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Are you getting the most from your FILTERS??

That seems like a simple question but in reality it encompasses a number of different and important aspects of the machine. Filters are a relatively complex part of the operation and longevity of the machine.



Filter construction starts with the media or filter paper. There are only two ways to increase filter life. Increase the micron rating of the media or add more media. The first creates a short term advantage as the filter life increases and filter cost decrease. However, that is all lost when the machine requires a large scale maintenance to clean out the "dirt" that should not be in the internal components of the machine. This is a very short sighted approach. The second is preferred as the cost of adding media to an existing design is always less than building a new filter. You could

conceivably increase your filter life by 50 -75% but only increase your purchase cost by 20%. These are going to be the OMF style filters. Do not be misled by the terms premium or long life, the key is how much media is in the filter not the name. Filter life is based on how much material the filter holds until the pleats become contaminated and restrict the dielectric flow. On wire edm machines this is accomplished by the pressure gauge. Every filter made has the same basic critical top pressure. Failing to use this gauge as the determining factor for filter changes places the machine in a potential



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disaster situation. Using hours of cutting or number of days is a dangerous method for determine when to change filters. We have seen many filters "blow" or pump require service because the pressure was allowed to get too high. Unfortunately, the problem is blamed on a bad filter or worn pump when the real reason was poor machine operation. Micron ratings as provided by the machine tool builders are important to trouble free operation on the machine. The newer machine have many valves, solenoids, switches and sensing probes throughout the machine. Using a larger micron rated filter affects these items and could lead to an expensive repair situation. Not to mention that the larger particles have a direct effect on the cutting conditions in the "gap".

Questions regarding plastic or steel body construction are more of a personal preference than a functional conversation.

Lastly, it is important to maintain prospective on brand names. As you are well aware, car manufactures have almost all their components made by sub-contractors with the parts delivered and assembled into a car. I remember waiting for a "genuine" factory part to be delivered for my German auto only to see it come in from a local auto parts store. Car makers do not make wiper blades or spark plugs and the same is true for machine tool builders. Their sub-contractors make the parts for a number of other builders and suppliers. The key is buy from an OES/ OEM supplier. Not an aftermarket copies. If everyone is around \$ 100 for a part the other guy is at \$ 35 they are not selling the same part.

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