

# Fletcher

Product  
Newsletter



J. H. Fletcher & Co.

UNDERGROUND MINING EQUIPMENT  
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS / ROCK DIVISION

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

Issue 2-2009



## Last of the Great Engineers J. Robert Fletcher 1915-2009

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J. Robert Fletcher 1915 – 2009

Bob Fletcher, founder of J. H. Fletcher & Co., died on Memorial Day at his home in Huntington, WV. He was the last of the great engineers involved in the mechanization of our nation's underground coal mines.

After earning his degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois, he and his father J.H. (Jim) Fletcher formed an engineering and consulting company in Chicago in 1937. They worked extensively on new systems, in particular the development of off track supply haulage and mainline belt systems in the Midwest coal fields. In those early years he collaborated with industry legends Chief Aronson, Art Lee and John Boyd to transform underground safety and productivity.

In 1947 Bob and his brother Bill (1921 – 2008) moved to Huntington, WV to expand their reach into the Appalachian coal fields. With the advent of roof bolting in the post war period they purchased a garage apartment and began manufacturing the first mobile roof control drills in 1950. Working closely with industry leaders such as Dave Zeeger, Adler Spotte, Buster Roberts and Woods Talman, the company earned a reputation for innovation and custom design flexibility by developing the first internal dust collection systems (1952), introducing the first dual head drills (1956) and the first machine mounted ATRS temporary roof support systems (1969). Over the course of his long career, Bob Fletcher's innovations saved the lives of literally thousands of miners. Of the dozens of manufacturing companies spawned by the mine mechanization of the mid 20th century, Fletcher is one of the few to survive and thrive as an independent entity. Control of the closely held company remains securely in the hands of the family. With son-in-law, Sam Duncan (CEO), son, Jim Fletcher (Vice Chairman) and grandsons, Rod (VP – Production) and Chris (Assistant Safety Director) Duncan, active in the business, J. H. Fletcher & Co. looks forward to continuing the legacy of its founder.

### Fletcher Mining Equipment



3000 Series Roof Bolter  
[www.jhfletcher.com/indroof.htm](http://www.jhfletcher.com/indroof.htm)

J. H. Fletcher & Co. plans to send copies of this newsletter electronically in the near future. If you wish to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please fill out the form on page 4 and include your e-mail address. Please mail this form to J. H. Fletcher and Co., P.O. Box 2187, Huntington, WV 25722-2187

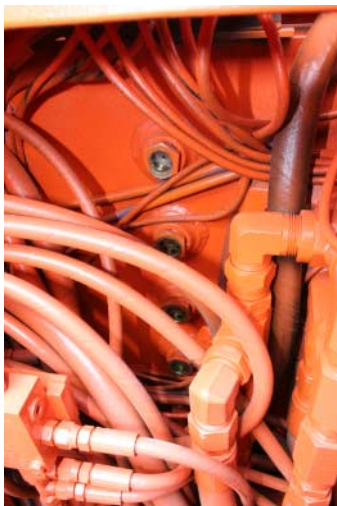
# How to Detect Low Oil Levels

Keeping the hydraulic oil tank filled with clean hydraulic oil will help assure safe, efficient and reliable machine operation. Dirty hydraulic oil not only leads to premature component failure, but it actually creates a safety hazard. Dirty hydraulic oil can lead to a control valve sticking and a stuck control valve can cause a serious accident.

The importance of maintaining a sufficient supply of clean hydraulic oil in the reservoir cannot be over emphasized. In this article, we will identify the ways your machine may be designed, so that a low oil condition can be detected. First, some machines may be equipped with a float switch located on top of the hydraulic tank. Machines with a float switch are either set up with a low oil warning light (shown on the controller cover) or the ability to shut down the machine when the level reaches a certain point



Second, the machine may be provided with sight plugs on the hydraulic tank. In this instance, oil needs



to be added when the machine is less than three quarters of the way full or when you can only see oil in two sight plugs.

