Owner's Manual & Safety Instructions

Save This Manual Keep this manual for the safety warnings and precautions, assembly, operating, inspection, maintenance and cleaning procedures. Write the product's serial number in the back of the manual near the assembly diagram (or month and year of purchase if product has no number). Keep this manual and the receipt in a safe and dry place for future reference.

20g

VULCAR®

MIGMAX 215

MIG WELDING SYSTEM



Visit our website at: http://www.harborfreight.com Email our technical support at: productsupport@harborfreight.com

57813

When unpacking, make sure that the product is intact and undamaged. If any parts are missing or broken, please call 1-888-380-0318 as soon as possible.

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No portion of this manual or any artwork contained herein may be reproduced in any shape or form without the express written consent of Harbor Freight Tools.

Diagrams within this manual may not be drawn proportionally. Due to continuing improvements, actual product may differ slightly from the product described herein.

Tools required for assembly and service may not be included.

AWARNING

Read this material before using this product. Failure to do so can result in serious injury. SAVE THIS MANUAL.

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WARNING SYMBOLS AND DEFINITIONS				
A	This is the safety alert symbol. It is used to alert you to potential personal injury hazards. Obey all safety messages that follow this symbol to avoid possible injury or death.			
▲ DANGER	Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.			
AWARNING	Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.			
ACAUTION	Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in minor or moderate injury.			
NOTICE CAUTION	Addresses practices not related to personal injury.			

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

AWARNING

Read all safety warnings and instructions.

Failure to follow the warnings and instructions may result in electric shock, fire and/or serious injury. Save all warnings and instructions for future reference.

General Safety

PROTECT yourself and others. Read and understand this information.

- Before use, read and understand manufacturer's instructions, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's), employer's safety practices, and ANSI Z49.1.
- Keep out of reach of children.
 Keep children and bystanders away while operating.
- 3. Place the welder on a stable location before use. If it falls while plugged in, severe injury, electric shock, or fire may result.
- Do not overreach.
 Keep proper footing and balance at all times.
- 5. Stay alert, watch what you are doing and use common sense when operating a welder. Do not use a welder while you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication. A moment of inattention while operating welders may result in serious personal injury.
- 6. **Avoid unintentional starting.** Make sure you are prepared to begin work before turning on the Welder.
- 7. Never leave the Welder unattended while energized. Turn power off if you have to leave.
- 8. The warnings, precautions, and instructions discussed in this instruction manual cannot cover all possible conditions and situations that may occur. It must be understood by the operator that common sense and caution are factors which cannot be built into this product, but must be supplied by the operator.

Fume and Gas Safety





INHALATION HAZARD: Welding and Plasma Cutting Produce toxic fumes.

- Exposure to welding or cutting exhaust fumes can increase the risk of developing certain cancers, such as cancer of the larynx and lung cancer. Also, some diseases that may be linked to exposure to welding or plasma cutting exhaust fumes are:
 - · Early onset of Parkinson's Disease
 - · Heart disease
 - Ulcers
 - · Damage to the reproductive organs
 - · Inflammation of the small intestine or stomach
 - Kidney damage
 - Respiratory diseases such as emphysema, bronchitis, or pneumonia

Use natural or forced air ventilation and wear a respirator approved by NIOSH to protect against the fumes produced to reduce the risk of developing the above illnesses.

2. Do not use near degreasing or painting operations.

- Keep head out of fumes.
 Do not breathe exhaust fumes.
- 4. Use enough ventilation, exhaust at arc, or both, to keep fumes and gases from breathing zone and general area. If engineering controls are not feasible, use an approved respirator.
- Work in a confined area only if it is well-ventilated, or while wearing an air-supplied respirator.
- 6. Have a recognized specialist in Industrial Hygiene or Environmental Services check the operation and air quality and make recommendations for the specific welding situation. Follow OSHA guidelines for Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL's) and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists recommendations for Threshold Limit Values (TLV's) for fumes and gases.

Arc Ray Safety



ARC RAYS can injure eyes and burn skin.

- 1. Wear ANSI-approved welding eye protection featuring at least a number 10 shade lens rating.
- Wear leather leggings, fire resistant shoes or boots during use. Do not wear pants with cuffs, shirts with open pockets, or any clothing that can catch and hold molten metal or sparks.
- 3. Keep clothing free of grease, oil, solvents, or any flammable substances.
 Wear dry, insulating gloves and protective clothing.
- 4. Wear an approved head covering to protect the head and neck. Use aprons, cape, sleeves, shoulder covers, and bibs designed and approved for welding and cutting procedures.
- 5. When welding/cutting overhead or in confined spaces, wear flame resistant ear plugs or ear muffs to keep sparks out of ears.



ELECTRIC SHOCK can KILL.

- 1. Turn off, disconnect power, and discharge electrode to ground before setting down torch/electrode holder and before service.
- Do not touch energized electrical parts. Wear dry, insulating gloves. Do not touch electrode holder, electrode, welding torch, or welding wire with bare hand. Do not wear wet or damaged gloves.
- Connect to grounded, GFCI-protected power supply only.
- Do not use near water or damp objects.
- People with pacemakers should consult their physician(s) before use. Electromagnetic fields in close proximity to heart pacemaker could cause pacemaker interference or pacemaker failure.

- 6. Do not expose welders to rain or wet conditions. Water entering a welder will increase the risk of electric shock.
- 7. Do not abuse the cord. Never use the cord for carrying, pulling or unplugging the welder. Keep cord away from heat, oil, sharp edges or moving parts. Damaged or entangled cords increase the risk of electric shock.
- Do not use outdoors.
- 9. Insulate yourself from the workpiece and ground. Use nonflammable, dry insulating material if possible, or use dry rubber mats, dry wood or plywood, or other dry insulating material large enough to cover your full area of contact with the work or ground.

Fire Safety



ARC AND HOT SLAG can cause fire.

- Clear away or protect flammable objects. Remove or make safe all combustible materials for a radius of 35 feet (10 meters) around the work area. Use a fire resistant material to cover or block all open doorways, windows, cracks, and other openings.
- Keep ABC-type fire extinguisher near work area and know how to use it.
- Maintain a safe working environment. Keep the work area well lit. Make sure there is adequate surrounding workspace. Keep the work area free of obstructions, grease, oil, trash, and other debris.
- Do not operate welders in atmospheres containing dangerously reactive or flammable liquids, gases, vapors, or dust. Provide adequate ventilation in work areas to prevent accumulation of such substances. Welders create sparks which may ignite flammable substances or make reactive fumes toxic.

- 5. If working on a metal wall, ceiling, etc., prevent ignition of combustibles on the other side by moving the combustibles to a safe location. If relocation of combustibles is not possible, designate someone to serve as a fire watch, equipped with a fire extinguisher, during the cutting process and for at least one half hour after the cutting is completed.
- Do not weld or cut on materials having a combustible coating or combustible internal structure, as in walls or ceilings, without an approved method for eliminating the hazard.
- Do not dispose of hot slag in containers holding combustible materials.
- After welding, make a thorough examination for evidence of fire. Be aware that easily visible smoke or flame may not be present for some time after the fire has started.
- Do not apply heat to a container that has held an unknown substance or a combustible material whose contents, when heated, can produce flammable or explosive vapors. Clean and purge containers before applying heat. Vent closed containers, including castings, before preheating, welding, or cutting.

Welder Use and Care

- 1. Do not use the welder if the switch does not turn it on and off. Any welder that cannot be controlled with the switch is dangerous and must be repaired.
- 2. Disconnect the plug from the power source before making any adjustments, changing accessories, or storing welders. Such preventive safety measures reduce the risk of starting the welder accidentally.
- 3. Prevent unintentional starting.
 Ensure the switch is in the offposition before connecting to power
 source or moving the welder. Carrying
 or energizing welders that have the
 switch on invites accidents.
- 4. Store idle welders out of the reach of children and do not allow persons unfamiliar with the welder or these instructions to operate the welder. Welders are dangerous in the hands of untrained users.
- 5. Use the welder and accessories in accordance with these instructions, taking into account the working conditions and the work to be performed. Use of the welder for operations different from those intended could result in a hazardous situation.
- 6. Do not use the welder for pipe thawing.

