

***“For the want of a nail the shoe was lost,
For the want of a shoe the horse was lost,
For the want of a horse the rider was lost,
For the want of a rider the battle was lost,
For the want of a battle the kingdom was lost,
And all for the want of a horseshoe-nail.”***

– Benjamin Franklin

STICK WELDING TO THE RESCUE

In this day and age, the emphasis on production and efficiency can make it feel hard to justify the slowness of stick welding as a welding process.

But remember all process have their strengths and weakness.

With Mig welding, its weakness is the portability and setup, and it can get complicated quick; deciding to simply change your wire can force you to buy completely different drive rolls, liners, gases, contact tips and even use a different welding technique. Did I mention there are thousands of consumables out there and only a few specific ones are compatible with your gun and machine?

With stick welding, it can be as easy as finding the proper electrode and putting it in the stinger.

So despite SMAW shortcomings in efficiency, there are still scenarios where Stick Welding is the smartest and best choice.

Below are some of those scenarios where the easy set up and portability of Stick welding, can save you a headache.

SCENARIO 1 –Welding Outside Your Shop

Your customer is wanting some work done at their site. You’re needing to respond quickly because the customer believes you can do it.

SCENARIO 2 – Field Work Repairs

A piece of equipment has broken down and it’s needing some major repairs. But the equipment broke down outside and it isn’t moving until some welds are made, so it’s stuck there.

SCENARIO 3 – Mild Steel to Stainless

Someone you’re wanting to impress, would like some welding done at their location. You’re a professional welder, you can weld anything. How about welding mild steel to stainless steel.

SCENARIO 4 – Awkward to Reach Welding Joints

You've been told that there are welds to be made. Problem is the joint your supposed to weld is in a tight and narrow place, you can't even fit your hand in there.

Here are 3 suggestions that'll get you out of a bind and make you look like a hero.

1. Buy a small portable stick welder

We've all seen those big old stick welders in the shop. They haven't moved since the 1st day they arrived. Yes, they can still weld things up. Problem is, you have to bring the work to them.



Miller has a 160 amp portable welder. It's about the size and weight of a man's lunch bucket:13 lbs.

You can take it home; it'll work off 120V or 240V.

This machine isn't going to embarrass you despite its lack of stature. It can do a man's job.

Do you need to do an onsite job installation on stainless steel? This machine can do tig welding.

2. Get a Portable Engine Drive

We're not talking about the engine drive that sits on the side of a service truck looking like a huge lion.



Miller has the Fusion 160. Weighs around 220 lbs: 2 guys can lift it. Stands a little over 2' and around 32" long. This machine isn't hogging space.

Being engine-driven welder with auxiliary power, suddenly the places you can take it (and want to take it) are innumerable: the cabin, the top of the mountain, etc.

This machine can work inside a shop. Normally an engine drive stays outside (like a big wet dog) because of the fumes it generates. The Fusion 160 can be disconnected from the engine and run off 120V or 240V.

3. Buy a Variety of Electrodes



Yes, you can buy them when you need them. Especially, if you're time is worth nothing. And you never have emergencies.

Here is a list of some electrodes to have on hand.

Cast Iron. Ni Rod 99 should cover your bases.

Mild Steel – 6011 and 7018

Stainless steel. Someone said if you don't know the grade of stainless, use 316L

Welding stainless to steel: 309L

As time goes on, your inventory of electrodes will expand. And that's not a bad thing.

When you're a good welder, you know 2 things for sure. One, there are a lot of things in life that need to be welded. Two, not many people can weld so, your friends will be always calling on you.

If we can help you, please give us a call.

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