

# Fletcher<sup>®</sup>

Product Newsletter



J. H. Fletcher & Co.<sup>™</sup>

Huntington, WV

[www.jhfletcher.com](http://www.jhfletcher.com)

2014 Issue 1

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## Fletcher Represented at Rally for American Energy Jobs



Two buses loaded with J.H. Fletcher & Co. employees, family and friends joined approximately five thousand coal miners, energy workers, families and supporters from West Virginia, and other coal producing states, in Washington D.C. this past October to rally in support of American energy jobs. The event featured more than 30 industry leaders, congressional representatives and state officials. West Virginia's 2nd District Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito, of the Congressional Coal Caucus, emceed the event and was joined by Sen. Joe Manchin, Rep. Nick Rahall, Rep. David McKinley, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and a host of speakers from around the country.

J. H. Fletcher & Co. has been part of the mining industry since 1937 and has experienced the same peaks and valleys over the years that mining families go through. Fletcher has worked side by side with miners and listened to suggestions from them to help build the quality equipment that Fletcher produces today. Fletcher and their employees are proud to support the hard working coal mining families across the country who keep the lights on every day and provide so much for this great nation. Fletcher believes in the future of coal and will continue to design equipment to improve safety and productivity.

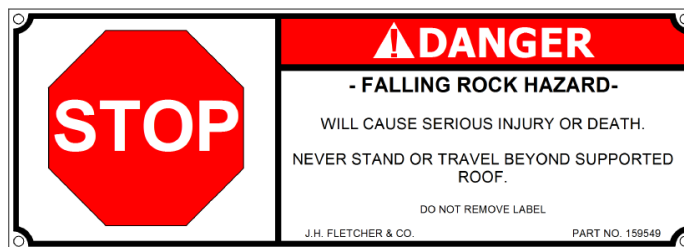
Check for regular updates, news, and downloads on our website at [www.jhfletcher.com](http://www.jhfletcher.com)

## SETTING THE ATRS

Fletcher® has several different styles of automated temporary roof support (ATRS) systems. Each system is unique in the mechanical method in which it is applied to the roof. With these different styles, we are able to meet the roof and mining conditions to which they must be applied. There are different choices for beams on each ATRS system that can be seen in different models of Fletcher equipment. Over the years, many new ideas such as the inby and outby deflector pad systems have been offered to the mines. These are just two of the many options available from Fletcher. Our company has made every effort to provide customized solutions to our customers because we know that each mining environment is very different. These customized, non-standard designs can create confusion when utilizing the ATRS system.

edge of the rocker pad. In this case the roof control plan would specify the allowed increase in distance. Usually 18" is specified but this may vary from plan to plan.

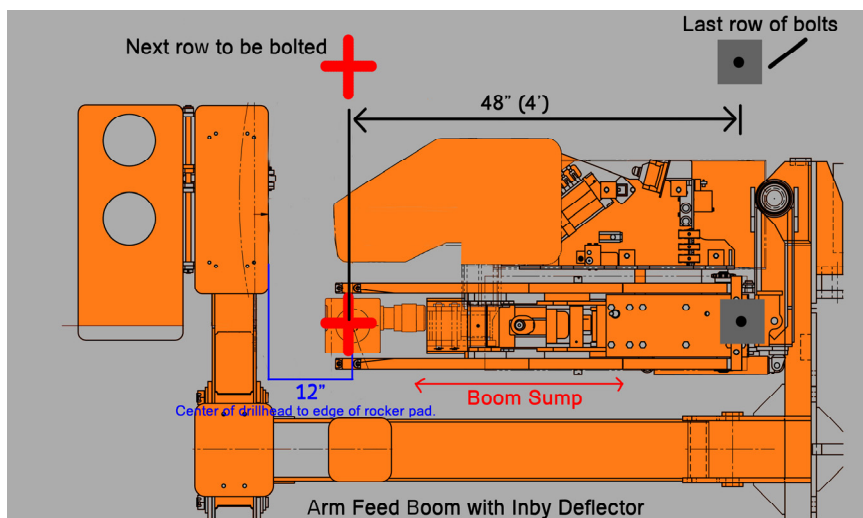
The width of the rocker pads are generally in the 12"- 24" range. The side to side length is usually