Maintenance

- Maintain welders. Check for misalignment or binding of moving parts, breakage of parts and any other condition that may affect the welder's operation. If damaged, have the welder repaired before use. Many accidents are caused by poorly maintained welders.
- 2. Have your welder serviced by a qualified repair person using only identical replacement parts. This will ensure that the safety of the welder is maintained.
- Maintain labels and nameplates on the Welder.
 These carry important information.
 If unreadable or missing, contact
 Harbor Freight Tools for a replacement.
- 4. **Unplug before maintenance.** Unplug the Welder from its electrical outlet before any inspection, maintenance, or cleaning procedures.

Gas Shielded Welding - Cylinder Safety



Cylinders can explode when damaged.

- 1. Never weld on a pressurized or a closed cylinder.
- 2. Never allow an electrode holder, electrode, welding torch, or welding wire to touch the cylinder.
- 3. Keep cylinders away from any electrical circuits, including welding circuits.
- 4. Keep protective cap in place over the valve except when the cylinder is in use.
- Use only correct gas shielding equipment designed specifically for the type of welding you will do. Maintain this equipment properly.
- 6. Protect gas cylinders from heat, being struck, physical damage, slag, flames, sparks, and arcs.
- 7. Always use proper procedures to move cylinders.



SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

AWARNING



TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK AND DEATH

FROM INCORRECT GROUNDING WIRE CONNECTION:

Check with a qualified electrician if you are in doubt as to whether the outlet is properly grounded.

Do not use the Welder if the power cord or plug is damaged. If damaged, have it repaired by a service facility before use. If the plug will not fit the outlet, have a proper outlet installed by a qualified electrician, do not use adapter plugs.

- 1. The green wire inside the cord is connected to the grounding system in the Welder. The green wire in the cord must be the only wire connected to the Welder's grounding system and must never be attached to an electrically "live" terminal. Never leave the grounding wire disconnected or modify the Power Cord Plug in any way.
- 2. Make sure the tool is connected to an outlet having the same configuration as the plug. If the tool must be reconnected for use on a different type of electric circuit, the reconnection should be made by qualified service personnel; and after reconnection, the tool should comply with all local codes and ordinances.

Extension Cords

Do not use an extension cord on this Welder.

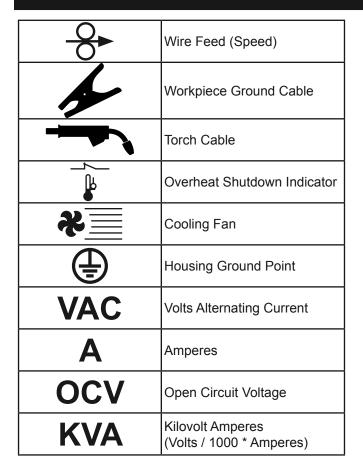
Replacement Cords

- 1. Use only one of the supplied power cords for this Welder or an identical replacement cord.
- 2. Do not install a thinner or longer cord on this Welder.

3. Do not patch cords of any length together for this item. Patches may allow moisture to penetrate the insulation, resulting in electric shock.



Symbology



IPM	Inches Per Minute
AWG	American Wire Gauge
	Electric Shock Hazard. Do not touch energized parts.
	Inhalation Hazard. Keep head out of fumes and use proper ventilation.
	Read manual before setup and/or use.
	Fire Hazard. Keep flammable materials away during welding. Spatter can cause accidental fires.
	Arc Ray Hazard. Wear welding helmet with properly rated filter lens.
	Pacemaker Hazard. Welding processes may interfere with pacemakers. Consult doctor before use.

Specifications

Power Input	120 VAC / 60 Hz	240 VAC / 60 Hz	
Current Input at Output	15A: 20.7A at 100A	24.8A at 200A	
Current input at Output	20A: 24.3A at 115A	24.0A at 200A	
Welding Current Range	30-140A	30-220A	
Pated Duty Cyalco	15A: 40% @ 100A 100% @ 75A	25% @ 200A	
Rated Duty Cycles	20A: 30% @ 115A 100% @ 75A	100% @ 115A	
Open Circuit Voltage	78VDC	78VDC	
Welding Wire Capacity	Solid Core: 0.025"/0.030"/0.035" Flux Cored: 0.030"/0.035"/0.045"		
Wire Speed	50-500 IPM		
Wire Spool Capacity	Up to 12 lb spool		

Setup



Read the ENTIRE IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION section at the beginning of this manual including all text under subheadings therein before set up or use of this product.

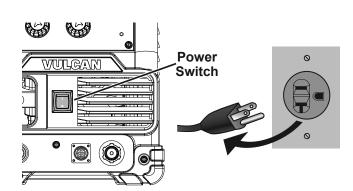
TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY FROM ACCIDENTAL OPERATION: Turn the Power Switch off and unplug the Welder before setup.

Note: Remove the protective foam and cardboard from the Welder before setup.

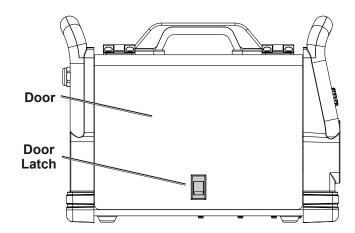
Wire Spool Installation/Wire Setup

Note: Wire Spool sold separately.

Turn the Power Switch OFF and unplug the Welder before proceeding.



Pull up on the Door Latch, then open the Door.

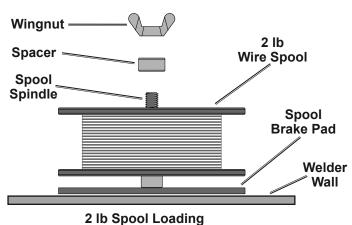


3. **2 Pound Wire Spool Installation:**

Remove the Wingnut and Spacer. If replacing a Spool, remove the old Spool and all remaining wire from the liners.

- Place the new Wire Spool over the Spool Spindle and against the Spool Brake Pad as illustrated. To prevent wire feed problems, set the Spool so that it will unwind clockwise.
- 5. Replace the Spacer over the Spool Spindle and secure Spool in place with the Wingnut.

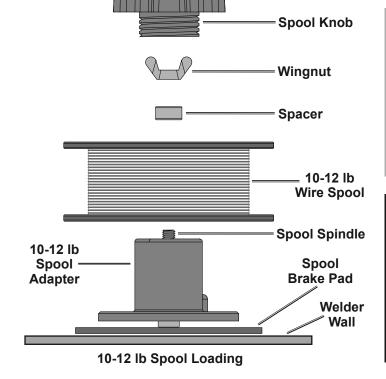
Notice: If Wire Spool can spin freely, Wingnut is too loose. This will cause the welding wire to unravel and unspool which can cause tangling and feeding problems.



6. <u>10-12 Pound Wire Spool Installation:</u>

Remove the Wingnut and Spacer. If replacing a Spool, remove the old Spool and all remaining wire from the liners.

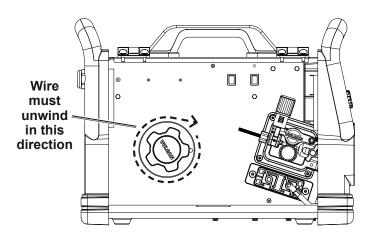
- 7. Place the Spool Adapter over the Spool Spindle and against the Spool Brake Pad as illustrated.
- Place the new Wire Spool over the Adapter and line up pin on Adapter with hole in Spool.
 To prevent wire feed problems, set the Spool so that it will unwind clockwise.



9. Replace the Spacer over the Spool Spindle and secure Spool in place with the Wingnut.

<u>Notice:</u> If Wire Spool can spin freely, Wingnut is too loose. This will cause the welding wire to unravel and unspool which can cause tangling and feeding problems.

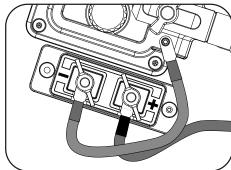
10. Screw the Spool Knob into the Spool Adapter.



11. <u>DCEN</u> Direct Current Electrode Negative Wire Setup for Flux-Cored (gasless) welding:

Remove the two Wingnuts securing the cables.
Connect the Black Ground Cable to the positive (+)
Terminal using the Wingnut.
Connect the Red Cable to the negative (-)
Terminal using the other Wingnut.
Make sure the Cable connectors
sit flush in the grooves.





