

News Releases

2000039

New Soft Shot Products from Peerless

There are two new soft metallic abrasive medias on the market that offer unique benefits. Called UltraSoft Shot and Flex-Shot, these products are produced by modifying the chemistry, microstructure and hardness of standard SAE grade steel shot thereby creating a blast media with a hardness of less than 20 HRC, well out of the normal range of Rockwell C, but is reported in this scale to allow easy comparisons with standard SAE steel shot, which is typically between 42 and 48 HRC. Unlike standard steel shot, these do not work harden in use but remain at the same hardness throughout their life.



UltraSoft Shot is a very durable, soft, non-aggressive blasting media that can be used to blast soft, delicate surfaces where little or no surface damage or change can be tolerated. UltraSoft Shot is available in six sizes, from US90 through US330, and can be used to deflash non-ferrous die castings; deburr powered metal parts; remove a light scale from heat treated parts; blast machined surfaces without damage to the machined areas; remove ceramic mold material from investment casting without damage to cast-in logos, part numbers, etc.; remove paint without texturing the surface; and a variety of other applications, many that are new to blast cleaning.

UltraSoft Shot is ideally suited for use in either airless blast machines or in pressure-type airblast cabinets. No complicated adjustments nor equipment modifications are necessary for switching a blast machine over to this media. The only recommendation is a thorough cleaning of the inside of the machine to remove all traces of harder medias with particular attention being paid to the base of the elevator, around the screw auger at the base of the cabinet, and any other places where abrasives accumulate. This can be accomplished with any good shop-vac and a little bit of time and patience. This purging of the harder abrasive is important because of the difference in hardnesses as any dislodged hard shot particles will leave their mark on the work surface once blasting with the soft shot begins.

Because UltraSoft Shot is non-aggressive, it is very easy on a blast machine and its wear parts. The life of blades, impellers, control cages and wear plates are extended by as much as four times. This is significant with blast machines that cradle the parts in a mesh basket or hang parts from hooks or fixtures. The wear on the media is reduced, as well. The durability of UltraSoft Shot is more than double the life of comparable sizes of SAE steel shot—comparative tests were performed in an Ervin

Tester using the machine manufacturer's procedures for the 100 percent replacement method.

Flex-Shot is identical in every way to UltraSoft except in particle size. Flex-Shot is available in one size only, FS70, and is used primarily to clean molds in the rubber, glass and aluminum industries. Flex-Shot is generally used in pressure systems but can be used in airless blast machines as long as particular attention is paid to the separator settings to keep the fine abrasive particles in use and not send them out to the dust collector or to the discharge bin.

For more information on these unique abrasive medias or to discuss your application, call Dennis Denyer at Peerless Metal Powders & Abrasive at 1-800-959-0320.

Ervin Announces New Appointment

We are pleased to announce Mr. Phil Waser has joined Ervin Industries as a Sales Representative in Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and parts of New York. Phil will be responsible for the sales of Amasteel and Amacast steel abrasives used in the metal working industry.

Ervin Industries is located at 3893 Research Park Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-1168.

For more information on the company, contact Bill Rhodaberger, Vice President of Sales, at (734)769-4600 or send a fax to (734)769-6063. The email address is Sales@ervinindustries.com.

USF Surface Preparation Group is Total Solution for Leading Manufacturer

Recognized as North America's premier spring manufacturer, **Associated Spring** has always conducted business by a simple creed, "do it right the first time." The oldest of three companies within the Fortune 500 Barnes Group, Associated Spring has been doing it right for more than 142 years. The company has garnered a worldwide reputation for manufacturing excellence, innovation and an unwavering commitment to quality.

Associated Spring adheres to rigid quality control standards and is actively involved in every aspect of production, from raw material inspection to highly selective recruitment of suppliers. Suppliers must adhere to the same standards as Associated Spring, and their products and technical support policies must exhibit unparalleled

2000040

excellence. Purchasing and quality professionals travel the world performing quality audits on existing suppliers and evaluating potential sources.

