

# 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.

**CHICAGO ELECTRIC** WELDING

## 90 AMP FLUX WIRE WELDER



Visit our website at: <http://www.harborfreight.com>  
Email our technical support at: [tech@harborfreight.com](mailto:tech@harborfreight.com)

**ITEM 68887**

REV 12e

When unpacking, make sure that the product is intact and undamaged. If any parts are missing or broken, please call 1-800-444-3353 as soon as possible.

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### **⚠ WARNING**

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

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SAFETY

SETUP

BASIC WELDING

WELDING TIPS

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## WARNING SYMBOLS AND DEFINITIONS

	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.
	Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.
	Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.
	Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in minor or moderate injury.
	Addresses practices not related to personal injury.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### WARNING

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.
- 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.
- 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.*
- Avoid unintentional starting.** Make sure you are prepared to begin work before turning on the Welder.
- Never leave the Welder unattended while energized.** Turn power off if you have to leave.
- 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.
- This product, when used for welding and similar applications, contains or produces a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects (or other reproductive harm).**  
(California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, *et seq.*)
- Handling the cord on this product will expose you to lead, a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, and birth defects or other reproductive harm.**  
Wash hands after handling.  
(California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, *et seq.*)

## Fume and Gas Safety



**FUMES AND GASES can be hazardous to your health.**

- 1. 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 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
- 2. Do not use near degreasing or painting operations.**
- 3. 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.
- 5. 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.

SAFETY

SETUP

BASIC WELDING

## 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.**
- 2. 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.**

WELDING TIPS

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# Electrical Safety



## ELECTRIC SHOCK can KILL.

1. **Turn off, disconnect power, and discharge electrode to ground before setting down torch/electrode holder and before service.**
2. **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.
3. **Connect to grounded, GFCI-protected power supply only.**
4. **Do not use near water or damp objects.**
5. **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.**
8. **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.
10. **Use care not to touch the welding tip to grounded material whenever the unit is plugged in.** Electric shock, fire, or burns may happen if appropriate precautions are not taken.

# Fire Safety



## ARC AND HOT SLAG can cause fire.

1. **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.
2. **Keep ABC-type fire extinguisher near work area and know how to use it.**
3. **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.
4. **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.
6. **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.**
7. **Do not dispose of hot slag in containers holding combustible materials.**
8. **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.
9. **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

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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 off-position 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.*

## Maintenance

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1. **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.*
3. **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.



**SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS.**

## Grounding

SAFETY

### ⚠️ WARNING



**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. Have a plug installed by a certified electrician. 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.

## Grounded Welders

SETUP

1. The grounding prong in the plug is connected through the green wire inside the cord 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.
2. The Welder must be plugged into an appropriate outlet, properly installed and grounded in accordance with all codes and ordinances.

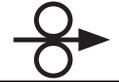
## Extension Cords

BASIC WELDING

1. **If an extension cord is used, it must have the following wire size: up to 30 feet, use 10 AWG size wire; 30 to 50 feet, use 8 AWG wire; Over 50 feet, use 6 AWG wire.**
2. As the distance from the supply outlet increases, you must use a heavier gauge extension cord. Using extension cords with inadequately sized wire causes a serious drop in voltage, resulting in loss of power and possible welder damage.
3. The smaller the gauge number of the wire, the greater the capacity of the cord. For example, a 14 gauge cord can carry a higher current than a 16 gauge cord.
4. When using more than one extension cord to make up the total length, make sure each cord contains at least the minimum wire size required.
5. If you are using one extension cord for more than one welder, add the nameplate amperes and use the sum to determine the required minimum cord size.
6. If you are using an extension cord outdoors, make sure it is marked with the suffix "W-A" ("W" in Canada) to indicate it is acceptable for outdoor use.
7. Make sure the extension cord is properly wired and in good electrical condition. Always replace a damaged extension cord or have it repaired by a qualified electrician before using it.
8. Protect the extension cords from sharp objects, excessive heat, and damp or wet areas.

WELDING TIPS

## Symbology

	Wire Feed (Speed)
	Workpiece Ground Cable
	Gun Cable
	Overheat Shutdown Indicator
	Cooling Fan
	Housing Ground Point

<b>V~</b>	Volts Alternating Current
<b>A</b>	Amperes
<b>OCV</b>	Open Circuit Voltage
<b>KVA</b>	Kilovolt Amperes (Volts / 1000 * Amperes)
<b>IPM</b>	Inches Per Minute
<b>AWG</b>	American Wire Gauge

MAINTENANCE

## Specifications

Electrical Rating	120V~ / 20A
Welding Output	60 ~ 120 A, AC
Capacity	18 gauge (0.048") to 3/16" (0.19") mild steel only Not for welding aluminum or stainless steel
Duty Cycle	20% @ 90A (See explanation on page 14)
Open Circuit Voltage	27
KVA	2.38
Welder Tips / Wire Size	Installed tip will accept .030" to .035" FLUX CORE wire
Wire Spool Capacity	4" diameter / 2 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.

### **WARNING**

**TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY FROM ACCIDENTAL OPERATION:**  
Turn the Power Switch off and unplug the welder before assembly.

## Cover Assembly

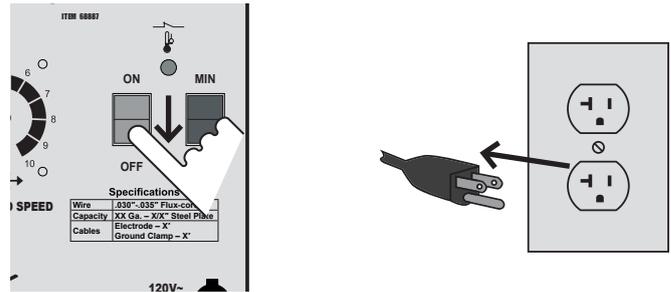
1. Slide the Handle into the slot on the Cover from the back.
2. The notch on the front of the Handle should drop into the slot in the Cover. Both ends of the Handle should lay flush against the top of the Cover.
3. Secure with Screw at front of unit.



# Wire Spool Installation

## SAFETY

1. Turn the Welder to OFF and unplug it before proceeding.



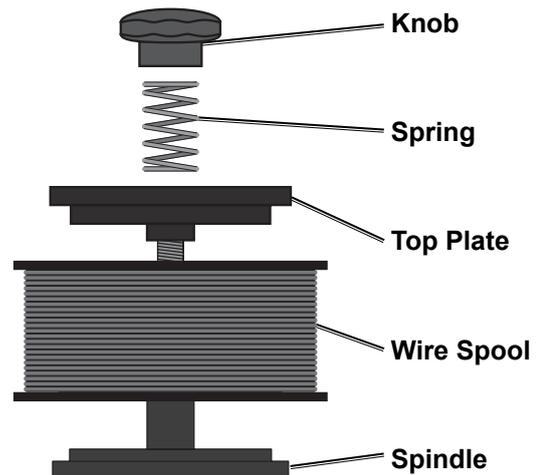
## SETUP

2. Press in the pin at the top center of the control panel and open the cover.



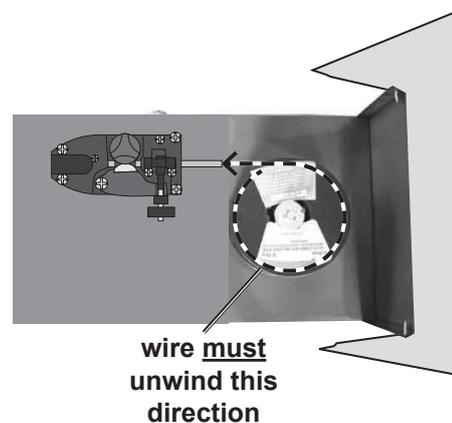
## BASIC WELDING

3. Remove the Knob, Spring and the Top Plate. If replacing a Spool, remove the old Spool and all remaining wire from the liners.
4. Place the new **flux core** Wire Spool over the Spool Spindle. **To prevent wire feed problems, set the Spool so that it will unwind counterclockwise ⤴.**



