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Cordless Welder Exceeds Expectations

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

The introduction of the Renegade VOLT ES 200i cordless welder got FARM SHOW's attention this past fall (Vol. 47, No. 6). When ESAB offered to lend us one to try out, we jumped at it.

Determined to get an expert opinion, we handed the welder and four 12Ah DeWalt batteries to Aaron Denstad and his dad, Gary. They're professional fabricators with at least 80 years of welding experience between them. They know what it takes to

make a good weld.

"I was a little skeptical of a battery-powered welder when I first heard about it," says Aaron. "After using it, I have to say it's a pretty impressive little power unit."

Aaron recognized the welding industry reputation behind the ESAB name, as well as DeWalt's history in cordless tools. "The fact that they had teamed up impressed me right away," he says.

"Before you even turn it on, sit down and

study the book," says Gary. "Get familiar with it, or you'll likely be unhappy. We found the electronics much more sophisticated than any of our big welders."

"The user interface is a little complicated, but the manual walks you through how to set it up," says Aaron. "It's more complicated than a typical arc welder. The Renegade lets you pick out the electrode you want to use and select from a range of settings on the welder."

He suggests this feature would be especially beneficial for less experienced welders. "If you're trying to figure out the process and get more confidence, it would be helpful," says Aaron. "Once you get started with the Renegade, you can fine-tune it. Getting the puddle right and not too active while still getting penetration is knowledge you have to glean from using it."

Aaron and Gary worked with a variety of electrodes, including 7018s. "They're user-friendly and commonly found," says Aaron. "We got tuned to the welder, and the 7018s laid a pretty nice bead. It didn't penetrate through the backside of 1/4-in. steel, but the pieces were not going to come apart when we finished the bead."

Gary and Aaron spent about an hour welding various pieces of scrap and firming up their opinions of the welder.

"After about 20 min. of actual welding, the batteries still had a 25 percent charge," says Aaron. "If you were broken down in the field, this welder could get you out of trouble and back to the shop."

He suggests that it could handle pieces thicker than a 1/4-in. with the aid of a cordless grinder to open up a V. "You'll likely need a grinder anyway, depending on the type of repair, just to clean out the edges," he says. "Once you have the V opened up, you could lay a root patch and then build it up."

Field repairs are one reason Gary and Aaron recommend having a second set of batteries for the welder. They note that all four batteries must be at the same level of charge to operate the welder. Substituting



Welder runs on four batteries and can last long enough for remote repairs.

one charged battery when the others have run down is not an option.

"If you're remote and making a repair, the question will be, 'Do I have enough battery power?'" says Aaron. "Maybe getting halfway done will be enough to limp home, but an extra set of batteries is a nice backup."

An attractive feature of the welder is the ability to plug its power cord into a wall outlet. While the Denstads approved of the feature, they had a recommendation for ESAB.

"They need to make it possible to disconnect the cable," says Aaron. "When using the battery power, the cable is just in the way."

Both the Denstads were impressed with the welder and feel it fits in farm shops in particular.

"The concept is good, and it definitely has a place for some folks," says Gary. "The welds we did were structurally sound, if not as pretty as with a wire feed."

"If you're looking to replace an older stick welder, or simply want a dual-purpose welder, the Renegade would be fine," says Aaron. "Plug it into the wall in the shop, or pop in the batteries and go remote."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ESAB Corporation, 909 Rose Ave., North Bethesda, Md. 20852 (ph 301-323-9099; ESABCorpInfo@esab.com; www.esab.com).

Photos show before and after using USA Fluid to restore a paint finish.



Corrosion Cure Has Many Uses

Unlimited Strong Arm (USA) Fluid was developed as a lubricant to prevent corrosion in high-voltage equipment. However, it's since been used for waterproofing, rust removal, chrome cleaning, lubrication, paint undercoating, salt proofing, and much, much more. The company owner (he goes by the name Fready due to multiple identity thefts) was part of the team that developed it. After years of using and selling the product, he says he's no longer surprised by customer testimonials.

"Acceptance evolved over time. People didn't think you could take a lubricant and do anything else with it. As they tried it for other uses, they told us. Today, our website has 500 pages of unsolicited testimonials and thousands of before and after pictures from customers," says Fready.

Visit the product use page and links to individual testimonials that start with freeing up a garden tractor motor, rusted and frozen for more than 40 years. Other stuck items posted include a waterlogged car transmission, small engines, bearings, and old tools. Testimonials cover the restoration of metal and vinyl surfaces, including rubber gaskets on old cars and wood and metal surfaces on old firearms.

Product claims made by the company and its customers include stopping rust in

its tracks and preventing continued rusting, preventing corrosion on copper pipe subject to sweating, and providing superior adhesion and penetration of paint when used as an undercoat. Virtually every type of surface, including steel, chrome, brass, wood, and silver, is included.

Salt proofing with USA Fluid has its own website covering uses on equipment at the Bonneville Salt Flats. It includes testimonials, images, and a link to a salt proofing Facebook page.

"I work with lots of folks at Bonneville," says Fready. "Vehicles and trailers of all kinds get so coated with salt that they look like they've been in an ice storm. Within 6 mos., a chassis will fall apart. USA Fluid shuts down all the rust."

USA Fluid offers a 100 percent, 30-day, money back guarantee. Purchase options range from quart bottles listed for \$34.80 to 5-gal. pails for \$428. Apply by spraying on with the nipple bottle or wiping and brushing on. In the case of rust removal, application is usually followed by using a wire brush.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, USAFluid.com, Central Order Fulfillment, Box 111, Alexander, Iowa 50420 (ph 641-745-9360; Orders@StrongArmBrand.com; www.usafluid.com).

Truckers Stop The Sunburn With Sun Blocker

"Truckers tan" is common for people who spend a lot of time in trucks. It can lead to skin disorders, including cancer.

Scott Catuzza's \$70 Arm Rocker Sun Blocker is inexpensive insurance to avoid that. As a former trucker, he experienced the pain of a sunburned left arm that hurt every day he drove truck. His simple but well-tested and patented invention has the perfect curve and size with two thin posts that slip in between the glass and rubber stripping of the driver-side window.

"The angle and shape completely cover the arm no matter where the sun is," Catuzza says. "It doesn't obstruct the view or block mirrors."

He's tested the Arm Rocker Sun Blocker with an open window, driving 75 mph to prove how well it stays in place. Tough enough to survive being driven over, the UV-resistant polypropylene will last through many miles on the road or hours in line at the elevator.

Manufactured in the U.S.A., Catuzza had his first run of 250 sun blockers pressed in August 2022 and debuted them in local truck shops. In March 2023, he introduced them at the Mid-America Trucking Show in Louisville, Ky. The response was overwhelming, says Catuzza, from truckers and Automann, a global distributor.

"It's exciting to see this idea come to life and grow from a local idea to availability



Sun Blocker keeps the sun off your arm while driving.

throughout the nation," Catuzza says.

Besides being available at wholesale prices through Automann, he sells the sun blocker on his website in silver and black. Customers interested in large orders in other colors can contact him.

Catuzza notes that the Arm Rocker Sun Blocker also works in utility vans, pickups, and large SUVs. He doesn't recommend them for cars as they could block the view.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arm Rocker Sun Blocker, Buffalo, N.Y. (www.truckerstan.com).