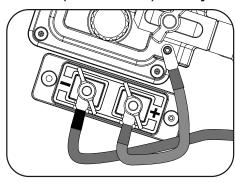
12. DCEP Direct Current Electrode Positive Wire Setup for Solid Core (gas shielded) welding:

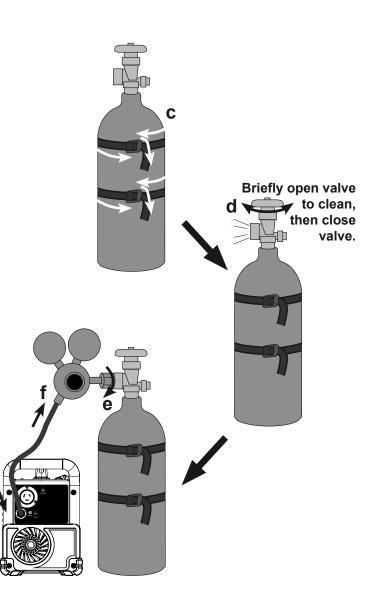
- a. Remove the two Wingnuts securing the cables. Connect the Black Ground Cable to the negative (-) Terminal using the Wingnut. Connect the Red Cable to the positive (+) Terminal using the other Wingnut. Make sure the Cable connectors sit flush in the grooves.
- b. Determine which type of shielding gas would be appropriate for the welding you will do. Refer to the Settings Chart on the inside of the Welder door.
- c. With assistance, set the cylinder (not included) onto a cabinet or cart near the Welder and secure the cylinder in place with two straps (not included) to prevent tipping.
- d. Remove the cylinder's cap. Stand to the side of the valve opening, then open the valve briefly to blow dust and dirt from the valve opening. Close the cylinder valve.
- e. Locate the Regulator (included) and close its valve until it is loose, then thread Regulator onto cylinder and wrench tighten connection.

Note: When using C100 shielding gas, connect the enclosed CGA 580/320 adapter to the inlet connection of the Regulator and wrench tighten. Thread the adapter onto the gas cylinder and wrench tighten.

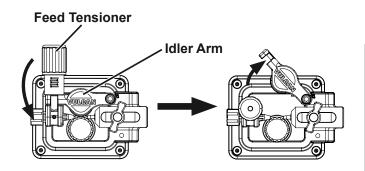
f. Attach the Gas Hose (included) to the Regulator's outlet and the Welder's gas inlet. Wrench-tighten both connections.

DCEP Solid Core (Gas Shielded) Polarity Setup





13. Turn the Feed Tensioner knob counterclockwise to loosen it enough to pull it down to remove tension. The spring-loaded Idler Arm will move up as shown.



14. Feed Roller Instructions:

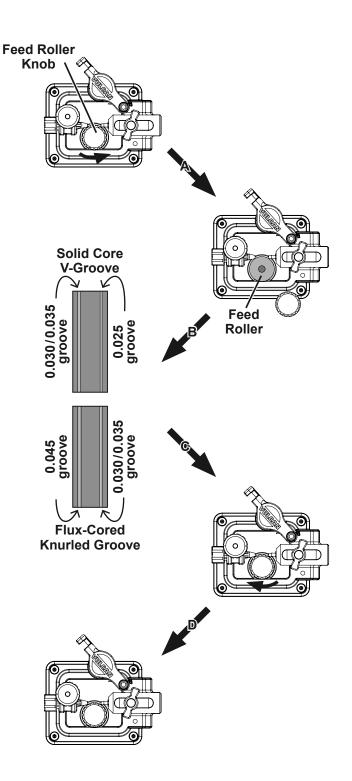
Check that the Feed Roller is correct for the type of wire being used (solid core or flux-cored) and that it is turned to properly match the wire size marked on the Wire Spool:

a. Unscrew the Feed Roller Knob counterclockwise.

b. Remove the Feed Roller Knob to expose the Feed Roller.

c. Flip or replace the Feed Roller as needed and confirm that it is the correct Roller for the type of wire being used and that the number showing is the same as the wire diameter on the Spool.

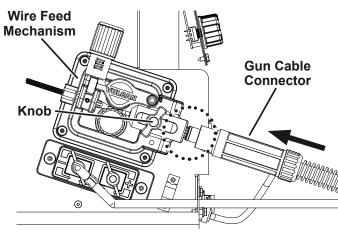
d. Screw the Feed Roller Knob back into place to secure the Feed Roller.



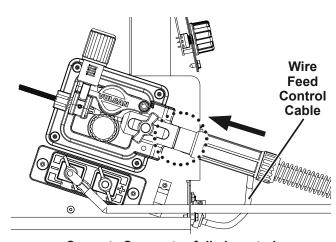
- 15. Loosen the Knob on the Wire Feed mechanism, then insert the Gun Cable Connector through the hole on the Welder front and into the socket on the Wire Feed.
- 16. Ensure that the Gun Cable Connector is fully inserted into the socket on the Wire Feed mechanism as shown, then tighten the Knob securely. If Connector is not fully inserted, the gas connection will leak, preventing shielding gas from reaching the welding arc.

NOTICE: To prevent damage, do not overtighten the Knob.

17. Connect the Wire Feed Control Cable to the Wire Feed Control Socket located on the front of the machine and tighten the lock ring on the Cable plug. Note that the plug on the Cable fits into the Socket in one specific orientation only.



Incorrect-Connector not fully inserted



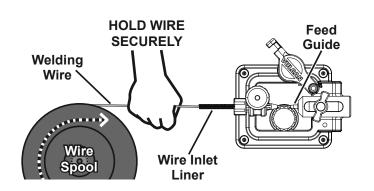
Correct-Connector fully inserted

IMPORTANT

Securely hold onto the end of the welding wire and keep tension on it during the following steps.

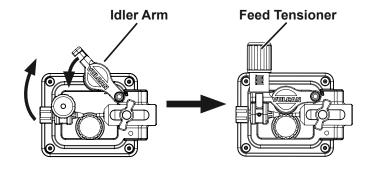
If this is not done, the welding wire will unravel and unspool which can cause tangling and feeding problems.

- 18. Cut off all bent and crimped wire. The cut end must have no burrs or sharp edges; cut again if needed.
- Keep tension on the wire and guide at least 12 inches of wire into the Wire Inlet Liner and Feed Guide.

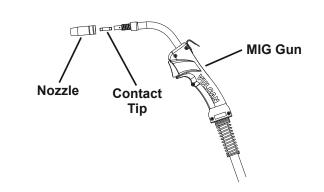


20. Make sure the welding wire is resting in the groove of the Feed Roller, then push the wire Idler Arm down, and swing the Feed Tensioner up to latch it across the tip of the arm. <u>After</u> the wire is held by the Tensioner, you may release it.

Note: The tension should be 3–5 for solid wire and 2–3 for flux-cored wire. Too much force on flux-cored wire will crush it and may cause feeding issues.



- 21. Pull the Nozzle to remove it.
- 22. Unscrew the Contact Tip counterclockwise and remove.
- 23. Lay the MIG Gun Cable out in a straight line so that the welding wire moves through it easily. Leave the cover open, so that the feed mechanism can be observed.



IMPORTANT

Stainless steel wire is less flexible than other welding wire. Therefore, it is more difficult to feed through the liner and gun. It is especially important to keep the gun cable straight while feeding stainless steel wire.



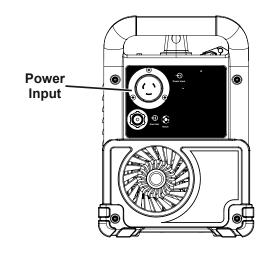
ADANGER

PARTS MAY BE AT WELDING VOLTAGE TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK AND DEATH:

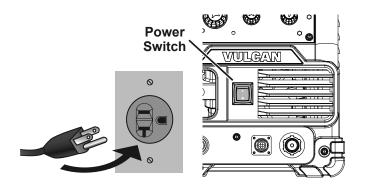
- 1. Keep hands away from Wire Feed mechanism.
- 2. Close door before plugging in, unless using Cold Wire Feed to feed wire through to gun.
- 3. Do not touch Trigger while feeding wire through to gun.

24. Plug either 120 VAC or 240 VAC Power Cord into Power Input Socket.

Note: Plug will only fit one way.