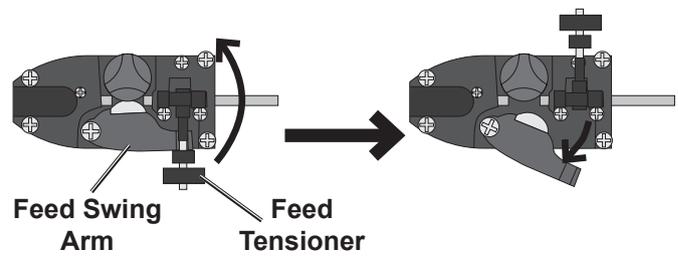
## WELDING TIPS

5. Replace the Top Plate (turned as shown in illustration), the Spring and the Knob.

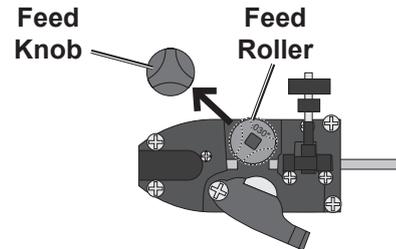


## MAINTENANCE

- Turn the Feed Tensioner counterclockwise  $\curvearrowright$  to loosen it enough to pull it up, releasing tension. Swing the Feed Swing Arm out. (Note: Do not loosen the Feed Tensioner too much, or it will come apart.)



- Loosen and remove the Feed Knob.** Compare the wire diameter marked on the Wire Spool with the stamped number on the top of the Feed Roller. The Roller's groove size must be compatible with the wire diameter -  
 .8mm rollers also work with .030" wire &  
 .9mm rollers also work with .035" wire.  
 Flip the Feed Roller as needed and confirm that the number facing up is the same as the wire diameter on the Spool.  
**Replace and secure the Feed Knob.**

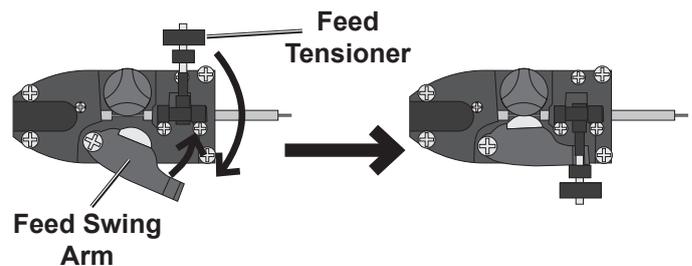
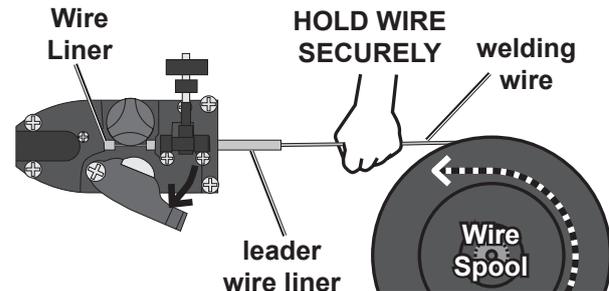


### IMPORTANT:

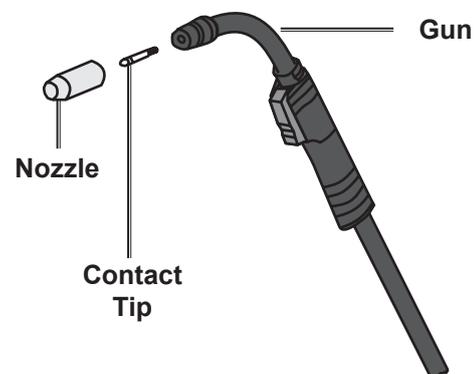
Securely hold onto the end of the welding wire and keep tension on it during the following steps.

If this is not done, the welding wire will unravel and create a tangled "bird's nest", wasting wire.

- Cut off all bent and crimped wire. Make sure that the cut end has 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 Liners.
- Swing the Feed Swing Arm closed, and swing the Feed Tensioner across the tip of the Arm, to latch it. Make sure the Welding Wire is resting in the top groove of the Feed Roller, then turn the Feed Tensioner clockwise  $\curvearrowleft$  a couple of turns. After the wire is held by the Feed Tensioner, you may release it.



- Pull the Nozzle to remove it.
- Using the third oval hole on the Multi-wrench, turn the Contact Tip counterclockwise  $\curvearrowright$  and remove.
- Lay the Gun Cable out in a straight line so that the wire moves through it easily. Leave the cover open, so that the feed mechanism can be observed.





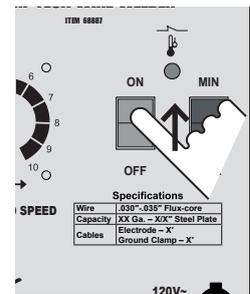
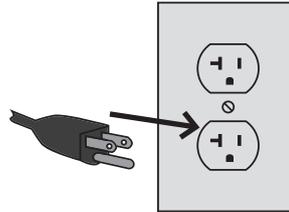
## ! WARNING

The following steps require applying power to the welder with the cover open.

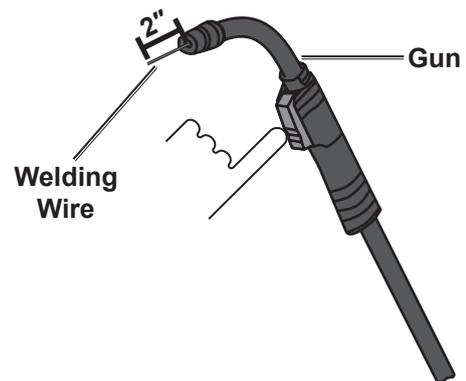
To prevent serious injury from fire or electric shock:

1. Do not touch anything, especially not the Ground Clamp, with the Gun or welding wire or an arc will be ignited.
2. Do not touch internal welder components while it is plugged in.

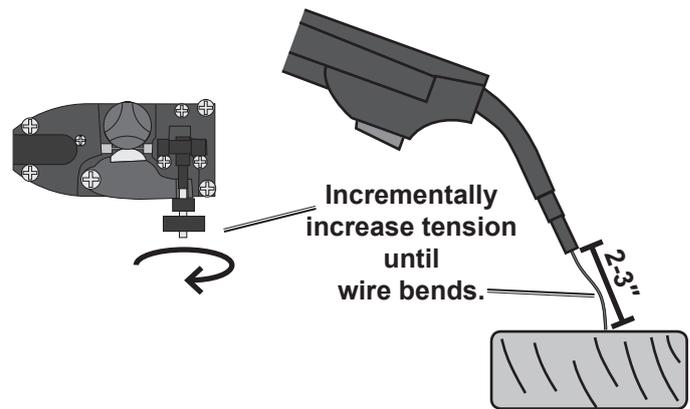
14. Do not touch the Gun's Trigger. Plug the Power Cord into its electrical outlet and turn the welder to ON.



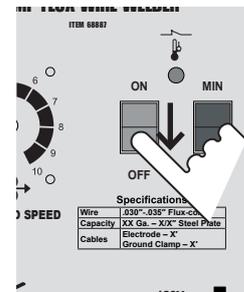
15. Point the Gun away from all objects and press the Trigger until the wire feeds out of the gun two inches. **The Wire Liner may come out with the welding wire, this is normal, just push the Wire Liner back into the Gun.** If the wire does not feed properly and the Spool is stationary, turn the welder to OFF, unplug it, and slightly tighten the Feed Tensioner clockwise  $\curvearrowright$  before retrying.



