of laminated electrical AND hydraulic prints with each machine. The prints are stored in a sturdy plastic document tube mounted on the machine so they can be accessed easily by maintenance personnel when needed.

Evolution of the Drillguide

There are 3 basic types of drill guides currently in use on Fletcher equipment: the classic, the compact, and the wide mouth drill guide.

The classic is the oldest style. It originally had a wide opening to allow a 6" x 6" roof bolt plate to pass through the jaws of the drill guide. This drill guide uses a linkage that causes both jaws to close at the same time. There is an orifice in the system that causes the jaws to close slowly and open rapidly. Over time, various belting and hose guards were added to try to prevent operators from inadvertently placing their hands in the drill guide clamping area. Operators frequently removed the guards because they saw them as a hindrance to ease of bolting. Therefore, the opening in the metal housing was made smaller to prevent an operator from placing his hand in the clamping area. The downside of this design was that it prevented anything larger than the drill steel from passing through the clamping area and visibility of the actual moving jaws was limited.

The next generation was the compact drill guide. It maintained the small opening in the housing, the orifice for slow closing, and the belting guard. However, it uses a different mechanism to control the jaws which allows one jaw to close before the other. If the first jaw to close touches something such as the operator's hand, the first jaws stops moving and the second jaw starts to move. This allows the operator time to either stop jaw activation or to remove his hand. This design still had the



problems of not being able to pass any component larger than the drill steel and limited visibility of the actual moving jaws.

The current generation of drill guide is the wide mouth design. It uses the orifice built into the drill guide cylinder to cause slow speed closing. It uses the mechanism to allow one jaw to close before the other. It adds a wrist guard designed to touch the operator's wrist before he raises his hand high enough to enter the clamping zone. It adds a hand guard on the inby jaw to contact his hand if it is placed in the clamping zone. Both of these guards were designed so they do not encumber the bolting process.

Because of this, the operators generally maintain the guards. The housing was removed from the clamping area to allow up to a 10.5" x 10.5" plate to pass through the jaw area. Removing the housing also provides improved visibility of the moving jaws. In addition to the safety features of the wide mouth drill guide, it is typical to provide a shorter than normal handle for the drill guides. This gives the operator a feel for which handle is the drill guide.

We would recommend that you insure that all of your machines are using the wide mouth drill guides (P/N 382371); that the orifices, wrist guards, and hand guard are installed; and that the drill guide handle is shorter than other adjacent handles. Should you have any questions or suggestions please contact J. H. Fletcher & Co. at 304-525-7811.

Safety Posters

Daily Reminders for a Safe Workplace

No doubt, you have heard the saying, "a picture is worth a thousand words". But, did you know that people remember 50% more what they see than what they hear? You need to do everything you can to make sure your employees are working safely and Fletcher can help with that task. Many accidents happen because people are not aware of the

hazards. Fletcher is making available a packet of safety posters addressing potential hazards while operating roof bolting and mobile roof support equipment. You can receive this packet free by contacting the Fletcher Risk Management Department at 525-7811. Make a difference in your employees work day and order these posters today.

Word Search

G	G	M	W	Z	X	J	M	F	C	Y
F	I	H	W	E	X	V	Z	V	H	E
W	N	B	O	L	T	E	R	E	Y	Z
K	D	R	I	L	L	G	U	I	D	E
S	I	J	A	H	X	I	C	D	R	N
A	T	O	F	X	G	K	J	F	A	G
F	C	Y	J	S	T	O	O	B	U	I
E	G	N	A	T	C	O	L	D	L	N
T	E	G	A	C	R	I	O	E	I	E
Y	E	M	E	T	H	A	N	E	C	E
D	F	L	E	T	C	H	E	R	N	R

BOLTER	FLETCHER
COAL	HYDRAULIC
DEGAS	METHANE
DRILLGUIDE	ROOF
ENGINEER	SAFETY

Tip: Each operator's manual has a glossary of terms. Take a look and see which ones you know.

Employees

April Bailey, from Logan WV, came to Fletcher in June of 2007 as an engineering intern and then was hired in November 2007 as a Mechanical Engineer for the Parts Books Department. April graduated from WVU Tech in 2005 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and then recently recieved her MBA from Marshall University. We feel fortunate to have April as part of the Fletcher Engineering team.



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