When the Dallas division of Associated Spring decided to purchase a state-of-the-art in-line Flow Through Shot Peening Machine for processing the company's second largest product line - Safety Brake Compression Springs - their search for unparalleled quality led them to LaGrange, Georgia and Wheelabrator, a division of USF Surface Preparation Group. A little over a year ago, Associated Spring purchased one customized Wheelabrator® Spring Peening System.

"It didn't take much to convince us that Wheelabrator was the right choice for this job. Our Dallas facility has been using five Wheelabrator Batch Spring Finishing machines for several years now, and has been consistently pleased with both product and technical support," states Associated Spring Purchasing Agent Bobby Parks. "We approached Wheelabrator with our ideas for the kind of machine we needed. Wheelabrator engineers worked closely with Associated Spring designers to develop the custom shot peening machine. Wheelabrator exhibited an extraordinary commitment to helping us meet our needs that didn't stop with the initial transaction—Wheelabrator provides all of our aftermarket and consumable needs, as well. In fact, aftermarket support was a major reason we chose them as a supplier."

The completely customized in-line Flow Through Shot Peening Machine manufactured for Associated Spring was created from Wheelabrator's line of Spring Peening Systems. Using BD Wheel Technology, bi-directional reversible wheels allow for maximum productivity and increased endurance to withstand the abuse associated with the blast finishing process. The Associated Spring machine was designed as a continuous process machine to handle the bulky 3.3 lbs, football-shaped Safety Brake Compression Springs the company manufactures. Wheelabrator technicians assembled the machine on-site in Dallas.

With an advanced material handling system, springs are efficiently loaded longitudinally through the machine's cabinet. An adjustable dual spinner roller and pusher finger conveying system ensures proper spacing and uniform shot peening. According to Parks, the Wheelabrator shot peening machine allows Associated Spring to process "in excess of 200,000 springs" per month, consuming as much as 42,000 lbs of Wheelabrator provided blast media every four to six weeks.



Wheelabrator Spring Peening Machine

"The really impressive thing about Wheelabrator is that they keep their machines sold after the actual sale," continues Parks. "Not only did I get a quality machine that's more durable and dependable than anything on the market, but I continue to get everything I need to keep that machine running productively, from technical support and routine maintenance to a full-line of replacement parts and consumables. Wheelabrator has become my one-stop shop for Spring Peening - that makes them a supplier that definitely meets Associated Spring's standards for quality and excellence. I'd say it's been a good marriage."

Associated Spring was established over 142 years ago in Bristol, Connecticut, and is comprised of 13 divisions throughout North America, South America and Europe. Seventy percent of the company's manufacturing capabilities are applied to the automotive industry, and Safety Brake Compression Springs, manufactured solely by the Dallas division, is the second largest product line company wide. Associated Spring's Safety Brake Compression Springs, used throughout the truck and trailer body manufacturing industry, are used on trucks and other large vehicles equipped with air compression brakes.

The first company to apply shot-peening technology to coil spring manufacturing, Associated Spring is known for product integrity and trusted as a leading source for quality automotive springs, earning the QS 9000 certification for customer satisfaction.

A recognized leader in wheel blast systems, Wheelabrator has been providing dependable shot peening solutions for almost a century. Built with durability and serviceability in mind, Wheelabrator shot peening machines help manufacturers realize maximum productivity. An ISO 9001 Certified manufacturer, Wheelabrator designs and builds a full line of blast cleaning equipment and systems suitable for a variety of finishing requirements from their LaGrange, Georgia facility. Additionally, the company operates a foundry in Walterboro, South Carolina, which produces abrasive resistant castings.

With corporate offices in Newnan, Georgia, USF Surface Preparation Group serves customers with 47 sales, service and distribution centers, as well as 35 manufacturing facilities worldwide. For more information on USF Surface Preparation Group and Wheelabrator, visit the newly redesigned and expanded website at www.surfacepreparation.com or send e-mail to info@usfspg.com.

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