

Applications for Plasma Cutting Technology

Industry: Agricultural Equipment Manufacturing & Metal Fabrication

Equipment: HySpeed® Plasma HSD130



Powermax® to HSD130 retrofit increases profits by more than 50%

- Vice President Victor Campa is standing with Fabrinator's HSD130.
- Productivity increased by 30% with the HSD130.
- Operating costs decreased by 50%.

The company and products

Fabrinator S. A. is a manufacturer of agricultural equipment, based in Argentina. In addition, they also provide metal fabrication services to other companies throughout Argentina. They have been in this business for more than twenty years, and have leveraged their capabilities as a respected fabricator to support and build their own manufacturing business. Victor Campa, Fabrinator's Vice President, understands first-hand the need for high quality parts, and he offers his customers the best products possible. Fabrinator only cuts mild steel and the sub-assemblies produced for fabrication customers are billed per part. The shop operates on two shifts a day, five days a week.

The problem

Fabrinator was limited by their cutting capacity and they were faced with the possibility of having to turn away new business opportunities. The company had three machines with oxyfuel torches, and a fourth machine with a Powermax1650 power supply and torch. Fabrinator used the Powermax1650 for several months; however, they were still having difficulty keeping up with customer orders, which was causing a bottleneck for the company. Fabrinator wanted to be able to keep up with the work that was being offered to them, so they decided to make a change. They were looking for a solution that would increase cut speeds, expand cut capacity in the thickness range of 10 – 16 mm, reduce angularity and improve overall hole quality.

The solution

Fabrinator chose to retrofit the power supply on their existing table. They upgraded the plasma system from a Powermax1650 to the HySpeed Plasma HSD130. The HSD130 offered Fabrinator faster cut speeds, expanded cut capacity in the thickness range of 10 – 16 mm, less angularity, and better hole quality. The HSD130 is a more productive and more cost effective system than both the oxyfuel tables and the Powermax system.

The benefits

The HSD130 retrofit upgrade was quick and easy to install with help from their OEM. As soon as Fabrinator used the new system, they were able to immediately achieve their goals. "With the new HSD130, we increased the thickness range cut with the plasma process, we gained productivity, and we produced high quality parts with straight and shiny edges. Because of this, I have more business opportunities and satisfied customers," stated Mr. Campa.

The HSD130 retrofit upgrade also provides a few benefits beyond Fabrinator's initial requests, which have significantly impacted Fabrinator's overall operation. The cut quality and productivity improved dramatically, and they also noticed a substantial savings resulting from lower operating costs, which decreased by 50%. Not only was the HSD130 an improvement over the Powermax, but it provided a huge advantage over their oxyfuel systems.

The HSD130 virtually eliminated preheat time and pierce delays, and significantly reduced their secondary operations. Fabrinator reports producing more parts per hour with the HSD130 and it has increased productivity by 30%. Faster cutting speeds have helped to reduce material warping, parts are used straight from the cutting table, and consumable expenditures have decreased by 50%.

With these vast improvements, Fabrinator reports that profits have increased by more than 50%, and they estimate that the system will pay for itself in less than two years. Fabrinator got exactly what they wanted, and suggest to others that retrofitting the power supply is a great investment.

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