

# Applications for Plasma Cutting Technology

Industry: Manufacturing

Equipment: HT2000® on a Punch Press



## Trailer Manufacturer Raises Output 40% Without Added Labor

- Custom trailer fabrication demands fast, flexible manufacturing.
- The efficiencies of plasma metal cutting give Stoughton Trailers a competitive advantage.
- Compared to oxyfuel, the HT2000 increases cutting speeds by 500% on 1" mild steel and 6.4 times on 1/4" (6.4 mm) plate.
- Genuine Hypertherm consumables are getting 5 to 10 times more pierces on 1/4" (6.4 mm) plate than a previous plasma system achieved.
- Stoughton is processing 40% more work without adding another shift.

### The company and products

Stoughton Trailers combines leading-edge technology and state-of-the-art materials to design, manufacture and market standard and customized semi-trailer vans, containers, chassis and flatbeds. Fabrication excellence has fostered 38 years of growth.

Stoughton is dedicated to the manufacture of both conventional and intermodal transportation equipment. They have incorporated vertical integration wherever possible to enhance manufacturing operations, optimize quality assurance and improve component inventory control.

### The problem

Stoughton Trailers is under constant pressure to find faster, more cost-effective means to meet growing customer demand. To make its task tougher, parts vary from customer to customer so hard tooling is impractical.

### The solution

Stoughton Trailers turned to versatile punch presses by W.A. Whitney equipped with the Hypertherm HT2000 plasma system. Since Stoughton started cutting with Hypertherm, they have experienced continuous improvement. By switching to genuine Hypertherm consumables, the life of consumables at Stoughton has risen almost 10-fold.

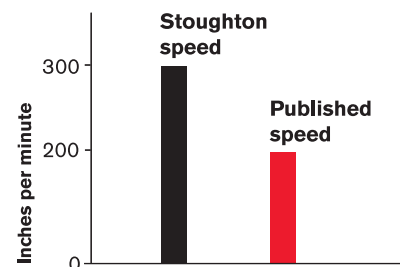
Company president, Don Wahlin, reports that "Hypertherm has been a major contributor to our success. Without Hypertherm's mechanized systems, we most certainly would not be in the position we are today."

### Benefits

The Hypertherm HT2000 plasma system has helped Stoughton Trailers to pass the competition by delivering the following benefits every day:

- Up to 500% faster cut speeds on 1" (25.4 mm) steel.
- The versatility of using oxygen with an air shield to achieve cuts as thin as 18 gauge (1.3 mm) with no warping and as thick as 1" (25.4 mm) with little or no cleanup of the cut edge.
- Plasma cutting that eliminates the need to adjust gas pressures, preheat metals and the other idiosyncrasies of oxyfuel.
- Jobs completed in half the time.

### Beating published speeds



Typical in-shop travel speed versus instruction manual recommendation for Hypertherm HT2000 cutting 3/16" (4.8 mm) mild steel at 200 amps with air plasma/air shield.

When cut quality is negotiable, Stoughton Trailers can run its systems faster than the speeds recommended for optimal cut quality.

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