Independent Review of the Elcometer 24200 Abrasive Blast Machine

Designed from the ground-up, and manufactured here at our state-of-the-art production facility, Elcometer's range of Abrasive Blast Machines are engineered to be efficient, more reliable, and easier to maintain. Now, as part of pre-launch testing we went to Nottingham, to put an Elcometer 24200 Abrasive Blast Machine to the test, in the hands of an independent blaster with more than three decades of experience.

PATRICK: My name's Patrick O'Brien, I'm a self-employed shot-blaster. I've been industrial shot-blasting for over thirty years, doing all big industrial work, shipyards, bridges, underground storage tanks; high level steel work, all heavy industrial steel work, and all high pressure shot-blasting.

DAN: Patrick has used many different blast machines over the years, and we were interested to know what's most important to him when choosing a blast machine for a job, and what his first impressions were of the Elcometer 24200.

PATRICK: The size of the pipework for us because we work at high pressure, it's all delivery of air. So it's the size of the pipework, the size of the machine itself (the capacity), and the speed of the fill, and the ease of access to everything.

On first impressions, it's as good as the best one we've used. It certainly fires up and stops as good as any other machine. I think it's very traditional in some ways, but there's a few tweaks on it that are very, very helpful; like the door – the inspection hatch is very good. From the old models it was a real nightmare to get in and out, and where it was positioned at the back wasn't helpful. [The Elcometer inspection hatch] is really easy, the removable bolt is very good, the clamp where it sits itself, it's a one-man job, one-hand job, it's great.

Just literally, we've had it where something fell in the pot, and we've just took it out in less than two minutes. That sometimes would be a half-an-hour job to try and reset the door and stop it leaking, and this and that. I know it's a small thing but it's a big improvement.

DAN: Using an Iron Silicate Abrasive on several different surfaces, Patrick blasted with around 70 meters of blast hose, at various pressures, using three different nozzle sizes; as part of a wider investigation into blasting efficiency. One key part of an efficient blasting setup, is the media valve setting, so it was also a chance to see how an Elcometer GV Abrasive Media Valve performed under pressure.

PATRICK: Because I buy the grit and I use the grit I'm critical about… I'm conscious about how the grit is set. I'll adjust the grit every half-an-hour if I have to. I'll come across an easy bit and I'll turn the grit down, and I'll have it turned up – for me the grit is the critical thing. It seems very controllable - the other ones wear, and they go loose and the adjustment is always different, but that does look a lot better. It feels better and looks better.

I've used your orange [elcoTOUGH] liners for a while now – they're great – and this valve seems great.

The Mixer T looks very strong and robust. At high pressure, 11-12bar, with a coarse abrasive, the old traditional T's you will wear them out very quickly, and [the Elcometer Mixer T] looks a far, far more robust thing, and I know it's made out of a hardened material, so yeah I'm looking forward to seeing how that wears.

I mean the T's the biggest thing for me because we do wear them out really quickly.

DAN: On top of the abrasive blast system, Patrick also swapped his usual workwear for Elcometer's Personal Protection Equipment, specifically the Nova 3 Blast Helmet, and the Elcometer Leather Blast Suit and Leather Blast Gloves.

PATRICK: I always tape the cuffs up on overalls and things like that, just things like that, being able to adjust the cuffs and especially around the bottom when you're blasting floors, you do get covered in it.

And there's plenty of room in it, which makes a change. I think, if anything, all the other ones I've worn are just too tight, they're too restrictive on you.

I think, like I was saying earlier, that's where you get the ricochet off at high pressure and things like that, so yeah I would think it's going to be quite good.

DAN: So, overall, what did Patrick think of the Elcometer 24200?

PATRICK: The things that wear; the Mixer T; and the things that are hard for the user / the contractor to use; the door, and the pop-up valve; as long as they were made user-friendly, which it has been, then I think that's covered it.

The one we had was a high pressure machine with all the little quirks on it that I asked them to put on, and I think you've got most of those in this anyway. Yeah it is a traditional machine, but the little things they've done are very good.

DAN: For more information on the Elcometer Blast Machines, Valves, ancillary equipment, Personal Protection Equipment, and our complete range of spare and replacement parts - please follow the link to our YouTube Channel or visit our website.