24"-42". Many times the width of the rocker pad to the center line of the beam is offset, especially when deflectors are designed into the rocker pad. This offset is a constant point of confusion; does the offset go to the back or to the front? Many times the design of the ATRS beam will allow the offset to be positioned either inby or outby. The offset doesn't matter to the load holding ability of the ATRS but it does matter to the positioning of the drill head relationship to the outby edge of the rocker pad.


A common mistake for an operator is to assume that when the boom is fully retracted outby it meets the roof control plan dimension of 12" between the outby edge of the rocker pad and the center of the drill head.

The CORRECT method of moving from one row to the next with an arm feed machine is to tram the machine forward until the outby edge of the ATRS rocker pad is the roof control specified distance from the last row of bolts, typically 5'. After setting the ATRS at this 5' position, it may be necessary to sump the boom inby until the center of the drill head is 12" from the outby edge of the rocker pads (see illustration). The mast feed machine is similar but probably has a roof control plan allowance for 18" or more between the center of the drill head and the outby edge of the ATRS. If you have any questions on how to set the ATRS, please submit them to Tim Burgess (tburgess@jhfletcher.com) or David Cooper (dcooper@jhfletcher.com).



The distance from the last row of permanently installed roof bolts and the outby edge of the ATRS rocker pads is required to be specified in the mine's approved roof control plan. Typically, the distance should be no more than 5', unless an exception is documented in the roof control plan. Common roof plan row spacing is 4' between rows. This means 1' (12") should be the space between the center of the drill head and the outby edge of the ATRS beam rocker pads. Fletcher arm feed machines (example: RRII) must meet this requirement unless the roof control plan allows for an exception. The exception is commonly granted when a mast feed machine (example: HDDR) is used. The mast size and shape makes it almost impossible to hold the 12" spacing between the center of the drill head and the outby

## Information Bulletin 122 and New Video



J. H. FLETCHER & CO. Box 2187 – Huntington, WV 25722-2187 – 304/525-7811 – FAX 304/525-4025

### IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 122

TO: OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF J.H. FLETCHER & CO.  
UNDERGROUND COAL MINING EQUIPMENT

FROM: J.H. FLETCHER & CO.  
RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

DATE: DECEMBER 2013

SUBJECT: ROOF BOLTER OPERATION

The United States Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) recently issued an Accident Prevention Alert following an accident involving a whipping drill steel ([www.msha.gov/Alerts/ProperDrilling52013.pdf](http://www.msha.gov/Alerts/ProperDrilling52013.pdf)). Questions have been presented to J.H. Fletcher & Co. (Fletcher®) after the MSHA Alert. Fletcher is addressing those questions with this Bulletin.

Rotation is a potential hazard associated with any roof bolter or machine that drills holes. When using any Fletcher® roof bolter there are five simple rules to remember:

1. Don't rotate a drill steel or bolt at a speed beyond its failure limit.
2. Don't rotate a long, unrestrained drill steel or roof bolt.
3. Don't rotate a coupled drill steel string at full rotation speed unless the coupling is in the hole.
4. Don't rotate the drill head unless both hands are a safe distance away.
5. Don't rotate a drill steel or bolt while feeding beyond its failure limit.

Practice these five common sense "Don't Spin" rules to promote safety.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Fletcher DOES NOT manufacture drill steels, roof bolt insertion tools, or roof bolts that are used with the roof bolter. Questions regarding drill steels, roof bolt insertion tools or roof bolts should be directed to the manufacturers of those items.