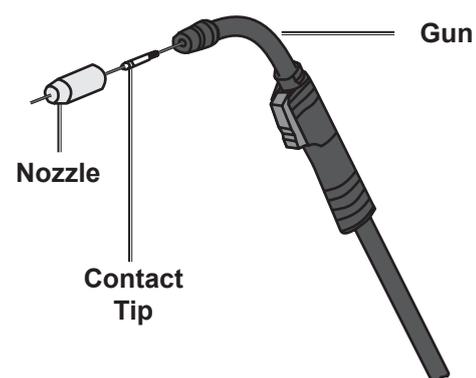
- To check the wire's drive tension, feed the wire against a piece of wood from 2 to 3 inches away. If the wire stops instead of bending, turn the welder to OFF, unplug it, slightly tighten the Feed Tensioner clockwise  $\curvearrowright$ , and try again. If the wire bends from the feed tension, then the tension is set properly.



- TURN THE WELDER TO OFF.**



- Select a Contact Tip that is compatible with the welding wire used. The included Tip (.035") will work with both .030" and .035" wire. Slide the Contact Tip over the wire and thread it clockwise  $\curvearrowright$  into the Gun. Tighten the Contact Tip using a wrench.
- Replace the Nozzle and cut the wire off at  $1/2$ " from tip ( $1/2$ " stickout).
- Swing the Cover closed until the Cover Latch locks in place.



## Basic Welding

SAFETY



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

### ⚠️ WARNING

**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.



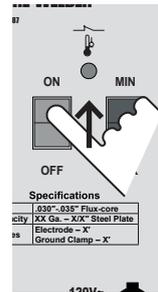
SETUP

BASIC WELDING

### ⚠️ WARNING



**TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY, FIRE AND BURNS:**  
Keep welding tip clear of grounded objects whenever unit is plugged in.



WELDING TIPS

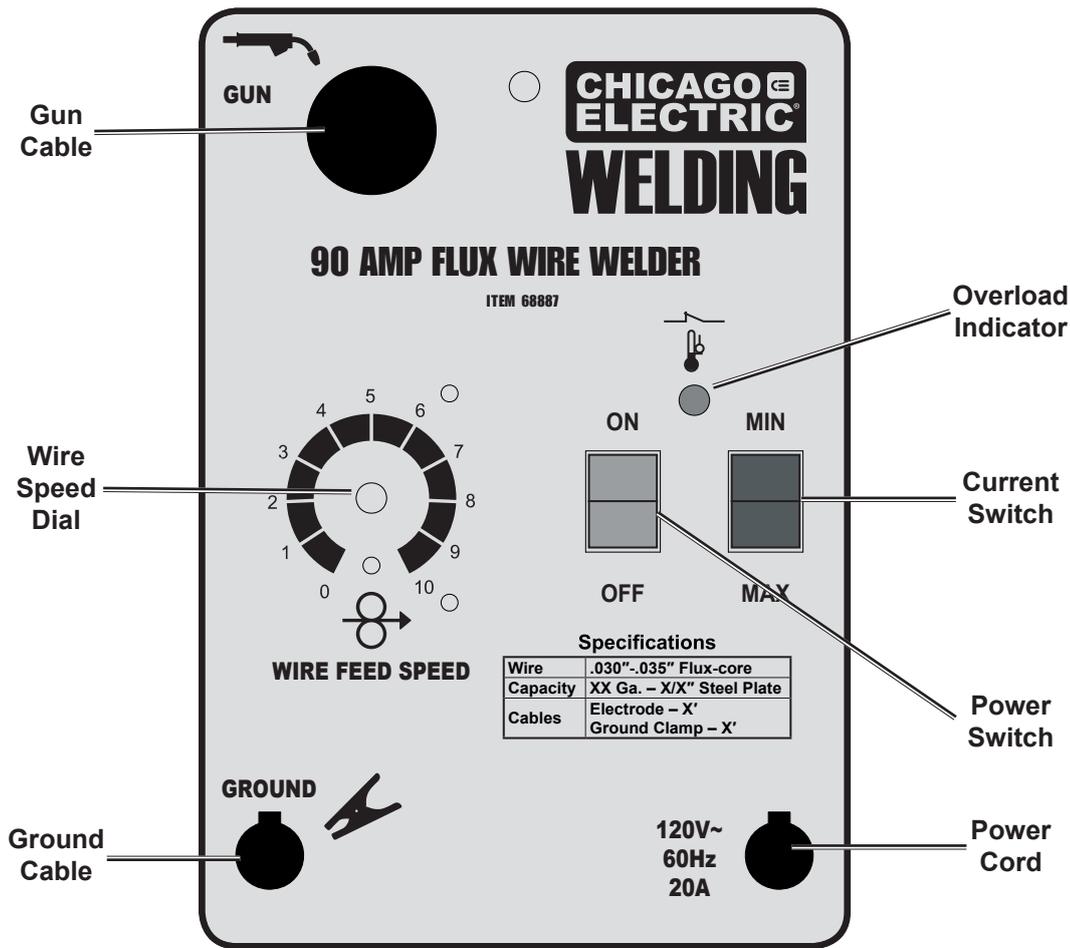
The Flux Wire Welder is used to weld sheet metal and low carbon steel. Good welding takes a degree of skill and experience. Practice a few sample welds on scrap before welding your first project. Additional practice periods are recommended whenever you weld a different thickness of material or weld a different type of connection.  
**Make practice welds on pieces of scrap to practice technique before welding anything of value.**

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

MAINTENANCE

**CHICAGO ELECTRIC WELDING**

# Control Panel Layout



## **Gun Cable:**

The welding Gun connects here. The wire and welding current feeds to the weld through here. The welding Gun is energized whenever the Power Switch is on.

## **Wire Speed Dial:**

This controls the speed that the welding wire feeds out of the welding Gun.

Adjust this according to the weld settings chart to achieve a good weld. (See next page.)

## **Ground Cable:**

This connects to the base metal to provide a good connection for the current to travel back to the welder.

## **Overload Indicator:**

This lights up if duty cycle work period is exceeded and the welder is overheated. Rest the Gun on an electrically non-conductive, heat-resistant surface, such as a concrete slab, well clear of the ground clamp while allowing the welder to cool with the Power Switch on, so the Fan can help cool the welder. Once the welder cools enough to be used again, use shorter welding periods and longer rest periods to prevent needless wear.

## **Current Switch:**

This controls the output amperage of the welder. Adjust this according to the weld settings chart to achieve a good weld.

## **Power Switch:**

This turns on power to the Welding Gun and internal cooling fan.

## **Power Cord:**

Plug the Power Cord into a properly grounded 120 V~ outlet, on at least a 20 amp dedicated circuit with delayed action type circuit breaker or fuses.

# Weld Settings Chart

SAFETY

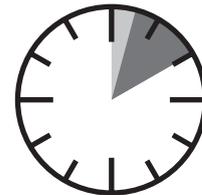
NOTE: The numbers within the spaces are the approximate wire feed settings recommended* for this wire size and material thickness.	Material Thickness (Steel)				
	18 Gauge	16 Gauge	14 Gauge	1/8"	3/16"
	MIN current			MAX current	
.030" Wire Size (Flux Core, Mild Steel)	1.5 speed	2 speed	4 speed	8 speed	9 speed
.035" Wire Size (Flux Core, Mild Steel)	1.5 speed	2 speed	3 speed	8 speed	9.5 speed
* This chart is only intended to show general guidelines for different wire sizes and for different thicknesses of material. The settings should only be used at the beginning of a weld and must be adjusted after stopping and carefully inspecting the weld. Proper welding takes experience.					