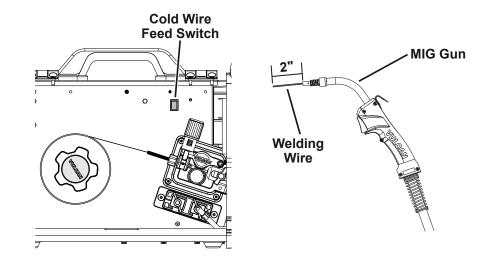
25. Do not touch the Gun's Trigger. Plug the Power Cord into a properly grounded, GFCI protected 120VAC (20 amp rated) or 240VAC receptacle that matches the plug and turn the Power Switch ON. The circuit must be equipped with delayed action-type circuit breaker or fuses.



26. Point the Gun away from all objects. Press and hold the Cold Wire Feed Switch until the wire feeds through two inches.

The wire liner may come out with the welding wire. This is normal, just push the wire liner back into the Gun.

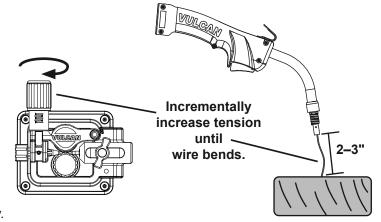
If the wire does not feed properly and the Spool is stationary, turn OFF and unplug the Welder and slightly tighten the Feed Tensioner clockwise before retrying.



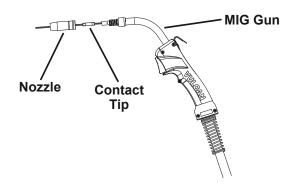
27. To check the wire's drive tension, press and hold Trigger to feed the wire against a piece of wood from 2 to 3 inches away.

Note: After pressing Trigger, wire will stop feeding after 3 seconds if there is no arc. Check tension for less than 3 seconds.

If the wire stops instead of bending, unplug the Welder, slightly tighten the Feed Tensioner clockwise, and try again. If the wire bends from the feed pressure, then the tension is set properly.



- 28. Turn OFF the Power Switch and unplug the Power Cord from its electrical outlet.
- 29. Close the Door. Make sure Door is securely latched.
- 30. Select a Contact Tip that is compatible with the welding wire used. Slide the Contact Tip over the wire and thread it clockwise into the MIG Gun. Tighten the Contact Tip.
- 31. Replace the Nozzle and cut the wire off at 1/2" from tip (1/2" stickout).



Basic Welding



Read the <u>ENTIRE</u> IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION section at the beginning of this manual including all text under subheadings therein before welding.

AWARNING

TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY:

Protective gear must be worn when using the Welder; minimum shade number 10 full face shield (or welding mask), ear protection, welding gloves, sleeves and apron, NIOSH-approved respirator, and fire resistant work clothes without pockets should be worn when welding.

Light from the arc can cause permanent damage to the eyes and skin. Do not breathe arc fumes.

Flux-cored wire welding is used to weld mild steel and stainless steel without shielding gas.

MIG welding uses solid wire and shielding gas, and is used to weld mild steel and stainless steel. MIG welding can also be used to weld thinner workpieces than flux-cored welding can.

Aluminum welding can be performed with an optional Spool Gun (sold separately) using aluminum wire and shielding gas.

Good welding takes a degree of skill and experience. Practice a few sample welds on scrap before welding your first project. Additional practice periods are recommended whenever you weld:

- · a different thickness of material
- a different type of material
- a different type of connection
- · using a different process (MIG vs. Flux)

Make practice welds on pieces of scrap to practice technique before welding anything of value.

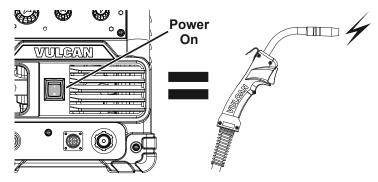


AWARNING



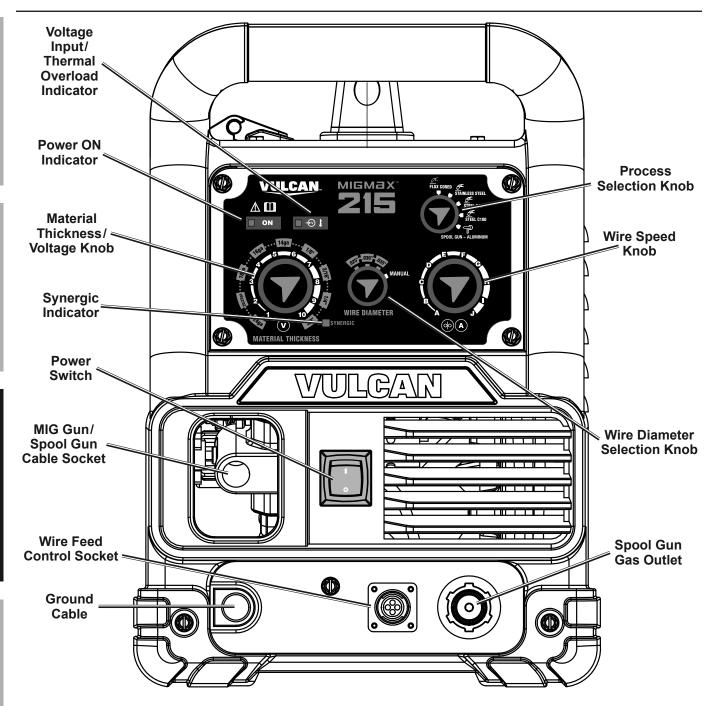
TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY, FIRE AND BURNS:

Keep welding tip clear of grounded objects whenever unit is plugged in and turned on.



Practice your welding technique on scrap pieces before welding anything of value.

Front Panel Controls



Voltage Input/Thermal Overload Indicator:

Lights up if the input voltage is outside the machine's specifications or duty cycle has been exceeded, resulting in overheating the Welder.

<u>Power ON Indicator</u>: When illuminated indicates that the Power Switch is on.

<u>Material Thickness/Voltage Knob</u>: This controls the output voltage of the Welder.

Synergic Indicator: Lights when using Auto Settings and flashes if chosen settings are incorrect.

<u>Power Switch</u>: Turns on power to the Welder and internal cooling fan.

MIG Gun/Spool Gun Cable Socket: The MIG Gun and Spool Gun Cables connect here. The wire, welding current, and shielding gas (if performing MIG) feed to the weld through here.

<u>Wire Feed Control Socket</u>: The MIG Gun and Spool Gun Control Cables connect here.

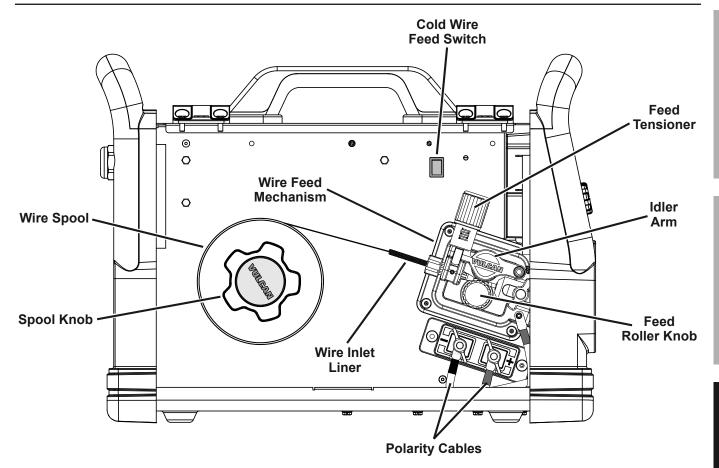
<u>Ground Cable</u>: This connects to the base metal to provide a good connection for the current to travel back to the Welder.

Spool Gun Gas Outlet: When using optional Spool Gun (sold separately), gas hose connects here.

<u>Wire Diameter Selection Knob</u>: Sets the diameter of the welding wire to be used.

<u>Wire Speed Knob</u>: Controls the speed that the welding wire feeds out of the MIG Gun or Spool Gun and the output amperage of the Welder.

<u>Process Selection Knob</u>: Adjust to select the welding process to be used.



Note: When using an optional Spool Gun (sold separately), connect the Spool Gun gas hose to the Spool Gun Gas Outlet (see Front Panel Controls on previous page).

Weld Settings

Refer to the Settings Chart on the inside of the Welder door for Flux-Cored and MIG Weld settings. The chart is only intended to show general guidelines for different wire sizes and for different thicknesses of material. The initial settings used at the beginning of a weld may need to be adjusted after stopping and carefully inspecting the weld. Proper welding takes experience.



Duty Cycle (Duration of Use)

Avoid damage to the Welder by not welding for more than the prescribed duty cycle time. The Duty Cycle defines the number of minutes, within a 10 minute period, during which a given welder can produce a particular welding current without overheating.

