

Canadian Metalworking

May 2006, page 53

Circulation: 20 000

WELDING

TOOLS of the TRADE

Suppliers provide innovations to enhance the welding business

Welding is an ever-evolving process as the sector moves to keep up with the increasing demands for speed and precision. In turn, the suppliers are providing new products to accommodate the needs of the welders.

Air Liquide Canada has introduced the *Minitop* compressed gas cylinder with the safety and ergonomics of the user in mind.

At just ten kilograms, the Minitop is Air Liquide's portable, ready-to-use alternative to its industrial-sized *Altop* cylinder.

"Many user injuries involve twists, sprains, and musculoskeletal problems," says Air Liquide product manager Francois Laniel. "The difficulty of moving and handling conventional gas cylinders can cause such injuries. That's no longer the case with Minitop."

The cylinder features an integrated regulator-valve that indicates the amount of gas remaining at all times. Since it doesn't need a separate regulator, users don't have to worry about another part that could either wear out or go missing at a work site.

As far as safety is concerned, the head is narrower than the body, which makes it less vulnerable when dropped. The Minitop also has an on/off lever, which eliminates leaks and allows the gas to be shut off instantly in an emergency.

GUN EXCHANGE

Meanwhile, **Miller Electric** has teamed up with **Bernard**, a Beecher, Ill. supplier of gas metal arc welding guns, consumables, accessories and manual arc products.

The joint initiative has Bernard providing its *Q-Gun* and samples of *Centerfire* consumables with the purchase of most industrial wire feeder products and bundled MIG welding systems from Miller.

Bernard also offers a "Choose Your Weapon" gun exchange program where, if the *Q-Gun* bundled with the Miller product does not fit the end-users' application, Bernard will exchange it for any other configurable, gas-cooled Bernard MIG welding gun at no additional cost—even if the new gun is more expensive than the original.

"We understand that customers must actually experience welding with Bernard products to appreciate their performance and benefits," points out Bernard general manager John Winek. "So that customers could experience these benefits, Bernard is offering the chance to try the *Q-Gun* and has established the '(gun exchange) program.'"

A PIZZA RACK



Air Liquide's Minitop lends portability to welding.

