

"Best" & "Worst" Welders/Rods

"My Lincoln 225 AC arc welder has saved many times its cost in repair work and in fabricating tools and equipment from scratch. It has been in use for over 10 years and has never needed repairs of any kind," says Robert Beymer, Lore City, Ohio. He uses Lincoln 6013 rods for work on clean steel or pipe and 6011 rods for burning through rust and paint. He adds that Allstate #8 nickle rod works well for cast iron (Allstate Products, 5112 Alendale Lane, Taneytown, Md. 21787).

"It's very hard to maintain an arc on my Sears welder and it sputters badly," says Mark Westerfeld, Crawford, Tex.

"After 20 years use and many hundreds of pounds of welding rods, this welder has needed no maintenance or repair, although the rod holder and ground clamp on the welding leads have been replaced. It has been used toward the upper heat range for long periods of time on large projects. I will probably still be using it 20 years from now," says Hubert Bishop, Manhattan, Ill., about his Airco 180-amp arc welder. "I like Airco mild steel welding rods for general use."

Melvin Barth, Hay Springs, Neb.,

uses welding rods from LaGrange Equipment Co. (8714 Washington Street, Omaha, Neb. 68127). "They're easy to weld with even when the rod gets wet. They'll weld well on high or low heat."

"My 1961 Forney welder uses too much power. It often throws out the breaker, no matter what size breaker I use. When I use the welder for long periods of time it cuts out, especially in the summer, and it's always hard to start an arc. It's been like this since, new and I've regretted the \$700 I spent on it ever since," says Lawrence Dool, Thorsby, Alta. He uses Macleods' E6011 welding rods. "I can use them overhead with no problem. They'll handle almost any metal."

L. Jay Wadeson, Fingal, N. Dak., uses LaGrange 70 rods. "They're a good all-purpose welding rod that has good tensile strength. However, we don't like LaGrange electric brazing rods. They're too expensive for what you can do with them."

"Our best buy is our Lincoln 180-amp AC welder. My Dad bought it in 1964. It has performed without fail for the past 21 years, and has required no maintenance or repair of any kind.

It has seen hours of hard use building equipment and doing repair work," says Mike Hickling, Carmi, Ill. "I like 6011 welding rods and also low-hydrogen 7014 and 7018 rods. The 6011 rod has good penetration even on rusty pipe, and welds good overhead and vertically. The 7014 rod has a stronger weld than the 6013 and runs smooth. The 7018 has a stronger weld also and will take more vibration and stress."

Armand Favennec, Plamondon, Alta., says his 1966 Smith-Roles 180-amp AC welder has been a good buy. "It will burn 7018 welding rods and only draws 33 amps maximum from the farmyard transformer at 180 amps welding current. I've had no breakdowns in 20 years use. It has 24 heat settings from 15 to 180 amps."

"My 250 Lincoln welder has been a good buy. I buy Forney welding rods and like 7014 for it's strength and running ability but it doesn't penetrate as well as 6011 or 6013. But it really holds well," says Gilvie Franke, Novelty, Mo.

"I like 7018 welding rod because it produces a strong bond and can be used on a broad range of materials in all positions," says Andrew Hein-

richs, Plum Coulee, Manitoba.

"I use a number of welding rods but I like to use low-hydrogen 7018 rods whenever possible. Very versatile and performs well," says Richard Wolf, Wishek, N. Dak.

"Airco 6013 is the best rod for all around use I have ever used," says Bill Crain, Helena, Okla.

"For flat welding I like 7014 rods. For vertical welding we use 6013, which holds itself better. We buy from Forney Industries, Inc. (1830 Laporte Ave., Ft. Collins, Colo. 80521)," says Bernard Martin, Willow Bunch, Sask.

"Lincoln Feetweld rods hold best on all kinds of metal, new or rusty," says Ralph C. Masten, Plymouth, Ind.

"I bought my Lincoln welder from a pipe line welder and have been pleased with it in 12 years of use," says Jack Smith, Glendo, Wyo.

"The best welding rod I've found for high stress welding is the 7018 AC rod. It will not break if properly applied. We've currently got three wagon spindles and one tractor spindle welded together with it. The 3/32nd and 1/8th sizes can be used with a 180-amp machine," says Joe Carpenter, Somerset, Ohio.