SETUP

## Duty Cycle (Duration of Use)

BASIC WELDING

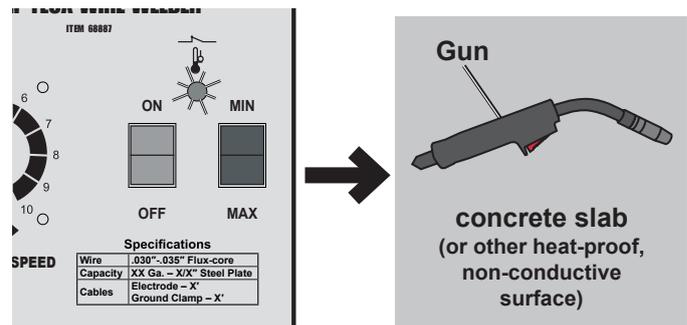
**Avoid damage to the Welder by not welding for more than the prescribed duty cycle time.**  
 The Duty Cycle defines the number of minutes, within a 10 minute period, during which a given welder can produce a particular welding current without overheating. For example, this Welder with a 20% duty cycle at rated output (90A) must be allowed to rest for at least 8 minutes after every 2 minutes of continuous weld. Failure to carefully observe duty cycle limitations can easily over-stress a welder's power generation system contributing to premature welder failure.



**20% Rated Duty Cycle at 90A output**  
**2 minutes welding followed by at least 8 minutes of rest**

WELDING TIPS

This welder has an internal thermal protection system to help prevent this sort of over-stress. When the unit overheats, it automatically shuts down and the Overload Indicator lights. The welder automatically returns to service after cooling off. Rest the Gun on an electrically non-conductive, heat-proof surface, such as a concrete slab, well clear of the ground clamp when the welder is not in use. When the welder can be used again, use shorter welding periods and longer rest periods to prevent needless wear.



MAINTENANCE

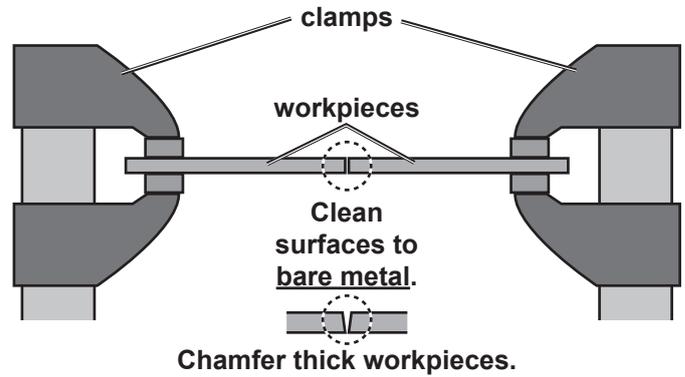


# Setting Up The Weld

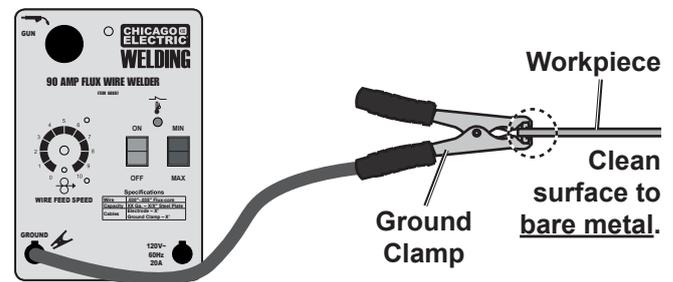
1. **Make practice welds on pieces of scrap the same thickness as your intended workpiece to practice technique before welding anything of value.**

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.

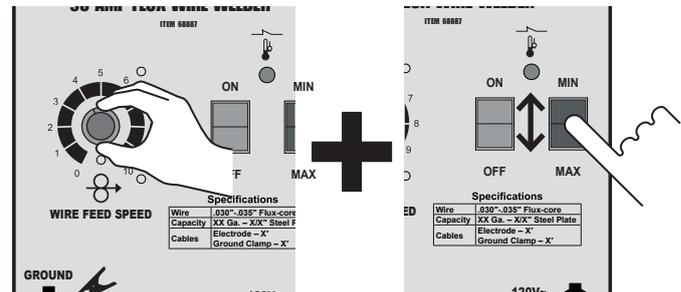
2. Use clamps (not included) to hold the workpieces in position so that you can concentrate on proper welding technique. The distance (if any) between the two workpieces must be controlled properly to allow the weld to hold both sides securely while allowing the weld to penetrate fully into the joint. The edges of thicker workpieces may need to be chamfered (or beveled) to allow proper weld penetration.



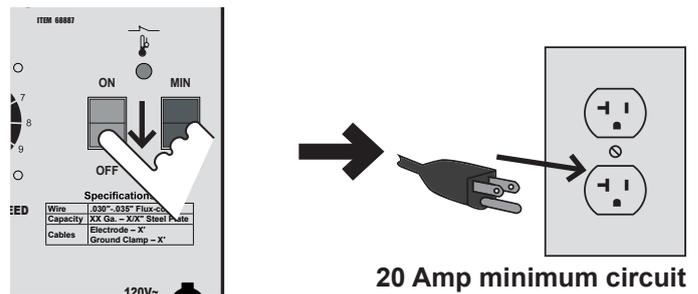
3. Clamp Ground Cable to bare metal on the workpiece near the weld area, or to metal work bench where the workpiece is clamped.



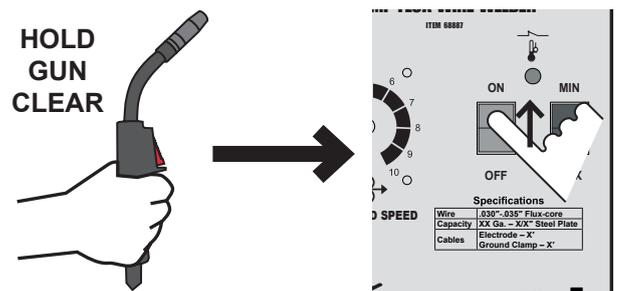
4. Set the Wire Speed Dial and the Current Switch to the desired settings. Refer to the chart on the welder or the chart on the facing page. **WARNING! DO NOT SWITCH THE CURRENT WHILE WELDING.**



5. Flip the Power Switch to the OFF position, then plug the Welder into a dedicated, 120 V~, 20 A circuit with delayed action type circuit breaker or fuses.



6. Hold the Gun, without touching the Trigger, with the wire and tip clearly away from any grounded objects. Then, turn the Power Switch to ON.



SAFETY

SETUP

BASIC WELDING

WELDING TIPS

MAINTENANCE

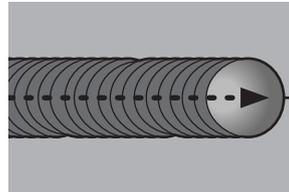
# Basic Welding Technique

SAFETY

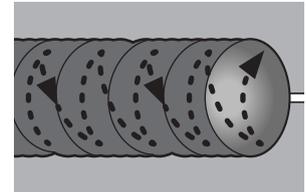
1. Press (and hold) Trigger and contact area to be welded with electrode wire to ignite arc.
2. For a narrow weld, you can usually draw the wire in a steady straight line, this is called a **stringer bead**.

For a wider weld, draw the wire back and forth across the joint, this is called a **weave bead**.

stringer bead



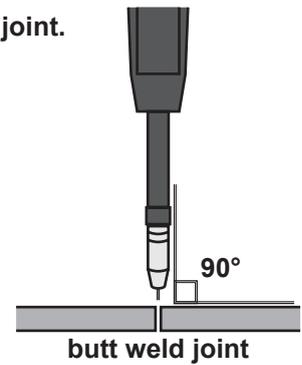
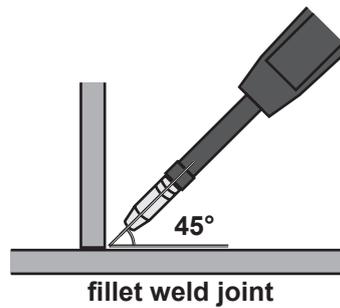
weave bead



SETUP

3. Hold Gun in one hand and the face shield in the other. If a hands-free welding shield (not included, see Arc Ray Safety on page 3 for guidelines) is used, then both hands can be used to control Gun.
4. 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.

Weld Gun angles, viewed from front of weld joint.

