

“**A** regular liner could take 15 to 20 minutes to change, but we can change a Bernard Jump Liner in under a minute.”

— MIKE GRIMES, PLANT FOREMAN, ITEC



The long neck on this 600-amp air-cooled Bernard Q™-Gun keeps a welding fabricator's hands cooler and improves access into tight joints.

EQUIPMENT SELECTION CREATES MAXIMUM THROUGHPUT

Bernard Products Help Achieve Production Goals

Bart Penrod, CEO of ITEC Manufacturing, USA in Brigham City, Utah, is world renowned for his manufacturing prowess, so it was little surprise when Canadian oil companies approached him in early 2006 with a special request: to mass-produce rigmats that would allow them to access oil deposits amid the bogs of the Canadian Muskeg.

In response, Penrod and plant manager Rodney Keller set up a new manufacturing facility in Ogden, Utah, with the goal of producing 96 rigmats per day. ITEC achieved this goal within three months by working with representatives from Bernard®, Hobart Brothers and Miller Electric Mfg. Co. to outfit the facility with a fully integrated MIG welding system and consumables that could optimize the flow of production.

The rigmats are constructed with three 40-foot W6x15 A36 steel I-beams running parallel to each other. The main I-beams are connected by six perpendicular cross

members. Fabricators box off each beam with 1/4-in. sheet steel that, when stitch welded in place, makes the rigmat look like a pontoon. Six-by-six wood planks are placed into the center of the frame and are custom coped to fit the beams.

To help meet their high production goal, ITEC's welding system features Bernard's 600 amp Q-Gun™ (with patented Jump Liners) and Centerfire™ consumables.

Keller chose this setup to avoid the usual downtime associated with changing tips, nozzles and liners. Bernard's Centerfire design requires no tools to replace the tip or nozzle and features a “drop-in” contact tip with no threads for quick and easy changeover.

“It was really fun to watch people when they first had to change a Centerfire contact tip,” says Keller. “Our welders would pull it off and say ‘it’s broken! It doesn’t have any threads, how am I going to fix it?’ I said ‘just pull it out and put the other one in.’”

Bernard Jump Liners are another source of savings for ITEC. Instead of requiring replacement of the entire liner, Jump Liners allow welders to replace just the area that has been worn—a feature that has added up to substantial savings in cost and time.

“A regular liner could take 15 to 20 minutes to change, but we can change a Bernard Jump Liner in under a minute,” says Mike Grimes, plant foreman, ITEC.

As any supervisor knows, productivity also depends on operator comfort. To enhance operator comfort in this high-amperage welding application, Keller appreciates the fact that Bernard offers an air-cooled gun with a long neck. “The longer neck keeps the heat away from the operators hand. They love it because it keeps them cooler,” he says.

ITEC approaches each manufacturing challenge with common sense: look at the entire process from front to back, examine each step and come up with new and innovative ways to streamline the process. This approach lets Keller and Grimes choose the exact equipment—like Bernard Q-Guns, Centerfire consumables and Jump Liners—they need to optimize production flow and minimize operating costs.



ITEC plant manager, Rodney Keller (left), and plant foreman, Mike Grimes, stand proudly on top of finished rigmats destined for the Canadian oilfield.

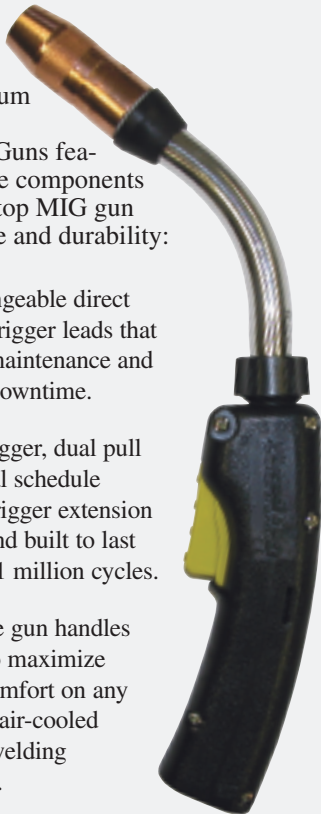
INDUSTRY LEADING PERFORMANCE

NEW LOOK, SAME HIGH QUALITY

Bernard® Q-Gun™ MIG guns now feature polished aluminum neck armor. This aluminum armor is 35% thicker than the previous brass armor, which increases durability without adding weight. The aluminum armored necks are compatible with 150- through 600-amp Bernard Q-Guns and the upgrade does not affect pricing or part numbers.

In addition to the new aluminum neck armor, Bernard Q-Guns feature multiple components that ensure top MIG gun performance and durability:

- Easily changeable direct plugs and trigger leads that help ease maintenance and minimize downtime.
- Locking trigger, dual pull trigger, dual schedule switch or trigger extension designed and built to last more than 1 million cycles.
- Five unique gun handles designed to maximize operator comfort on any hand-held, air-cooled industrial welding application.



CUSTOMIZE YOUR OWN BERNARD® Q-GUN™

We make it easy to customize the right MIG gun for your specific application. Use our online Q-Gun Configurator at www.Bernardwelds.com

to build your customized Q-Gun part number. Just choose your required amperage, cable length and direct plug, along with your preferred neck, trigger, handle and contact tip styles.

The part number shown here, **Q4015AE8EM**, is an example of a typical configuration. It consists of a 400-amp Bernard® Q-Gun with a 15' cable, curved handle, standard trigger, rotatable medium 45-degree neck, Centerfire 0.045" contact tip and a Miller-style direct plug.

After you've built your part number, submit it for quote, print it for presentation to your welding products distributor of choice or contact our Customer Service Team at 1-800-946-2281 (U.S. only) or (708) 946-2281 (International) and we'll help get you the **right gun, right away**. In fact, Bernard is the *only* company in the industry that allows you to customize a MIG gun for your specific application, and we even ship most products **within 24 hours!**



CENTERFIRE CARE TIPS

- Rotate the Centerfire™ contact tips to gain additional wear surfaces and extend the life of the tip.
- Periodically check your Centerfire™ nozzle for spatter or blocked gas ports and clean as needed. Remember to use tools designed for spatter removal.
- If you use anti-spatter solution or flux-cored wire, periodically check gas ports in the gas diffuser and nozzle for blockages.

ASK THE EXPERTS

If you have any MIG welding questions, find your nearest Bernard MIG Specialist by calling 800-946-2281 (U.S. only) or 708-946-2281 (International) or emailing info@bernardwelds.com.



MIG-MAN'S TIP