For example, a welder with a 40% duty cycle at 100A welding current must be allowed to rest for at least 6 minutes after every 4 minutes of continuous welding.

Failure to carefully observe duty cycle limitations can easily over-stress a welder's power generation system contributing to premature welder failure.

This Welder has an internal thermal protection system to help prevent this sort of over-stress. When the Welder overheats, it automatically shuts down and the Overload Indicator lights. The Welder automatically returns to service after cooling off. Should this occur, rest the MIG Gun on an electrically nonconductive, heat-proof surface, such as a concrete slab, well clear of the ground clamp.

Allow the Welder to cool with the Power Switch on, so that the internal Fan will help cool the Welder.

When the Overload Indicator is no longer lit and the Welder can be used again, use shorter welding periods and longer rest periods to prevent needless wear.

Rated Duty Cycle

120VAC

40% Use at 100A For 10 Continuous Minutes

4 Minutes Welding



6 Minutes Resting

100% Continuous Use at 75A

Rated Duty Cycle

240 VAC

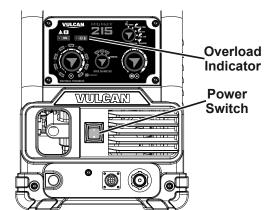
25% Use at 200A For 10 Continuous Minutes

2-1/2 Minutes Welding



7-1/2 Minutes Resting

100% Continuous Use at 115A



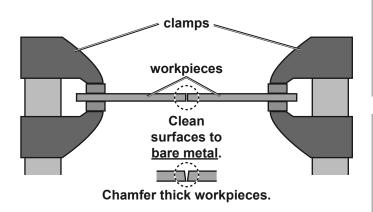




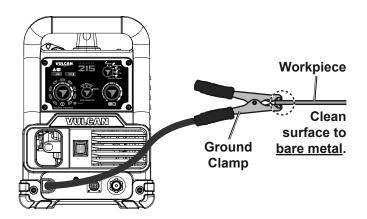
Setting Up The Weld

- Make practice welds on pieces of scrap the same thickness as your intended workpiece to practice technique before welding anything of value. Clean the weld surfaces thoroughly with a wire brush or angle grinder; there must be no rust, paint, oil, or other materials on the weld surfaces, only bare metal.
- 2. Use clamps (not included) to hold the workpieces in position so that you can concentrate on proper welding technique. The distance (if any) between the two workpieces must be controlled properly to allow the weld to hold both sides securely while allowing the weld to penetrate fully into the joint. The edges of thicker workpieces may need to be chamfered (or beveled) to allow proper weld penetration.

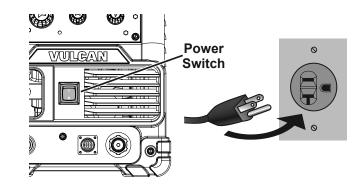
Notice: When welding equipment on a vehicle, disconnect the vehicle battery power from both the positive connection and the ground before welding. This prevents damage to some vehicle electrical systems and electronics due to the high voltage and high frequency bursts common in welding.



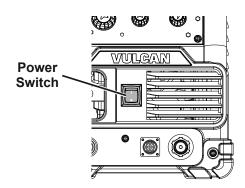
Clamp Ground Cable to bare metal on the workpiece near the weld area, or to metal work bench where the workpiece is clamped.



4. Turn the Power Switch to the OFF position, then plug the Power Cord into a properly grounded, GFCI protected 120VAC (20 amp rated) or 240VAC receptacle that matches the plug. The circuit must be equipped with delayed action-type circuit breaker or fuses.



5. Set MIG Gun down on nonconductive, nonflammable surface away from any grounded objects. Turn the Power Switch ON.



- 6. **Settings -** Refer to Label on the inside of the Welder door.
 - a. Auto (Synergic) Settings—Synergic Indicator will light:
 - · Set Process
 - · Set Wire Diameter

Note: If using 0.045" flux-cored wire, set Wire Diameter to MANUAL. In this case, Synergic welding will be turned off. Refer to Manual Settings below.

- Set Material Thickness—If Synergic Indicator flashes, Material Thickness setting is incorrect—refer to Settings Chart for proper weld settings
- b. Manual Settings:
 - · Set Process
 - · Set Wire Diameter to MANUAL
 - Set Wire Feed Speed according to Settings Chart
 - Set Voltage according to Settings Chart

Note: The initial settings may need to be adjusted after stopping and carefully inspecting the weld. Proper welding takes experience.

VULGAN O O O

<u>DANGER!</u> TO PREVENT DEATH FROM ASPHYXIATION:

Do not open gas without proper ventilation. Fix gas leaks immediately.

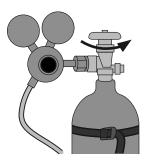
Shielding gas can displace air and cause rapid loss of consciousness and death.

Shielding gas without carbon dioxide can be even more hazardous because asphyxiation can start without feeling shortness of breath.



- a. Open gas cylinder valve all the way.
- b. Set Flow Gauge to SCFH value indicated on Settings Chart.





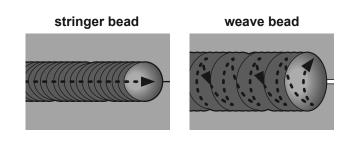
Basic Welding Technique

- 1. Press (and hold) MIG Gun Trigger and contact the area to be welded with electrode wire to ignite arc.
- 2. For a narrow weld, you can usually draw the wire in a steady straight line.

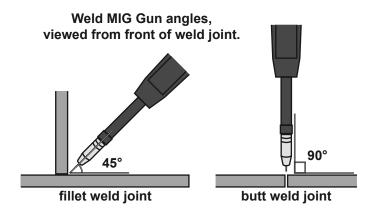
This is called a **stringer bead**.

For a wider weld, draw the wire back and forth across the joint.

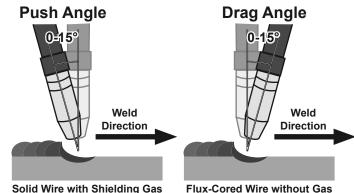
This is called a **weave bead** and takes practice to perform properly.



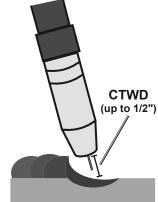
3. Direct the welding wire straight into the joint. This gives an angle of 90° (straight up and down) for butt (end to end) welds, and an angle of 45° for fillet (T-shaped) welds.



- 4. For MIG welding using solid wire and shielding gas, the end of the MIG Gun should be tilted so that wire is angled anywhere in-between straight on and 15° away from the direction you are welding. The amount of tilt is called the *push angle*.
- 5. When using flux-cored wire without shielding gas, the end of the MIG Gun should be tilted so that wire is angled anywhere in-between straight on and 15° in the direction you are welding. The amount of tilt is called the *drag angle*.
- 6. The Contact Tip should remain within 1/2" of the work surface. This distance is called *CTWD* Contact Tip to Work Distance.







<u>Note:</u> If Welder is used too long, the Overload Indicator lights up and the unit automatically shuts down. The Welder automatically returns to service after cooling off. Should this occur, rest the MIG Gun on an electrically nonconductive, heat-proof surface, such as a concrete slab, away from the ground clamp.

Allow the Welder to cool with the Power Switch on, so that the internal Fan will help cool the Welder.

When the Overload Indicator is no longer lit and the Welder can be used again, use shorter welding periods and longer rest periods to help prevent needless wear.

7. After welding the test weld on a piece of scrap for a few seconds, stop, and check your progress. Clean, then compare your weld's appearance with the diagrams and descriptions in the Welding Tips section starting on the next page. After making any necessary adjustments, continue to weld while carefully following the DUTY CYCLE guidelines as explained on page 18.

CAUTION! Weld will be hot, do not touch.

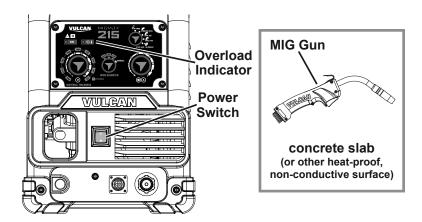
- 3. When welding is complete, set the MIG Gun down on a heat-proof, electrically non-conductive surface.

 Turn the Power Switch OFF.
- 9. Allow Welder to cool down, then

unplug the Power Cord.

