J. H. Fletcher & Co. has always been about solving problems along side our customers. Recently, a customer wanted to be proactive in helping to prevent injuries caused by the heavy lifting and awkward climbing required for installation of steel supports during slope development. Our engineers took on the challenge and the result was the Fletcher Beam Setter. An arm on the front can grab pre assembled beams and maneuver them on multiple axis’ so they can be set into position. Then the machine can be trammed forward and a stable, lifting platform raises a crew up to where they can easily bolt the beams in place. This solution has resulted in increased productivity and significantly reduced the amount of heavy lifting and climbing usually associated with slope support installation.

Designs for other special purpose equipment, such as a Can Manipulator, bolter attachment for Diesel Tractor, and a Low Face Drill, are in the works to offer solutions to other customers. Our sales engineers are always willing to sit down and look at how J. H. Fletcher & Co. can meet the needs of our customers.

J. H. Fletcher & Co.
Huntington, WV
IMPROVED THREE SECOND DELAYED START RETROFIT

During the past year a few of our customers have experienced trouble with the three second delayed start device. Since 2006, J.H Fletcher & Co. permissible AC roof bolters have been equipped with this device. The addition of this timer results in the machine having a “jog” function: immediate starting, but releasing the “start” button stops the motor.

If the start button is held in for more than 3 seconds, the motor will continue to run, and the stop switch must be activated to shut down the motor(s).

In order to prevent any bypassing of this device or an interruption in operation, J.H. Fletcher & Co. has now worked with our vendor to develop an improved delay start device. We believe the new timer will provide more reliable service in the mining environment.

Basically, we have used two different relays to perform this function. Initially P/N 124418 relay was used, which was later replaced with P/N 124991. In either case, one relay per motor was required.

Replacement Parts:
Should a replacement relay, either 124418 or 124991 be requested, the following must be determined.

Has the machine been modified using the Timer Upgrade Kit?
If NO, then the appropriate upgrade kit should be provided.
P/N 125810 – Timer Upgrade Kit, Single Motor Machine
P/N 125811 – Timer Upgrade Kit, Dual Motor Machine

If YES, then all that is required is a replacement P/N 125822 relay assembly.
In any case, drawing 125810.12XA.dft and 125811.12XA.dft will be sent along with the new timer(s) and hardware.

Newer Machines:
If you have a machine that is being delivered in 2010, the 125822 relay will be installed in new controllers, and the appropriate P/N will be called out in the parts book. On those machines, only the 125822 relay assembly will be required.
If your 3 second timer is operating properly now, there is no need to replace the timer. However, if you are experiencing any kind of problem, please order the components from J.H. Fletcher & Co. or one of our authorized parts distributor.

TAG REPLACEMENT

Fletcher wants to make sure operators and maintenance personnel stay informed of potential dangers and hazards associated with roof bolting equipment. Not only do we evaluate the machines themselves but we also look at ways to make warnings clear and concise. Fletcher now has available tag number 359162 as a replacement for 159538. This danger notice alerts maintenance personnel to securely block all moving parts and lock-out power before performing maintenance. (If you would like to receive this tag, contact the Fletcher service department.)

Fletcher reminds all personnel, operating or working on Fletcher equipment, that maintaining warning, caution and danger tags is just as important as maintaining the machine. Keep tags clean and legible and order replacements from Fletcher when necessary.
A dust box gasket provides a vacuum seal on the dust tank. When the gasket wears out, the maintenance personnel must replace the gasket with the proper material to help maintain adequate vacuum in the dust collection system. J.H. Fletcher & Co. now has a repair kit for the dust tank(s) seal. Call the Fletcher Service Department with your machine serial number and they can provide the correct replacement kit. The kit includes a brush, gasket and resin. We recommend that you provide this information to all component purchasers and maintenance personnel.

In November 2009 an accident occurred at a West Virginia mine. The information obtained by J.H. Fletcher & Co. indicates that the roof bolter operator ribbed the tram canopy while tramming the roof bolter. The damage to the tram cylinder was so severe that the cylinder eye separated from the cylinder rod. When this event took place, the cylinder was no longer connected to the tram canopy and the canopy fell on the operator’s head. Anytime the machine strikes the rib, any structure, or another piece of equipment the operator must stop the machine as soon as possible in a safe place and thoroughly examine the machine for damage that could alter the function. This bulletin, only for two-leg hinged canopy design, discusses the development of “tram canopy stops” which can limit the fall of the canopy if the canopy cylinder is damaged. This bulletin is being sent to all customers. If you did not receive this bulletin, contact the Risk Management department or download the bulletin from www.jhfletcher.com.

J. H. Fletcher & Co. has designed numerous approved dust boxes. However, if you want to upgrade your dust box, Fletcher now has baskets and trays for the inside. These trays provide the operator with a means to remove the dust and deposit it according to their mine plan. The basket is used alone to hold the dust bags if so equipped. By using the basket, the dust bag fills up more efficiently due to the increase in air circulation. If the bags are not being used, the baskets are removed and the trays are used alone. Contact the Fletcher service department with the part number of the dust box on your machine and they can help determine which tray/basket combination will work best.

In February 2010, J.H. Fletcher & Co was notified by our vendor, Mining Controls Inc. (MCI), that the light packing glands distributed by MCI in the time period of July 24, 2009 through November 25, 2009 may be undersized. Fletcher has found that these glands were used in specific machines over the last year only. In an effort to assist our customer with the MCI notification, J.H. Fletcher & Co. will provide grommets free of charge for these specified machines. If you own one of these machines, Bulletin No. 115 is being sent to you. Please review this document and contact Fletcher if you decide to replace the grommets.
Bucyrus Africa Underground (Pty) Ltd. reports their 100th local assembled roof bolter for Sasol Mining, Middelbult Colliery. Bucyrus Africa has been assembling Fletcher roof bolters since 2003 for distribution in Southern Africa including South Africa and Botswana. J. H. Fletcher & Co. and Bucyrus are proud to serve the South African underground mining companies and operators with Fletcher designed machines assembled by Bucyrus in South Africa.