

Wheelabrator

Wheelabrator Wire Mesh Belt Provides Astec Underground with Ability to Clean Wide Workpieces

Burlington, Canada. Astec Underground, based in Loudon, Tenn., builds Case® and Trencher® brands of trencher machines. When the company bought a former John Deere plant to serve as their new manufacturing facility, they sought a machine that would descale 48" wide sheet metal and prepare the cut edge for painting.

The challenge was met with a custom engineered Wheelabrator® Wire Mesh Belt. This machine is the widest wire mesh belt built by Wheelabrator to date, and it boasts a 60" wide x 5" high work envelope. The single-pass machine is capable of cleaning steel plate burn-outs at a rate of four to six feet per minute. The machine can accommodate thin sheet metal, as well as steel plate burn-outs. Astec Underground uses the machine to blast steel prior to forming, bending and fabricating the housings for their trenchers.

Work pieces are loaded onto the Wire Mesh Belt with fork lifts. Steel shot descales the metal and prepares cut edges for painting. The machine is equipped with an air cannon blowoff assembly to remove shot from the top of the work. The shot is collected in a spill hopper, and recycled by the machine. A Wheelabrator designed and manufactured JPSM 3D-9, 3600 CFM cartridge filter dust collector was also supplied to provide the required ventilation to the blast cabinet, air wash separator, elevator and blow-off cannon.

Tim Smith, project engineer, states, "We have been very pleased with both the dependability and operation of this blast machine. The simple design allows for trouble free operation with minimal down time. The design also allows for flexibility in the parts we process, which was critical in our application."

The Wheelabrator® 60" wide Autoblaster® Wire Mesh Belt is available with four (or eight) 25 hp TargetLok® blast wheels and a conveyor speed from three to 12 feet a minute. The Astec Underground machine is designed to handle flat work pieces, but the height of the envelope can vary to meet future customer needs.

Introduced in 1908, Wheelabrator blast cleaning and surface preparation equipment, an International Surface Preparation Corporation technology, is one of the most recognized brands in the industry. Wheelabrator designs offer a full line of blast cleaning equipment and systems suitable for a variety of finishing requirements.

For more information on International Surface Preparation Corporation visit the web site at www.surfacepreparation.com.