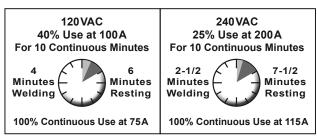
- Remove Ground Clamp from workpiece or table and disconnect MIG Gun.
- 11. Respool wire by clipping wire, removing gas nozzle/contact tip on MIG gun, releasing Idler Arm on Wire Feed mechanism, and rotating the Wire Spool counterclockwise. Be sure to securely hold wire as it is being respooled because the end of wire has a tendency to quickly unravel once it clears the wire feeder.
- 12. MIG ONLY:
 Close shielding gas cylinder valve securely. Remove Regulator and

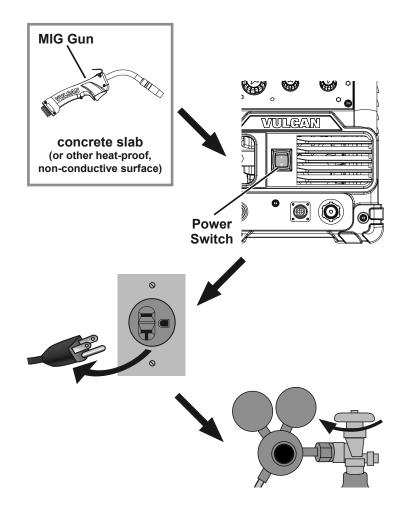
securely. Remove Regulator and replace cap. Disconnect Gas Hose from Welder. Store and secure gas cylinder.



After practice welding for a few seconds, STOP and examine your weld using the guidelines starting on the next page.

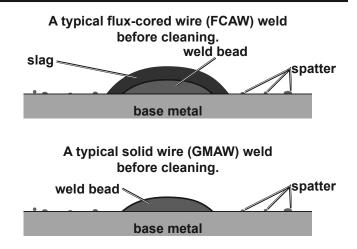
FOLLOW DUTY CYCLE!





Welding Tips

A good way to test welding technique is to examine a weld's appearance after it has cooled and the slag has been removed. Then, better welding can be learned by adjusting your weld technique to remedy any problems found.



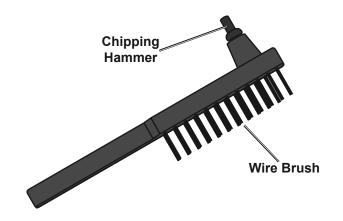
Cleaning the Weld

AWARNING



TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY: Continue to wear ANSI-approved safety goggles and protective wear when cleaning a weld. Sparks or chips may fly when cleaning.

- A weld from flux-cored wire will be covered by slag. Use a chipping hammer to knock this off. Be careful not to damage the weld or base material.
- 2. Use a wire brush to further clean the weld or use an angle grinder (sold separately) to shape the weld.



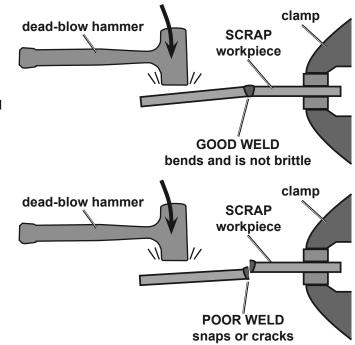
Strike Test

A test weld on a PIECE OF SCRAP can be tested by using the following procedure.

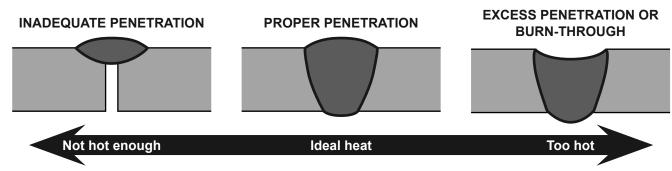
WEAR ANSI-APPROVED SAFETY GOGGLES DURING THIS PROCEDURE.

<u>CAUTION!</u> This test WILL damage the weld it is performed on. This test is ONLY an indicator of weld technique and is not intended to test working welds.

- 1. After two scraps have been welded together and the weld has cooled, clamp one scrap in a sturdy vise.
- Stay clear from underneath while you strike the opposite scrap with a heavy hammer, preferably a dead-blow hammer.
- A GOOD WELD will deform but not break, as shown on top.
 A POOR WELD will be brittle and snap at the weld, as shown on bottom.



Workpiece Heat Control / Weld Penetration



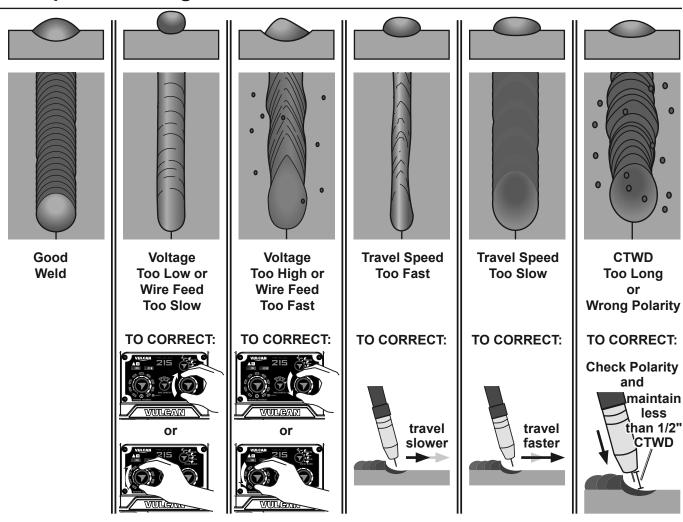
How to increase workpiece heat and increase penetration: (to weld THICKER workpieces properly)

- a.Increase weld current c. Use faster wire feed
- b. Decrease travel speed d. Use shorter CTWD

How to reduce workpiece heat and limit penetration:

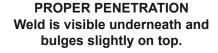
- (to weld THINNER workpieces properly)
 a.Decrease weld current c.Use slower wire feed
- b.Increase travel speed d.Use longer CTWD

Example Weld Diagrams

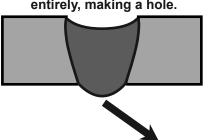


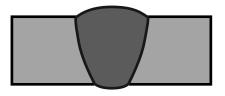
Penetration (Workpiece Heat Control)

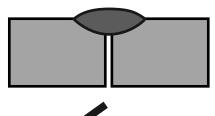
EXCESS PENETRATION OR BURN-THROUGH Weld droops on top and underneath, or falls through entirely, making a hole.



INADEQUATE PENETRATION Weld does not penetrate the joint fully, just on the surface.





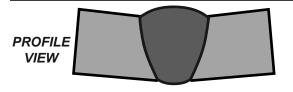


PROFILE VIEWS

POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

- Workpiece overheating: Reduce wire feed speed. Decrease weld current.
- Travel speed too slow: Increase travel speed and ensure that travel speed is kept steady.
- 3. **Excessive material at weld:** Reduce wire feed speed.

Bend at Joint



POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

- Improper clamping:
 Clamp workpieces securely.
 Make tack welds to hold workpieces.
- Excessive heat:
 Weld a small portion and allow to cool before proceeding.
 Increase travel speed.
 Reduce wire feed speed.

Coat of Slag Over Weld



PARTIALLY CHIPPED AWAY TO SHOW WELD

Slag is a necessary part of a flux-cored wire weld. It shields the weld from impurities. Clean off the slag with a Chipping Hammer and Wire Brush after welding.

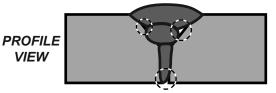
Gas-shielded MIG welds are protected by the shielding gas and do not need slag to protect them.

POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

- Incorrect welding technique:
 Maintain 1/2" or less CTWD.
 Keep arc on leading edge of weld puddle.
 Hold MIG Gun at proper angles.
- 2. **Insufficient weld heat:**Reduce travel speed.
 Increase weld current.
- Workpieces too thick/close:
 Bevel thick workpieces, allow slight gap, and weld in several passes.
- 4. **Insufficient weld material:** Increase wire feed speed.

Weld Not Adhering Properly

Gaps present between weld and previous bead or between weld and workpiece. See areas below.



POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

1. Incorrect welding technique:

Place stringer bead at correct place in joint.
Adjust workpiece position or weld angle to permit proper welding to bottom of piece.
Pause briefly at sides during weave bead.
Keep arc on leading edge of weld puddle.
Hold MIG Gun at proper angles.