Third, some machines have an oil level tube. Oil



needs to be added when the tube is less than three quarters of the way full. Fourth, some machine have a low oil warning indicator. When the hydraulic oil temperature gets too high, from lack of oil, there is a



warning light that will come on in the tram deck to alert the operator. To prevent these low oil indicators from coming on, the operator needs to simply check the oil at the beginning of each shift and, depending on their circumstances, throughout the shift. Always consult the operator's manual for how your specific machine may indicate a low oil condition and how to properly add hydraulic oil to your tank.

# Roof-Bolt Magazines/Carousels

Attention all owners of Fletcher Industrial Minerals Roof Bolters with multiple roof-bolt magazines/carousels. There has been a design improvement concerning the fasteners used to secure the roof-bolt spring clips on your bolt magazine/carousel. These spring clips hold the roof bolt in place on the bolt magazine/carousel before the bolt is installed in the roof. In the past, the fasteners used to secure these spring clips consisted of #8-32 x 1/2" lg. fillister head or Phillips head screws along with #8 lockwashers. In a number of cases, this old-style fastener setup allowed the roof bolt to bottom out on the screw head before it was fully installed in the spring slip. This resulted in trouble installing the roof bolts on the bolt magazine/carousel, and excessive wear of the screw heads holding the spring clips due to the roof bolt contacting the screw heads. The design improvement requires replacing the existing #8-32 x 1/2 screws and #8 lockwashers with #8-32 x 1/2 button head cap screws (Fletcher PN 131722). The design change results in a significantly

smaller screw head height, which eliminates the problem of the roof bolt bottoming out on the screw head when installed in the spring clips.



## Insulation Blanket

J.H. Fletcher & Co. will now be offering exhaust manifold and turbo insulation, as an option, for diesel machines. The insulation blanket reduces the possibility of flammable liquids contacting those hot surfaces as well as preventing contact by the operator. J.H. Fletcher & Co. recommends you take this option the next time you are purchasing a diesel powered machine from us.



## Document Clarification

With each new or modernized machine, J. H. Fletcher & Co. provides the following documents: **Operator's Manual** (one shipped with the machine and 5 copies), **Service Manual** (one laminated and one paper), and **Parts Book** (one laminated and one paper). All of these documents are also provided on a CD. Service Manuals and Parts Books should be delivered within six weeks of receiving your machine. If you do not receive these documents please contact our Parts Books department at 304.525.7811 extension 269.

## Q&A

**Q** Can any lubricant be used with a pneumatic resin inserter to assist with glue insertion in the drilled hole?

**A** The use of lubricant should be evaluated closely with your resin manufacturer. To confirm proper bolt installation, go to a safe non-working area of the mine and install a bolt, then perform a pull test.

# Personnel

# Fletcher Service Inc.



Ben Newlon is the official Fletcher Scaler contact for all scaler-related technical questions, when your area service representative is unavailable. As a Mechanical Engineering graduate of Virginia Tech, Ben has worked for Fletcher for over five years, primarily in the Industrial Minerals Division. Ben is currently the Project Engineer for both the Fletcher Scalers and the Industrial Minerals Roof Bolters. Ben can be contacted at ext. 228 or by email at [bnewlon@jhfletcher.com](mailto:bnewlon@jhfletcher.com).



It is extremely important when you purchase a piece of production equipment that unexpected "down time" is limited. However, required maintenance on your Fletcher equipment does not have to interrupt your production objectives. J.H. Fletcher & Co. now provides maintenance services through Fletcher Service, Inc. This company's purpose is to provide timely audits on Fletcher equipment to identify areas that require attention and prevent un-scheduled down time. Fletcher Service Inc., can provide you a cost effective audit program on your Fletcher equipment and perform needed repairs before a problem turns into lost productivity. Through a planned audit program, you can always keep ahead of required maintenance issues on your equipment. If you are interested in this service, please call Mike O' Leary, Sales Manager in our Industrial Minerals Department. You can email Mike at [moleary@jhfletcher.com](mailto:moleary@jhfletcher.com)

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