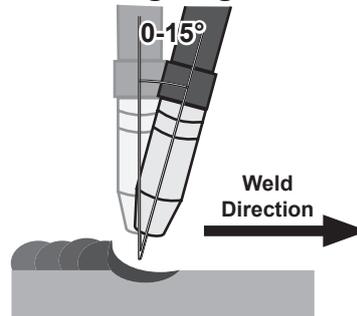


BASIC WELDING

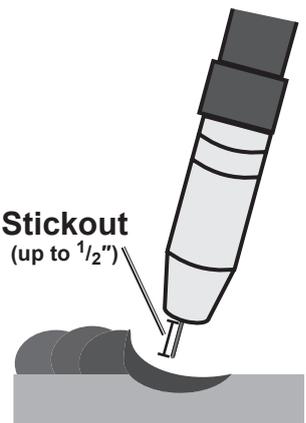
WELDING TIPS

5. The end of 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 welding wire should extend no more than 1/2" past the tip. This distance is called **stickout** or **CTWD** - Contact Tip to Work Distance.

Drag Angle

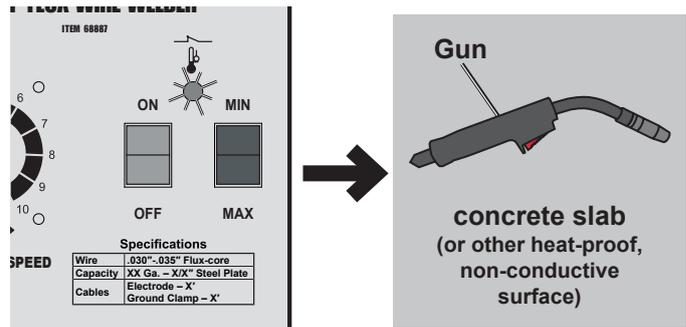


Stickout (up to 1/2")



MAINTENANCE

**Note:** If Welder is used too long, the amber Overload Indicator will light and the Welder Gun will shut off until the welder cools. If this happens, rest the Gun on an electrically non-conductive, heat-resistant surface, such as a concrete slab, well clear of the ground clamp. Wait about 8-10 minutes with the Power Switch to ON for the welder to cool. When the welder can be used again, use shorter welding periods and longer rest periods to help prevent needless wear.



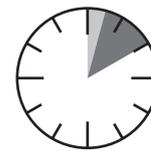
SAFETY

- 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 14.*

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

SETUP

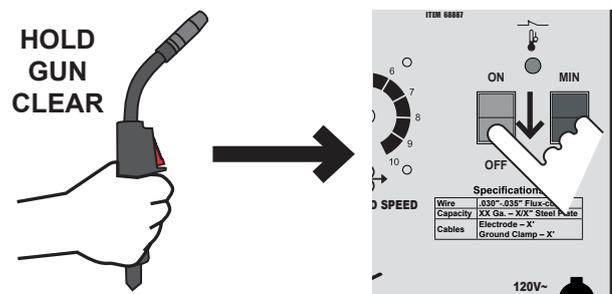
**FOLLOW DUTY CYCLE!**



up to 2 minutes welding at rated output

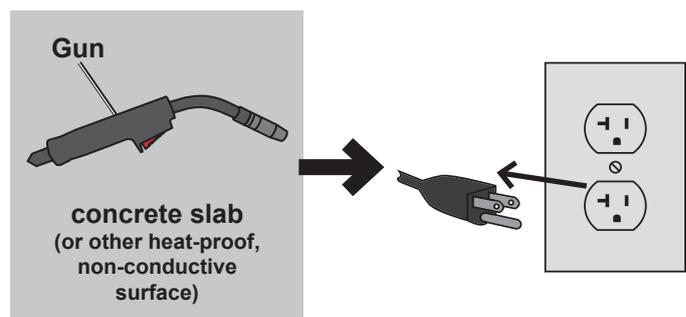
BASIC WELDING

- When the weld is complete, lift the Gun and welding wire clearly away from any grounded object, and turn the Power Switch off.



WELDING TIPS

- Set the Gun down on a heat-proof, electrically non-conductive surface. Unplug the Power Cord.

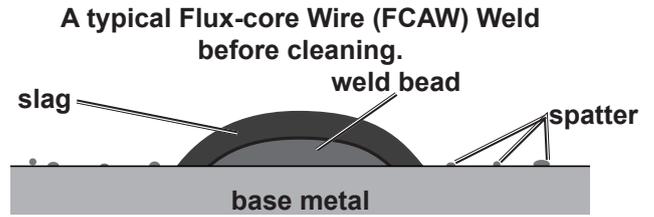


MAINTENANCE

## Welding Tips

SAFETY

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

### ⚠️ WARNING



**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.

1. A weld from flux core 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. Then, use a Wire Brush to further clean the weld or use an angle grinder (sold separately) to shape the weld.

SETUP

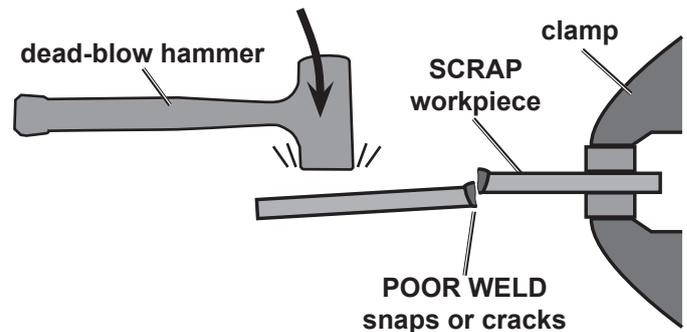
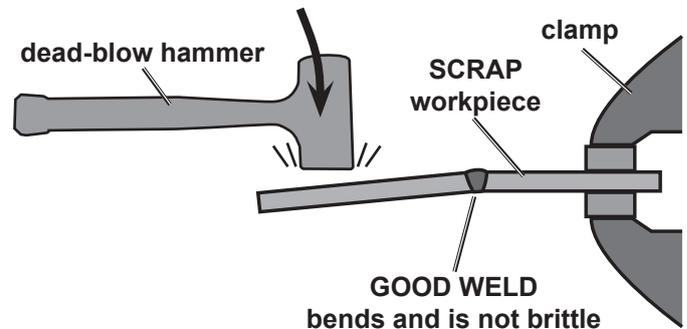
BASIC WELDING

## 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.**

**WARNING!** 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.

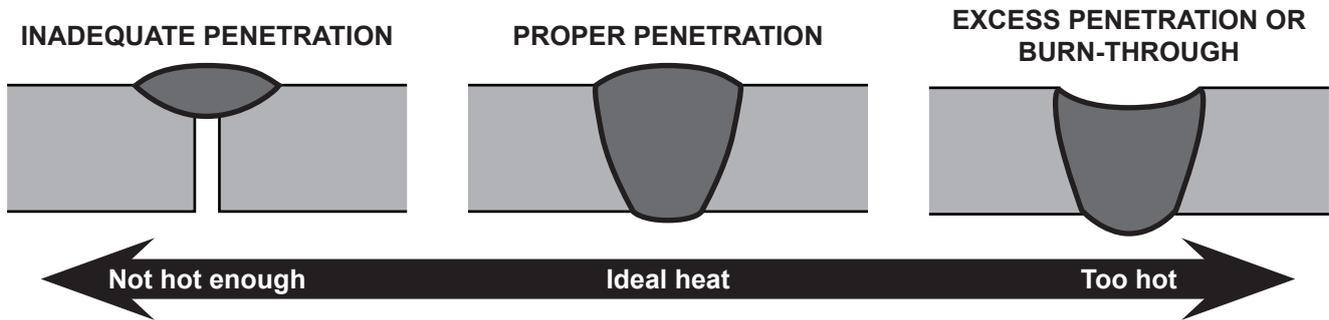
1. After two scraps have been welded together and the weld has cooled, clamp one scrap in a sturdy vise.
2. Stay clear from underneath while you strike the opposite scrap with a heavy hammer, preferably a dead-blow hammer.
3. A **GOOD WELD** will deform but not break, as shown on top.  
A **POOR WELD**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