2. Insufficient weld heat:

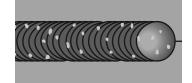
Increase current.
Increase wire feed speed.

- Dirty workpiece:
 Clean workpiece down to bare metal.
- Insufficient weld material:
 Increase wire feed speed.
- 5. Workpiece gap too narrow: Widen groove or increase bevel.

Porosity

Small cavities or holes in the bead.

TOP VIEW



POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

Incorrect polarity:
 Check that polarity is set correctly for type of welding.

 Insufficient shielding gas (MIG only): Increase flow of gas. Clean nozzle. Maintain proper CTWD.

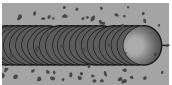
- Incorrect shielding gas (MIG only):
 Use shielding gas recommended by wire supplier.
- Dirty workpiece or welding wire:
 Clean workpiece down to bare metal.
 Make certain that wire is clean and free from oil, coatings, and other residues.
- Inconsistent travel speed: Maintain steady travel speed.
- CTWD too long: Reduce CTWD.

Excessive Spatter

Fine spatter is normal.

Spatter that is grainy and large is a problem.

TOP VIEW

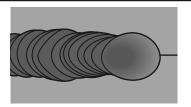


POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

- Dirty workpiece or welding wire:
 Clean workpiece down to bare metal.
 Make certain that wire is clean and free from oil, coatings, and other residues.
- 2. **Incorrect polarity:**Check that polarity is set correctly for type of welding.
- Insufficient shielding gas (MIG only): Increase flow of gas. Clean nozzle. Maintain proper CTWD.
- 4. Wire feeding too fast: Reduce wire feed speed.
- 5. **CTWD too long:** Reduce CTWD.

Crooked/Wavy Bead

TOP VIEW



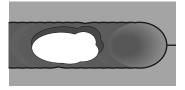
POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

- Inaccurate welding:
 Use two hands or rest hand on steady surface.
- Inconsistent travel speed: Maintain steady travel speed.
- 3. CTWD too long: Reduce CTWD.

Burn-Through

Base material melts away, leaving a hole in the weld.

TOP VIEW



POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

- Workpiece overheating: Reduce current and/or wire feed speed.
- Travel speed too slow: Increase travel speed and ensure that travel speed is kept steady.
- 3. **Excessive material at weld:** Reduce wire feed speed.

AWARNING



TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY, FIRE AND BURNS:

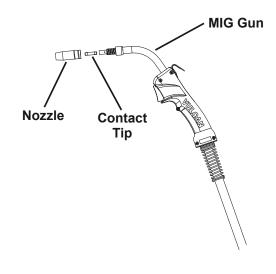
Unplug the Welder, rest the MIG Gun on a heat-proof, electrically non-conductive surface, and allow all parts of the Welder to cool thoroughly before service.

- 1. **BEFORE EACH USE**, inspect the general condition of the Welder. Check for:
 - · loose hardware
 - · misalignment or binding of moving parts
 - · damaged cord/electrical wiring
 - · frayed or damaged cables
 - · cracked or broken parts
 - any other condition that may affect its safe operation.

- 2. Periodically, have a qualified technician remove the Rear Panel and use compressed air to blow out all dust from the interior.
- 3. Store in a clean and dry location.
- 4. For optimal weld quality, clean and inspect the Contact Tip and Nozzle before each use, as explained below.

Nozzle and Contact Tip Inspection and Cleaning

- Make sure that the entire MIG Gun is completely cool and that the Power Cord is unplugged from the electrical outlet before proceeding.
- 2. Pull the Nozzle to remove it.
- 3. Scrub the interior of the Nozzle clean with a wire brush.
- Examine the end of the Nozzle. The end should be flat and even. If the end is uneven, chipped, melted, cracked, or otherwise damaged, the Nozzle will adversely effect the weld and should be replaced.
- 5. Unscrew the Contact Tip counterclockwise and slide it off the welding wire to remove.
- 6. Scrub the outside of the Tip clean with a wire brush. Clean out the inside of the tip with a tip cleaner (sold separately). Check that the Tip is the proper type for the wire size used.
- 7. Examine the shape of the hole at the end of the Contact Tip. It should be an even circle; it should not be oblong or have any bulges in it.
- 8. If any problems are noted, replace the Contact Tip. Select a new Tip of the correct size for the welding wire used.
- 9. Reinstall the Tip and securely reinstall the Nozzle as well.



IMPORTANT!

Be CERTAIN to shut off the Welder, disconnect it from power, and discharge the MIG Gun to ground before adjusting, cleaning, or repairing the unit.

Problem		Possible Causes		Likely Solutions
	1.	Insufficient wire feed pressure.	1.	Increase wire feed pressure properly. Follow step 27 on page 14.
Wire feed motor runs but wire does not feed properly	2.	Incorrect wire feed roll size.	2.	Flip roll to correct size. Follow the Wire Spool Installation instructions on page 8.
	3.	Damaged MIG Gun, cable, or liner assembly.	3.	Have a qualified technician inspect these parts and replace as necessary.
	4.	Feed Tensioner is too tight.	4.	Loosen Feed Tensioner so it applies only enough pressure to prevent continued spinning after the Gun Trigger is released.
	1.	Excess wire feed pressure.	1.	Adjust wire feed pressure properly. Follow step 27 on page 14.
Mira araataa a hird'a	2.	Incorrect Contact Tip size.	2.	Replace with the proper tip for wire used.
Wire creates a bird's nest during operation	3.	MIG Gun Cable Connector not fully inserted into Wire Feed mechanism.	3.	Insert Gun Cable Connector properly. Follow steps 15 and 16 on page 12.
	4.	Damaged liner.	4.	Have a qualified technician inspect and repair/replace as necessary.
	1.	Gun cable is severely bent and Wire Feed mechanism cannot feed wire.	1.	Straighten Gun cable.
	2.	Gun liner is clogged or worn.	2.	Check gun liner for obstruction. Replace if necessary
Wire stops	3.	Gun liner is too small for welding wire being used.	3.	Check that gun liner is correct size for wire.
during welding	4.	Wire is tangled on the spool.	4.	Check wire for cross winding or tangled spool.
	5.	Wire is not making contact with Feed Rollers.	5.	Check Feed Rollers and ensure correct groove for wire diameter is being used.
	6.	Feed Roller is not making enough contact with wire or is crushing flux-cored wire.	6.	Check Feed Tensioner and ensure it is set properly.
	1.	Wire not feeding properly.	1.	See first Troubleshooting section above.
	2.	Incorrect Contact Tip or liner size or excessive wear.	2.	Replace with the proper tip or liner size for wire used
	3.	Incorrect wire feed speed.	3.	Adjust wire feed speed to achieve a more stable arc.
	4.	Loose MIG Gun cable or ground cable.	4.	Check to ensure that all connections are tight.
NA	5.	Damaged MIG Gun or loose connection within Gun.	5.	Have a qualified technician inspect and repair/replace as necessary.
Welding arc not stable	6.	Incorrect polarity for process being run.	6.	Ensure polarity is correct for operation: DCEP for MIG welding and DCEN for Flux-Cored self-shielded welding.
	7.	Gas coverage may be insufficient or too high.	7.	Ensure gas flow rate is set according to Settings Char Make sure MIG Gun Cable Connector is fully inserted into Wire Feed mechanism with no O-Rings exposed
	8.	Poor connection with workpiece.	8.	Check the ground clamp connection to the workpiece and machine. Ensure the MIG Gun is properly secured.
Weak arc strength	1.	Incorrect line voltage.	1.	Check the line voltage and, if insufficient, have a licensed electrician remedy the situation.
	2.	Improper gauge or length of cord.	2.	Do not use an extension cord on this Welder. Use only one of the supplied power cords for this Welder or an identical replacement cord.
	3.	Not enough current.	3.	Switch current to proper setting for metal thickness.



Follow all safety precautions whenever diagnosing or servicing the equipment.

Troubleshooting (continued)

IMPORTANT!

