



Speedglas® Case History #5

Grocery Cart Manufacturer

BACKGROUND

A southern company that manufactures 200,000 shopping basket carts a year for grocery and discount stores. A typical cart requires 14 short welds.



PROBLEMS & OBJECTIVES

The plant manager was looking for ways to speed-up the labor-intensive welding process, as well as reduce the amount of welding "rework."

ACTION TAKEN

The plant's welding distributor showed the plant manager the automatically-darkening Speedglas® lens and helmet. The plant manager cautiously bought one trial helmet to measure its effect on productivity. The helmet was used in a booth where the cart frames were welded-up.

FIELD RESULTS

Individual hourly outputs for a given welder were compared--both with and without the Speedglas lens. Initial results were very favorable. The plant budgeted to buy a helmet a month until all their welders had one.

After two years of use, the plant manager can attribute productivity gains of 15% to 20% directly to the Speedglas equipment.

In addition to welders working faster, quality has improved. Because welders can always see, they can accurately place the electrode before striking the arc. Exact placement has virtually eliminated any need to "touch-up" missed weld patches on the carts.

The welders commented that they like having both hands free to manipulate their fixtures, as well as the carts.

Before the Speedglas lens, welders were occasionally "flashed" when they accidentally bumped their guns prematurely against the workpiece. During the two years the Speedglas helmets have been in use, none of the nine welders have been flashed.

The helmets are used everyday. Periodic maintenance includes the replacement of outer protective lens covers and an occasional battery.

SPECIFICATIONS

Because they basically do the same type of welding all the time, the welders use the Speedglas model, with a fixed dark shade level. (The lens is available in shades 10, 11, or 12.)

All Hornell helmets and automatic lenses meet ANSI Z87.1 (USA) and CSA Z94.3-M88 (Canada) national standards for eye and face protection.

Also available: complete welding respiratory systems with NIOSH (USA) approval.

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