Following a recent MSHA Accident Prevention Alert regarding an accident involving a whipping drill steel, Fletcher® received several questions about potential rotation hazards associated with roof bolters or other machines that drill holes. Fletcher responded to these questions by publishing Information Bulletin 122, as well as producing a related video on proper drilling procedures.

In the bulletin, Fletcher recommends five simple rules to remember when using a Fletcher roof bolter:

1. Don't rotate a drill steel or bolt at a speed beyond its failure limit.
2. Don't rotate a long, unrestrained drill steel or roof bolt.
3. Don't rotate a coupled drill steel string at full rotation speed unless the coupling is in the hole.
4. Don't rotate the drill head unless both hands are a safe distance away.
5. Don't rotate a drill steel or bolt while feeding beyond its failure limit.

The bulletin goes into detail and encourages the practice of each of these "Don't Spin" rules to promote safety.

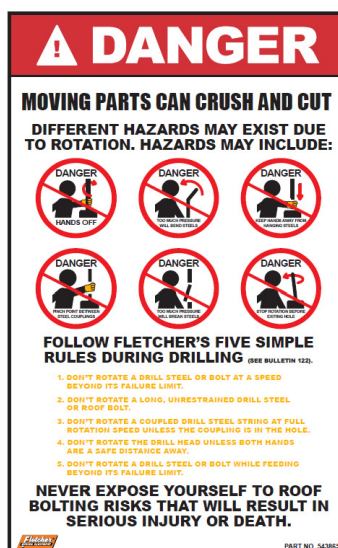
In addition to the bulletin, Fletcher has produced a short video called "Proper Drilling Procedures Re-



duce Risk of Injury". This informative video summarizes the information in the bulletin using both still images as well as motion video to demonstrate the importance of proper drilling procedures.

Both Information Bulletin 122 and the video are available as a free download at [www.jhfletcher.com](http://www.jhfletcher.com) and the company encourages every roof bolter operator to read the bulletin and watch the video. The video (part no. 543895) and the poster (part no. 543865) may also be ordered by calling the Risk Management Department (304/525-7811, ext. 241.)

## Posters

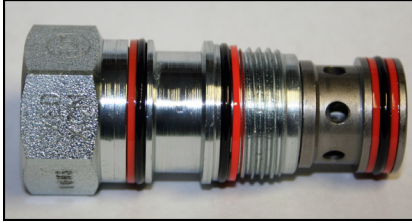


A new safety poster is available from Fletcher to remind roof bolter operators of possible rotation hazards present when drilling or installing bolts and how to avoid those hazards. The poster (part no. 543865) may be ordered directly from the company website or by calling the Risk Management Department (304-525-7811, ext. 241).



## Pilot Check Cartridge: Replace or Repair

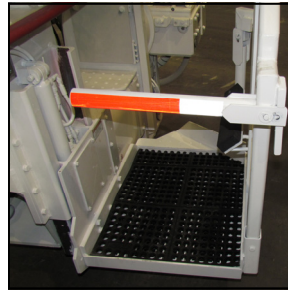
J. H. Fletcher & Co. offers customers numerous repair kits for its products and their components. Recently, the company has started reviewing the advantages of repairing certain items versus total replacement.



The 31577 pilot check cartridge falls into the category of "better to replace than repair" so a repair kit will no longer be available. It is quicker, reduces down time,

and improves service life when the cartridge is just replaced. Please make a note in your parts books that this cartridge should be replaced, not repaired.

## HDDR PLATFORM RETAINER BAR



On HDDR roof drills with platforms, J.H. Fletcher & Co. provides rear platform retainer bars. The bar (see photo) when set in the front and rear keeps the operator inside the drill platform. The bar prevents an operator from inadvertently stepping backward out of the platform. Older machines, may have not been equipped with this mechanism. New

machines, and modernized machines however now have this device installed. If yours has been removed or you want to add this to your existing equipment, call our parts department or our authorized distributor to order. When ordering request kit number: 382368 for the left hand or 382369 for the right hand.

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

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