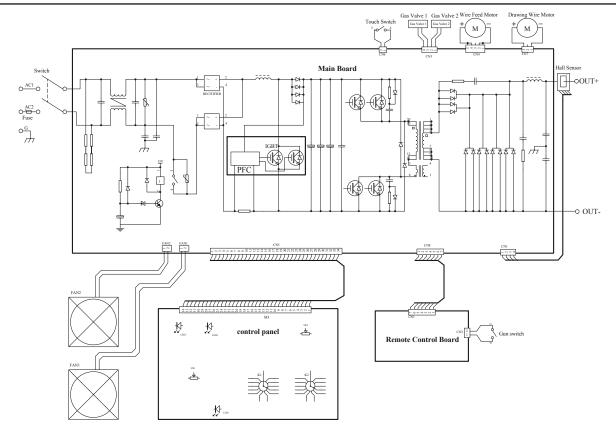
Be CERTAIN to shut off the Welder, disconnect it from power, and discharge the MIG Gun to ground before adjusting, cleaning, or repairing the unit.

Problem	Possible Causes	Likely Solutions
When switched on, Power ON Indicator	Tripped thermal protection device.	If the Voltage Input/Thermal Overload Indicator is illuminated, Welder has overheated and shut down. Stop and wait with the Power Switch ON for the Welder to cool. The Welder automatically returns to service after cooling off. Reduce duration or frequency of welding periods to help reduce wear on the Welder. Refer to Duty Cycle (Duration of Use) on page 18.
lights but Welder does not function	Faulty or improperly connected Trigger.	Ensure the gun connection is properly seated on machine. Qualified technician must check and secure/replace Trigger.
	Machine is in low- or over-voltage protection.	Check input voltage and ensure it falls within the specified range. If input voltage is correct, press Reset Button on back of machine.
	4. Machine is in the incorrect mode.	Ensure the Process Selection Knob is switched to the correct process.
	Unit is not connected to outlet properly.	Verify the voltage at the outlet and the connection to the outlet.
	2. Outlet is unpowered.	Check circuit breaker/GFCI devices; if any are tripped determine and remedy cause before resetting.
Power ON Indicator does not light when Welder is switched on	Circuit supplies insufficient input voltage or amperage.	3. Verify that the circuit is designed to supply the required input voltage and amperage as detailed on the Specifications table. If the Voltage Input/Thermal Overload Indicator is illuminated on machine, check the input voltage to ensure it is within specified range.
	Plug does not have correct rating.	Make sure installed plug is correct rating. See Specifications on page 7.
	Circuit breaker has tripped due to high input amperage.	Press Reset Button on back of machine to reset circuit breaker.
	Input Power Cord is not seated properly.	Ensure the twist lock input Power Cord is fully secured.
Wire feeds, but arc does not ignite	Improper ground connection.	Make certain that the workpiece is contacted properly by the Ground Clamp and that the workpiece is properly cleaned near the ground clamp and the welding location.
	2. Improperly sized Contact Tip.	Verify that Contact Tip is the proper size for welding wire. If needed, replace Contact Tip with proper size and type.
	Excessively worn Contact Tip.	Check that the hole in the tip is not deformed or enlarged. If needed, replace Contact Tip with proper size and type.
	4. Dirty Contact Tip.	4. Properly clean Contact Tip.
	Shielding gas bottle is empty.	Check gas bottle and replenish as necessary.
Porosity in the weld metal	2. Not enough or too much shielding gas.	2. Check gas regulator to ensure proper flow.
	Dirty workpiece.	3. Clean workpiece down to bare metal.
	4. Gun is being used too far away from workpiece.	Check CTWD (contact tip to work distance) for the proper procedure.
	5. Polarity is incorrect for the application.	Check the polarity and ensure it is DCEP for MIG and DCEN for Flux-Cored.
	Dirty welding wire is introducing contamination into the weld.	Make certain that welding wire is clean and free of rust and residues.



Follow all safety precautions whenever diagnosing or servicing the equipment.

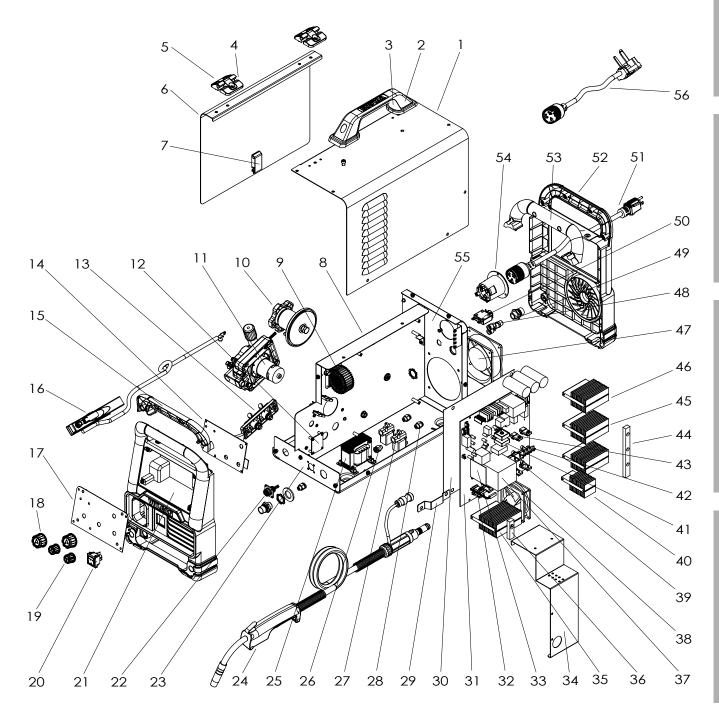
Wiring Diagram



Parts List

Part	Description	Qty
1	Right Cover	1
2	Handle Cover	1
3	Handle Base	1
4	Hinge-Right	2
5	Hinge-Left	2
6	Left Cover	1
7	Door Latch	1
8	Middle Panel	1
9	PFC Inductor	1
10	Spool Spindle	1
11	Wire Feeder	1
12	Remote Control PCB	1
13	Insulation Block	1
14	Display PCB	1
15	Front Handle Cover Plate	1
16	Ground Clamp Subassembly	1
17	Control Panel	1
18	Knob	2
19	Knob	2
20	Switch	1
21	Front Plate	1
22	Plug Connector	1
23	Bottom Housing	1
24	MIG Welding Torch	1
25	Output Inductor	1
26	Pneumatic Connector	3
27	Solenoid Valve	2
28	Pneumatic Connector	2

Part	Description	Qty
29	Copper Output Bracket	1
30	Board Insulation Paper	1
31	Main PCB	1
32	Fast Recovery Diode	6
33	Control PCB	1
34	Sheet Metal Air Duct	1
35	Rectifier Heatsink	1
36	Rectifier Heatsink Support Bar	1
37	Transformer	1
38	DC Fan	1
39	IGBT	2
40	Bridge Heatsink	1
41	Bridge Rectifier	2
42	Fast Recovery Diode	2
43	IGBT	4
44	IGBT Heatsink Support Bar	1
45	IGBT Heatsink	1
46	IGBT Heatsink	2
47	DC Fan	1
48	Y-Type Threaded Tee	1
49	Air Fitting	1
50	Overload Protector	1
51	120 Volt Power Cord	1
52	Rear Plate	1
53	Rear Handle Cover Plate	1
54	Power Socket	1
55	Rear Panel	1
56	240 Volt Power Cord	1



Record Serial Number Here:_

Note: If product has no serial number, record month and year of purchase instead.

Note: Some parts are listed and shown for illustration purposes only, and are not available individually as replacement parts. Specify UPC 193175422606 when ordering parts.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY

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Harbor Freight Tools Co. makes every effort to assure that its products meet high quality and durability standards, and warrants to the original purchaser that this product is free from defects in materials and workmanship for the period of 90 days from the date of purchase. This warranty does not apply to damage due directly or indirectly, to misuse, abuse, negligence or accidents, repairs or alterations outside our facilities, criminal activity, improper installation, normal wear and tear, or to lack of maintenance. We shall in no event be liable for death, injuries to persons or property, or for incidental, contingent, special or consequential damages arising from the use of our product. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation of exclusion may not apply to you. THIS WARRANTY IS EXPRESSLY IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS.

To take advantage of this warranty, the product or part must be returned to us with transportation charges prepaid. Proof of purchase date and an explanation of the complaint must accompany the merchandise. If our inspection verifies the defect, we will either repair or replace the product at our election or we may elect to refund the purchase price if we cannot readily and quickly provide you with a replacement. We will return repaired products at our expense, but if we determine there is no defect, or that the defect resulted from causes not within the scope of our warranty, then you must bear the cost of returning the product.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.



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