

ABRASIVE BLASTING – CHOICE OF OPTIONS

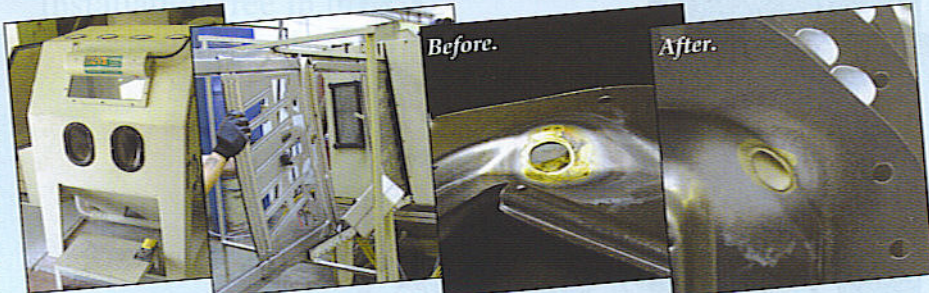
The correct choice of abrasive material to achieve a required level of surface preparation or finishing is an important issue across the manufacturing and engineering industry. Achieving a desired result can have a direct bearing on product quality, longevity and performance and can ultimately be instrumental in building a manufacturer's reputation and even profitability.

It is in this context that the Mac'Ants Group has grown. The company highlights the need to match the process with not just the optimum equipment but also the blast media, the selection of which, it believes, should be based on a number of factors. Top of this list would be the process objective – perhaps surface preparation or cleaning, for example – and the nature of the substrate. The abrasive material itself can then be grouped under one of several broad headings, each of which produces different results.

Alumina-based products – as typified by the Mac'Ants 'Alumac' range – offer a choice of properties such as sharpness, purity, and durability making them extremely useful where high levels of consistency and repeatability are required. Applications as diverse as safety and slip resistant flooring to those where contamination is to be avoided can often gain from their use.

Alongside this, hard abrasives are ideal for surface finishing peening as well as for use in reflective applications such as the production of road markings and safety wear products. Again, Mac'Ants' specialisation in this field is demonstrated with its 'Beadomac' range of high grade soda lime glass media – much of which has found favour in specialist application areas such as aerospace manufacturing.

Metallic abrasives offer the user the opportunity to benefit from a range of bespoke



Views of a Mac'Ants abrasive blast cabinet in action.

protective coatings from various medias, many of which are ideal, for example, for cosmetic applications. Cast iron grit, steel shots and steel grit of varying hardness are available within this area as is other material such as stainless steel shot and cut wire pellets. The heavier abrasives, for example cast iron grit, are ideal for deep profiling, quick cleaning and the preparation of ferrous substrates.

One of the most innovative developments the industry has seen in recent times has been the increased use of plastic blast media. This offers clear cut advantages that have not only enhanced current blasting processes but have even opened up new applications. These are centred on the fact that the material allows highly effective blasting operations to be undertaken with no risk of substrate damage – of particular significance in a range of areas not least aerospace and aviation. Moreover, it offers high levels of finish consistency with, importantly, significant environmental advantages.

The Mac'Ants' 'AviaLite' brand of plastics is at the forefront of the company's capability in this field. Developed for stripping and de-painting applications – from aircraft and components to mould cleaning and rejuvenating uses – it has enabled the company to gain highly

respected approvals and certifications from leading manufacturers in the industry.

The overall result is a comprehensive choice that permits everybody involved in cleaning or surface preparation applications to match their requirements precisely with the most appropriate media.

"Developing and offering such a wide choice of media has been the basis of our success in this field," comments Technical Manager at Mac'Ants, Kent Martin, "particularly when allied to the availability of both standard and purpose-designed machinery. With support services based on extensive experience and an understanding of specific industry applications, we believe that this is an area in which companies such as ourselves can offer important services to a wide range of manufacturing and engineering operations.

"Fundamentally, we believe it is important that users take full advantage of the choices available by speaking to specialists in the field," he concludes, "so that this key part of industry can contribute as much as possible to improving quality across the board."

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SUMMER MADNESS

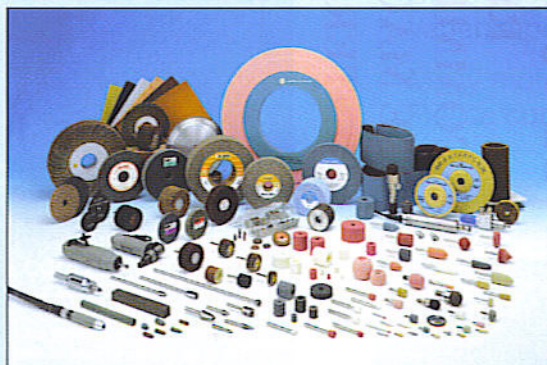
Meister Abrasives UK can now offer a complete range of coated abrasive narrow and wide belts manufactured in five days from its Daventry facility. "The addition of wide belts to our conversion capabilities will open up some new opportunities which traditionally we have not been strong in," said Andrew Miller the Managing Director of Meister Abrasives UK. A further strength to the Meister coated portfolio has been the addition of the St Gobian Abrasives (SGA) range of coated material. Mr Miller added "the addition of the SGA coated material which has strong branding through the Norton range of product with our existing Sia Abrasives product range gives us even more strength in depth with regards to our coated abrasives product offering."

If all this was not enough Meister are going to offer a summer special to their customers both existing and new for all manufactured coated belt orders received in the months of July and

August. If you place an order for a coated belt during these months and you will receive 20% extra free of charge e.g. place an order for 100 belts (same size and specification) and you get 120 belts. Paul Batson Meister Abrasive UK Sales & Marketing Director said, "It's an opportunity for new customers to give us a try and get a little extra and also it's a way of thanking our existing customers."

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TO CHINA

Jubilee Machine Tools have specialised in the supply of re-conditioned and good quality used precision grinding machines for almost 30 years. Founded by Ex- Myford Limited Director Tony Pope (CEng) in 1977 Supplying Used Jones & Shipman, Myford, Okamoto grinders and PG Optidress and Diaform ancillary equipment around the world through its network of agents.

Recently exporting several re-conditioned Myford and Jones & Shipman toolroom grinders to China. The company has also custom built specialised grinders to suit specific users requirements, two such machines recently supplied to an end user in Egypt.

Employing Ex-Myford and Ex-Jones & Shipman technicians with years of experience on the conventional machines and now the microprocessor controlled grinding machines. "Our customers require high quality reliable machines that will grind to very small tolerances on large and/or small production components, and guaranteed, as a new machine would be supplied. Machines can be proof checked in our works by the customer prior to delivery."

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