WELDING TIPS

MAINTENANCE

**Workpiece Heat Control / Weld Penetration**



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

- a. Use MAX setting
- b. Weld more slowly
- c. Use faster wire feed
- d. Use shorter stickout

**How to reduce workpiece heat and limit penetration:**  
(to weld THINNER workpieces properly)

- a. Use MIN setting
- b. Weld more quickly
- c. Use slower wire feed
- d. Use longer stickout

**Example Weld Diagrams**

<b>Good Weld</b>	<b>Current Too Low</b>	<b>Current Too High or Wire Feed Too Fast</b>	<b>Weld Speed Too Fast</b>	<b>Weld Speed Too Slow</b>	<b>Stickout Too Long</b>
	<b>TO CORRECT:</b>	<b>TO CORRECT:</b>	<b>TO CORRECT:</b>	<b>TO CORRECT:</b>	<b>TO CORRECT:</b>

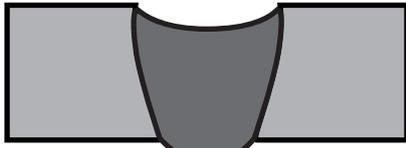
Penetration (Workpiece Heat Control)

SAFETY

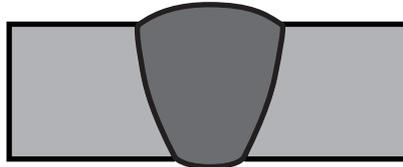
SETUP

BASIC WELDING

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

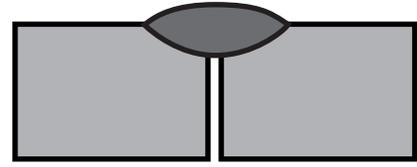


**PROPER PENETRATION**  
Weld is visible underneath and bulges slightly on top.



PROFILE VIEWS

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



POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

- Workpiece overheating:**  
Reduce wire feed speed.  
Use MIN setting.
- Welding speed too slow:**  
Increase welding speed and ensure that welding speed is kept steady.
- Excessive material at weld:**  
Reduce wire feed speed.

POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

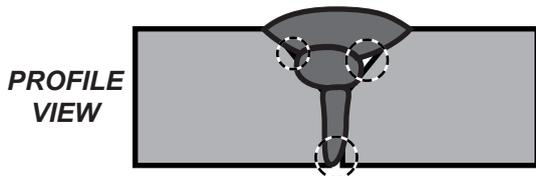
- Incorrect welding technique:**  
Maintain 1/2" or less stickout.  
Keep arc on leading edge of weld puddle.  
Hold gun at proper angles.
- Insufficient weld heat:**  
Reduce welding speed.  
Use MAX setting.
- Workpieces too thick/close:**  
Bevel thick workpieces, allow slight gap, and weld in several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

WELDING TIPS

MAINTENANCE

Weld Not Adhering Properly

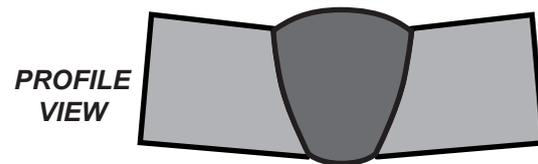
Gaps present between weld and previous bead or between weld and workpiece. See areas below.



POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

- 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 gun at proper angles.
- Insufficient weld heat:**  
Increase current and/or wire feed speed.
- Dirty workpiece:**  
Clean workpiece down to bare metal.
- Insufficient weld material:**  
Increase 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 weld speed.  
Reduce wire feed speed.

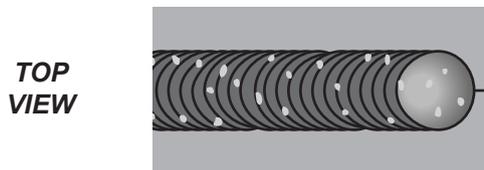
## Coat of Slag Over Weld



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

## Porosity

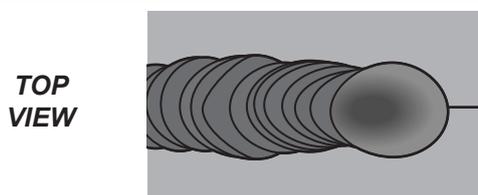
Small cavities or holes in the bead.



### POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

1. **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. **Inconsistent welding speed:**  
Maintain steady weld speed.
3. **Stickout too long:**  
Reduce stickout.

## Crooked/Wavy Bead

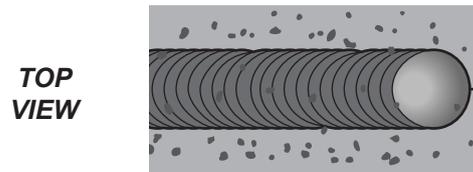


### POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

1. **Inaccurate welding:**  
Use two hands or rest hand on steady surface.
2. **Inconsistent welding speed:**  
Maintain steady weld speed.
3. **Stickout too long:**  
Reduce stickout.

## Excessive Spatter

Fine spatter is normal. Spatter that is grainy and large is a problem.

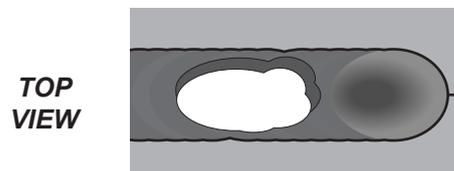


### POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

1. **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. **Wire feeding too fast:**  
Reduce wire feed speed.
3. **Stickout too long:**  
Reduce stickout.

## Burn-Through

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



### POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

1. **Workpiece overheating:**  
Reduce current and/or wire feed speed.
2. **Welding speed too slow:**  
Increase welding speed and ensure that welding speed is kept steady.
3. **Excessive material at weld:**  
Reduce wire feed speed.

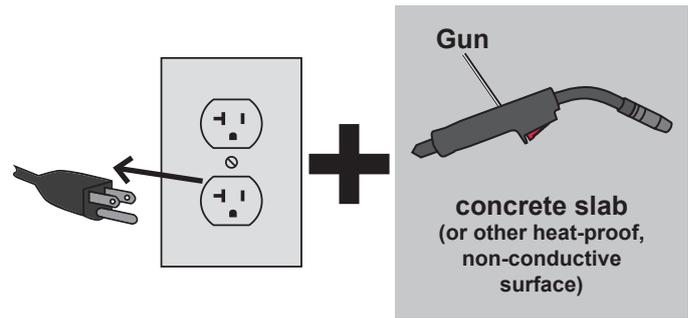
## Maintenance

### SAFETY

#### **⚠️ WARNING**



**TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY, FIRE AND BURNS:**  
Unplug the Welder, rest the Gun on a heat-proof, electrically non-conductive surface, and allow all parts of the Welder to cool thoroughly before service.



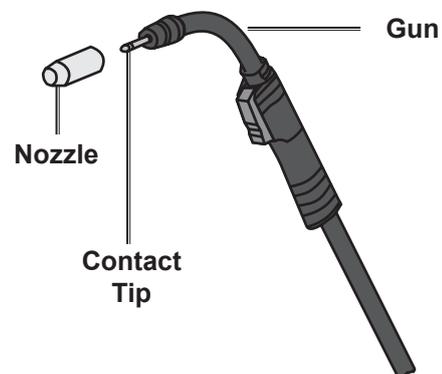
### SETUP

1. Periodically remove the Right and Left side panels, and using compressed air, blow out all dust from the interior.
2. Store in a clean and dry location.
3. **For optimal weld quality, clean and inspect the Contact Tip and Nozzle before each use. See below.**

### BASIC WELDING

## Nozzle Inspection, Cleaning, and Replacement

1. **Make sure that the entire Gun is completely cool and that the Power Cord is unplugged from the electrical outlet before proceeding.**
2. Turn the Nozzle counterclockwise ↺ while pulling to remove.
3. Scrub the interior of the Nozzle clean with a wire brush.
4. 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 affect the weld and should be replaced.
5. Reinstall the Nozzle after inspecting and cleaning the Contact Tip.



