

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sirs,

Having read the article 'The True Costs of Grinding', by Gerhard Paril, in the Fall 2004 edition of the CWA Journal, I felt that, while the technical portion of the article gave the 'layman' an insight into the construction of grinding wheels, it lead to the conclusion that wheel pricing was the greatest significant factor in cutting grinding costs.

Unfortunately, this is not the only factor to be taken into account. The biggest factor in the equation is the metal removal rate in unit time. Manufacturers can produce grinding wheels having very extended 'lives' but, in so doing, the amount of material being removed is negligible while, on the other hand, some grinding wheels remove metal very quickly but have very short 'lives'.

Which is the more acceptable, from a cost cutting standpoint? Experience teaches us that the answer is somewhere in between the two. In making the correct choice we must also take into account factors such as:

- Operator skill and ability.
- Type of grinding equipment and its condition, i.e. compressed air, 110-120 volt mains or high-frequency power. (spindle-speed maintenance being a critical factor).
- Volume of material to be removed (due, possibly, to over-welding).
- Accessibility (of the area to be ground) for the operator, etc., etc.

A more complex situation than that implied in the article methinks.

Respectfully,

Bryan Drew (Training consultant now retired)