

Blast Blogs Offer Best Ways to Remove Burrs, Treat Surfaces

Guyson Corp. (Saratoga Springs, NY) has created its Guyson Blast Blogs as an on-line resource to provide answers to questions about blast cabinets and automated blast machines and the properties, advantages, or limitations of various kinds of blast media. Guyson is the well-known designer and builder of shot peening, blast finishing, surface preparation, and metal cleaning machinery, as well as manufacturer of air-blast, wheel blast, and wet-blast equipment, including automated and robotic custom-engineered systems. Typical topics addressed in the Blast Blogs include “Cosmetic Finishing by Glass Bead Blasting,” “Abrasive Blasting Grit Size Matters,” and “Fast Deburring with Plastic Media Blasting.” Information is available about the materials or media that actually do the work in the blasting process and how and where blasting stands out as the most effective, fastest, most economical or greenest method to

solve problems with the surface of components. Removal of burrs can be one of the costliest secondary processes in a production machining operation. When plastic media blasting (PMB) can do the work, it is usually faster and lower in cost than alternative deburring methods. One of the big pluses for many plastic bead media for deburring applications is that they do not alter the surface texture, finish or appearance of the components. Even parts machined of softer materials, such as aluminum or plastic, can be processed without modifying adjacent surfaces. Guyson’s test lab is stocked with over 100 types and sizes of blast media, so we can apply our specialized expertise to identify promising media choices for a particular surface treatment requirement. This facility is not a showroom. It is a testing laboratory that supports the Guyson application engineering process.

Source: Guyson Corp. <http://www.guyson.com/guyson-blast-blogs/blast-media-and-applications/>

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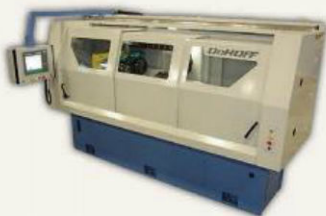
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spot you have to hit which basically involves finding the right combination of pressure, grit size, and speeds and feeds,” said Westhoff. “As you might guess these customer formulations are more often than not proprietary.”

The aerospace and energy industries offer some of the most challenging and difficult-to-machine materials, like superalloys, Inconels, and stainless steel with HVL and twin plasma arc spray coatings. “These are all materials that typically produce long stringy chips, are pretty low on the machinability chart, and are not easily cut. As a result we’re always looking at other types of abrasives, different types of diamond, CBN, and adjustments to our bond formulations, as well as adjusting the feed of the machines to give us more finesse, more ability to sense load, and perhaps more stages of feed pressure capabilities. Most of our machines for these types of applications have servo-driven feed systems, so sometimes you can program as many as five or six feed parameters, what I