IT ALSO CARRIES 700 GAL. OF FUEL

Farm Shop On Wheels

By Don Lilleboe

Four years ago Clark Drawz and his sons Chip and Jeff decided the fuel-carrying capacity of their field truck wasn't large enough to handle their tractor and combine needs. They bought a different truck and, by the time they finished with it, the three Minot, N. Dak., farmers had created a deluxe multi-purpose fuel truck that doubles as a service/repair shop on wheels.

The farmers calculate that they've got about \$38,000 invested in the 1981 Ford and its equipment, including their labor. The truck chassis cost them about \$23,000, and the custom box an additional \$4,500.

Story and photo courtesy The Sunflower, Box 2051, Fargo, N. Dak. 58107.

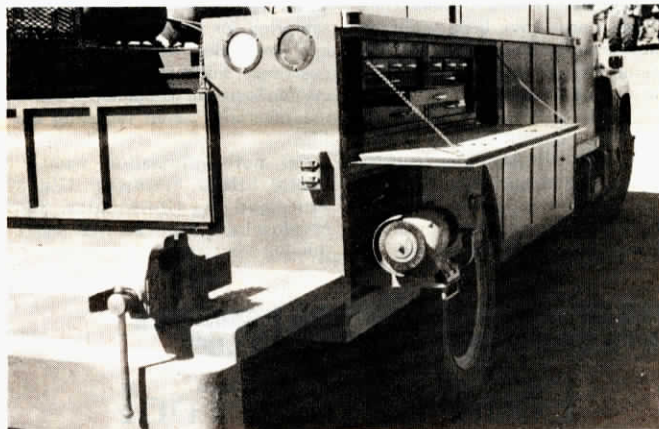


Photos courtesy The Sunflower

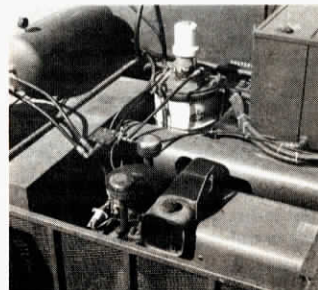
Behind Chip Drawz is a 600-gal. diesel fuel tank, with a 100-gal. gas tank next to it. In back of his right hand is the truck battery box, with welder outlets connected to the positive and negative leads. Jumper cables can then be plugged into the side of the battery box when starting a vehicle.

On top of the truck box are two 15-gal. air tanks. The diesel fuel hose reel inside the opened compartment has 40 ft. of 1/4-in. hose, fed by a two-inch PTO pump delivering 40 gal. per min. The middle reel is for the 40 ft. of power greaser hose. Farthest right are 50 ft. of 3/8-in. air hose.

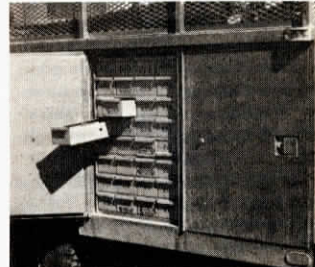
Lying in the bottom of the compartment are four hand grease guns, two oil cans and air fittings for the air hose.



The truck carries a 6-in. vise mounted to 3/8-in. deckplate. The bench grinder, wired to the welder generator, is mounted on a hinged stand and pivots out from the truck body. A 110-volt outlet near the vise is also wired to the welder and is used for drills or the hand grinder. Above the grinder are a couple tool boxes carrying a wide assortment of socket sets, screw drivers, wrenches, etc. Welding tanks and supplies are in the compartments to the front of the tool boxes.



In the truck box are a 200-amp welder (foreground), power greaser (rear, center), the two 15-gal. air tanks, a 30-gal. solvent tank (far rear) and two 20-gal. oil tanks (right rear). The solvent and oil tanks, which are air pressured at five psi, were sized to fit the available space.



This compartment contains 28 drawers, each 18 in. long. Those drawers holding bolts are divided in half, with those holding nuts each containing five divisions. Other drawers hold cotter keys, flat and lock washers, set screws, Allen screws and additional miscellaneous items.