

SOME HANDY TIPS ON USING YOUR WELDING PROCESS TIME EFFECTIVELY



Are you struggling to get to grips with your welding costs? Perhaps you've tried to find cheaper suppliers for your consumables, gas and raw materials. Maybe you've even tried to be more efficient during the physical welding process. If that's the case you've probably quickly discovered that speeding up your actions *during* welding can only make a limited difference. The reason for this is that most of your time spent welding, *you're not actually welding*. It will probably surprise you to discover that you only actually weld for around eight minutes out of every hour.

So what are you being paid to do for those extra 50 minutes?

Prepping the joint: Everything from bevelling the edge to cleaning oil and rust away from the area – a well-prepped weld face will help reduce defects and re-work time.

Gathering items: Before you begin to weld it's a good idea to bring all your tools and materials to the weld station where they will be easily accessible to you once you begin. Make use of a portable workshop trolley (such as Weldability #DZ10012).

Tacking-Up: It's vital to properly set your root gap and alignment, and to sensibly place your initial tack-welds to avoid start/stop-points and inclusions. Use a Hi-Lo gauge (Weldability #ET0032)

and taper-gauge (Weldability #ET003315) for spacing.

Getting into position: Though you might prefer to weld everything in a flat or horizontal position, unfortunately, that's not always possible. You may need to take some time to reposition the part – or yourself – into a comfortable position.

Changing filler metal/shielding gas: Maybe not every time, but now and then you will need to change these. Ensure you have enough on your spool of wire, and shielding gas in your bottles, before you start, to prevent downtime.

Cleaning: Whether it's at the end of the day or after you've finished with a product, you need to tidy up after yourself. You'll also need to clean the weld itself, which may involve grinding. An optimised weld saves time lost in post-weld clean-up.

Post weld heat treatment: Though this is not always necessary, when it is, you will need to account for this time. Measure and control cooling with a digital thermometer, such as Weldability #TTFX850C.

Moving the finished product into place: Welding in close proximity to the welded component's target location will save handling time and increase efficiency. Have the necessary stillages or dollies ready to receive your finished items.

Once you have identified the peripheral activities, it is easier to take steps to optimise and cut down time spent on each.

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Technical advice in the original SifTips style was started in 1932. 'Sifbronzing' is an almost universally recognised way of describing the low temperature bronze welding of sheet steel, cast iron and other metals. This explains why Sifbronze, the company which first developed and promoted the technique, is generally considered to be a supplier of high quality welding rods, wires, fluxes and equipment.

'Will the Welder' was a SifTips magazine that was produced in the early 1930s. The aim was to provide users with ideas and tips on how to get the most out of their welding equipment.

Sif is renowned for its UK manufacturing heritage as well as its complete range of quality welding consumables used globally for almost a century.

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