

## First-Of-Its-Kind Welder Uses Water And Alcohol, Not Gas

MIG, TIG and stick welders are all good ways to work with steel but once you try the new Multiplaz 3500, you might never go back to them. Not much larger than an old-time radio, all it needs is 110 or 220v current, water and alcohol. It can weld, solder, braze, and harden steel, aluminum, copper, cast iron, bronze and other metals. It'll also cut any metal, including high-alloy and stainless steel, as well as ceramic tiles, quartz glass, bricks, and concrete.

There is very little Multiplaz can't do that other welders can, perhaps only the speed of a MIG because it is spool fed, and Multiplaz is hand-fed. "It comes with two torches, one for cutting and the other for welding. It can cut 3/16-in. steel on 20-amp, 110v current and 3/8-in. steel on 220v current. On 220v current, the welding torch can do gas welding, brazing and soldering on mode 1 and TIG, MIG and stick welding on mode 2. If you don't have 220v access, an accessory adaptor combines current from two 110v outlets on separate circuits. It also works with any portable generator 4,000 watts or higher."

A helmet is optional, and requires no more than a 7 shade or just use plain shade 5 goggles and some sunscreen. The only consumables required are water and alcohol, which are mixed in specific ratios for specific uses. For example, a 50:50 ratio is recommended for welding steel. A full day of welding uses only two cups of alcohol.

"The manual is like a cookbook," says Lewis-Hansen. Instead of buying gas, you mix alcohol and water, load it into the torch and start welding."

The Multiplaz has been marketed in Eu-

rope for the past 9 years and just recently became available in North America. Lewis-Hansen reports the first-of-its-kind welder is being distributed to the construction industry by Whitecap Industries and to the retail market by multiple major retailers, including Tractor Supply Company, starting later this year. However, the company is still looking for qualified resellers.

Originally developed by a Russian physicist who worked in the space program, the Multiplaz. The Multiplaz creates its own vapor from the carbon in the alcohol interacting with the electric arc. Because it doesn't use inert gases, it can be used in unventilated areas. It can even be used in the dark because the tip illuminates the work area.

"Plumbers love it because they don't have to purge the lines. They simply shut the water off and work," says Lewis-Hansen. "If low heat is needed, they can switch the welding torch to Mode 1 and turn the current up or down as they need more or less heat. For high heat, switch to Mode 2 and turn up the power. At 14,400 degrees focused in a tight beam, it's the hottest welder on the market."

Multiplaz users report it can replace welders, gas torches, plasma cutters, nibble shears, scissors, electric jigsaws and more. The unit, which sells for \$2,000, comes in its own carry pouch the size of a large gym bag.

"Don't let its size fool you," says Lewis-Hansen. "It's a very capable machine. If you look at the cost alone and not the value, you might say it was expensive. Those who have looked at the alternatives for what it can do tell us it's worth every penny."



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Not much bigger than an old-time radio, all the Multiplaz 3500 welder needs is 110 or 220-volt current, water and alcohol.

An instructional DVD has been developed for customers. For a look at what the Multiplaz can do, check out the video at [FARMSHOW.com](http://FARMSHOW.com).

Multiplaz wants North Americans to know they are confident in the product and intend to grow in the market. At a recent trade show they sponsored the "Wounded Warriors Project", offering a Raymond Carrington Sculpture made entirely by the Multiplaz for the raffle, and raised several thousand for the troops.

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**Reader Inquiry No. 23**

## Bale Feed Nets Reduce Wasted Hay

Erin Olson was tired of playing hay police to her fast eating Alpha mare so that her other horses could get their fair share of hay. She and her friend and partner in a barefoot trimming business, Kris Anderson, began searching for ways to spend less time doing chores.

The small hay nets they found seemed to work. Having to pull hay through holes slows down the horses that eat more than their share, and all the horses thrive on the slow feed system.

"We thought it would be nice if there was a net for big round bales," Olson says, since big bales reduce labor and are less expensive than buying hay in small bales. After not finding any nets on the market they made a couple. "It worked so well. There was

no waste – with a round bale that's hard to believe," Olson says.

A University of Minnesota feeder trial study confirmed that typically up to 57 percent of a round bale goes to waste when fed to horses. There was only 6.3 percent waste with Olson and Anderson's net.

In 2009, the women started marketing their patent-pending CinchChix hay nets.

"We use U.S. knotted netting – Dupont nylon. It's nontoxic UV-treated so it's stable in sunlight," Olson says. The marine-grade netting is hand sewn into nets in Duluth.

CinchChix offers nets in several sizes – from mini nets (\$40 including tax/shipping) that hold half a small square bale to large (\$187 including tax/shipping) for large round and square bales. Nets come with extra



Having to pull hay through holes in net keeps horses eating more slowly.

nylon string to mend tears.

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**Reader Inquiry No. 24**