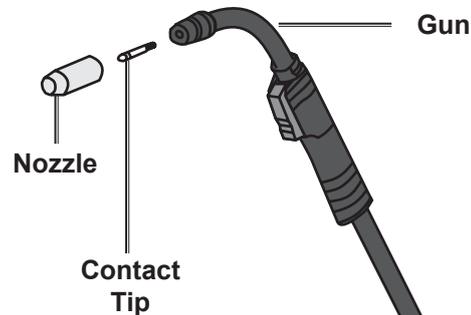
### WELDING TIPS

### MAINTENANCE

**CHICAGO ELECTRIC WELDING**

## Contact Tip Inspection, Cleaning, and Replacement

1. **Make sure that the entire Gun is completely cool and that the Power Cord is unplugged from the electrical outlet before proceeding.**
2. Remove the Nozzle as explained in the previous subheading. Using the third oval hole on the Multi-wrench, turn the Contact Tip counterclockwise ⤵ and slide it off the welding wire.
3. Scrub the exterior 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 (.035" tip for .030–.035" wire).
4. 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.
5. If any problems are noted, Contact Tip replacement would be advisable. Make sure to select a new Tip that is the correct size for the welding wire used (.035" tip for .030–.035" wire).
6. 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 Gun to ground before adjusting, cleaning, or repairing the unit.

## Wire Feed Motor Runs But Wire Does Not Feed Properly

### POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

1. **Insufficient wire feed tension:**  
Increase wire feed tension properly - follow number 16 on page 11.
2. **Incorrect wire feed roll size:**  
Replace with the proper wire feed roll - follow the *Wire Spool Installation* instructions, starting on page 8. Flip over wire feed roll if necessary.
3. **Damaged Gun, cable, or liner assembly:**  
Have a qualified technician inspect these parts and replace as necessary.

## Wire Creates A Bird's Nest During Operation

### POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

1. **Excess wire feed tension:**  
Adjust wire feed tension properly - follow number 16 on page 11.
2. **Incorrect contact tip size:**  
Replace with the proper tip for the wire.
3. **Gun end not inserted into drive housing properly:**  
Loosen gun securing bolt and push gun end into housing just enough so that it does not touch wire feed mechanism.
4. **Damaged liner:**  
Have a qualified technician inspect and repair/replace as necessary.

## Wire Feeds, But Arc Does Not Ignite

### POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

1. **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 or excessively worn Contact Tip:**  
Verify that Contact Tip is the proper size for the wire. Check that the hole in the tip is not deformed or enlarged. Also, check that the tip is not dirty; this would prevent a good connection. If needed, replace Contact Tip with proper size and type.

## TROUBLESHOOTING (continued)

### IMPORTANT!

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

## Power Switch Lights, But Welder Does Not Function When Switched On

### POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

1. **Tripped thermal protection device:**  
Shut the welder's switch to off and allow it to cool for at least 20 minutes.  
Reduce duration or frequency of welding periods to help reduce wear on the welder.  
Refer to *Duty Cycle* section on page 14.
2. **Faulty or improperly connected Trigger:**  
Qualified technician must check and secure/replace Trigger.

## Power Switch Does Not Light When Switched On

### POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

**Unit is not connected to outlet properly or outlet is unpowered:**

Verify the voltage at the outlet and the connection to the outlet.

If voltage is not present at outlet, check circuit breaker/GFCI devices; if any are tripped, determine and remedy cause before resetting. Verify that the circuit is designed to supply the required input amperage as detailed on the *Specifications* table.

## Weak Arc Strength

### POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

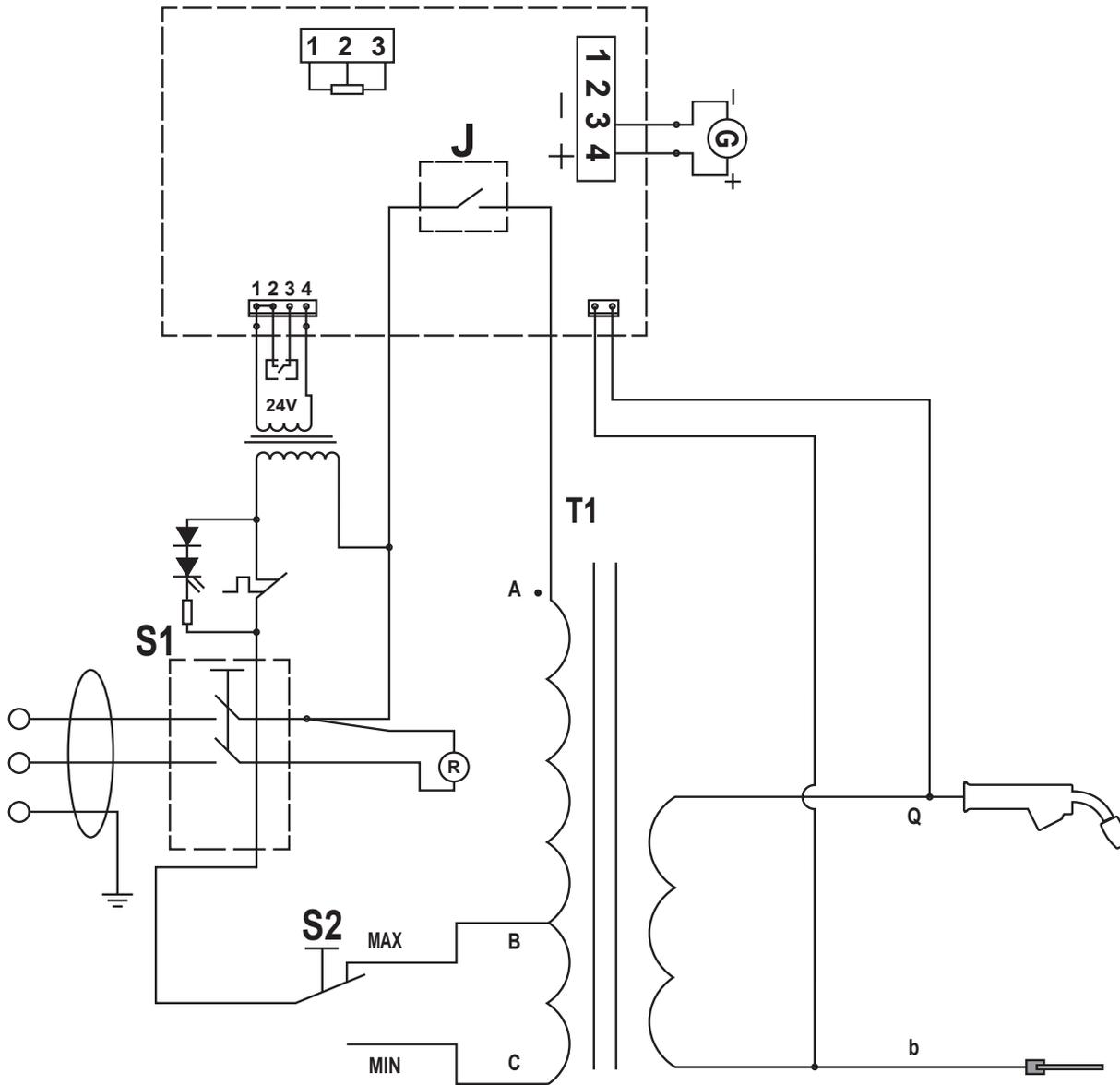
1. **Incorrect line voltage:**  
Check the line voltage and, if insufficient, have a licensed electrician remedy the situation.
2. **Improper gauge or length of extension cord:**  
Extension cords are not recommended. If possible, eliminate the use of an extension cord. If an extension cord is needed, refer to the guidelines on page 6.

