

Air wipers have ceramic-lined inserts for better production, longer life

Huestis Industrial reports that its ceramic-lined "Air Miser" air wiper, introduced at both wire Düsseldorf and Wire Expo, was designed in response to customer demand for a better, longer-lasting product.

For years, a press release explained, human error in centering and aligning wire in an air wiper has resulted in off-position wire causing premature wear and damage to plastic air wiper bodies, and often to the wire itself, as it rubs and cuts into the plastic. Air wiper suppliers have tried using ceramic eyelets and partial ceramic inlet guides that lead into the canal or cavity of the air wiper, but most of these designs failed due to poor performance, breakage and higher costs, it said. Later versions of full-bodied inserts were somewhat better albeit not stellar, and they cost a lot more, it noted.

In response, Huestis decided to make an air miser with a full-bodied ceramic insert that could perform exactly as the standard air miser and allow the inserts to be replaced, the release said. Design work began, the right ceramic was chosen and prototypes were tested in the field. The photo shows the Air Miser unit with and without the ceramic lining. The results, it declared, were outstanding. Not only did it meet customer needs, and use less air than other air wipers, it proved quite rugged, able to stand up to the daily wear and tear rigors of manufacturing. The new air wiper has all the

advantages of the standard air miser—including air economy, where it may be even better—and it takes away the need for centering guides and frequent supervision and adjust-

ment. The all-new ceramic air miser will be offered in the most popular sizes for 2010 and sizing will be expanded up to one inch (25.4 mm) in 2011.

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