## Welding Arc Not Stable

### POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

1. **Wire not feeding properly:**  
See first *Troubleshooting* section - **Wire feed motor runs but wire does not feed properly.**
2. **Incorrect contact tip size:**  
Replace with the proper tip for .030" wire.
3. **Incorrect wire feed speed:**  
Adjust wire feed speed to achieve a more stable arc.
4. **Loose Gun cable or ground cable:**  
Check to ensure that all connections are tight.
5. **Damaged Gun or loose connection within Gun:**  
Have a qualified technician inspect and repair/replace as necessary.
6. **Adjust current setting:**  
Make sure setting matches recommended setting on chart.

Wiring Schematic



Parts List

1	Grounding Cable	1	15	Heat Relay	1
2	MIG Torch	1	16	Fan	1
3	Potentiometer Knob	1	17	Fan Motor	1
4	Indicator	1	18	Bottom	1
5	MIG Torch Holder	1	19	Right Panel	1
6	Font Panel	1	20	Spool Holder	1
7	Left Panel	1	21	Fan Bracket	4
8	Middle Panel	1	22	Control Transformer	1
9	Wire Feeder	1	23	PCB	1
10	Pin Latch	1	24	PCB Holder	1
11	Latch Bracket	1	25	Cable Holder	2
12	Top Cover	1	26	Setting Switch	1
13	Handle	1	27	Power Cord	1
14	Transformer	1	28	Switch	1

SAFETY

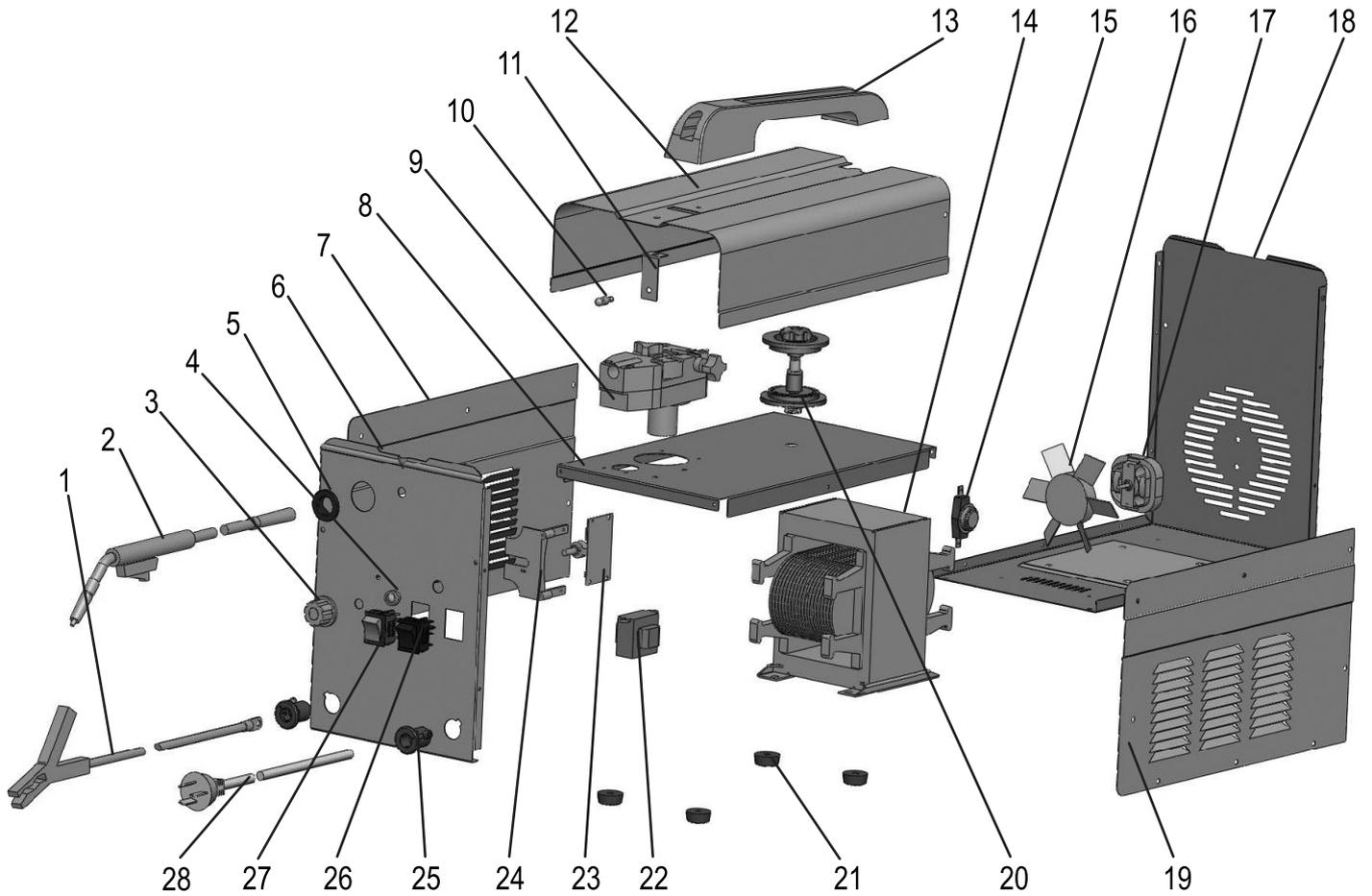
SETUP

BASIC WELDING

WELDING TIPS

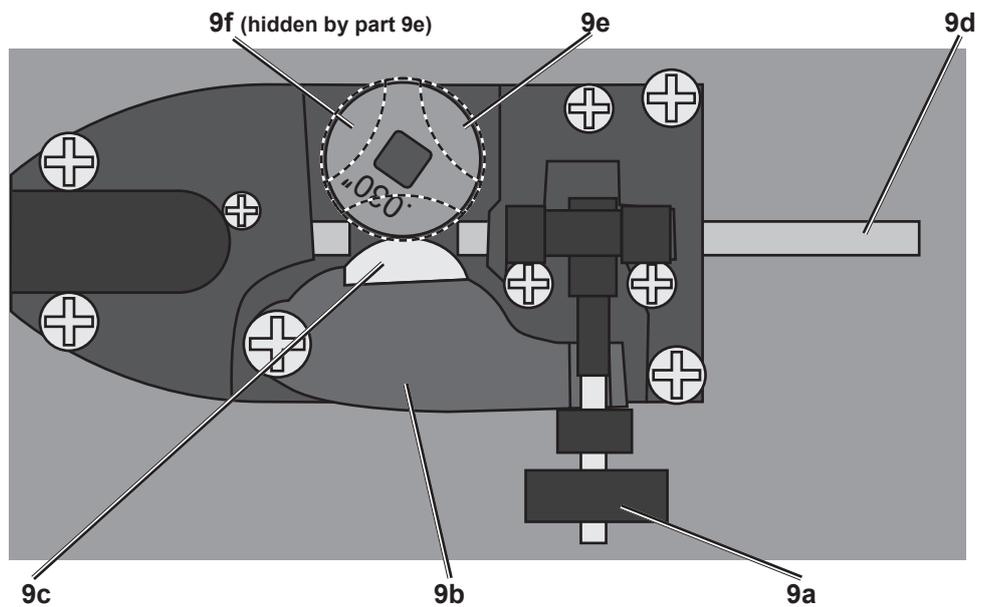
MAINTENANCE

# Assembly Diagram



SAFETY  
SETUP  
BASIC WELDING

## Part 9 Detail



WELDING TIPS

Record Product's 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.

REV 12a

MAINTENANCE

## Limited 90 Day Warranty

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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