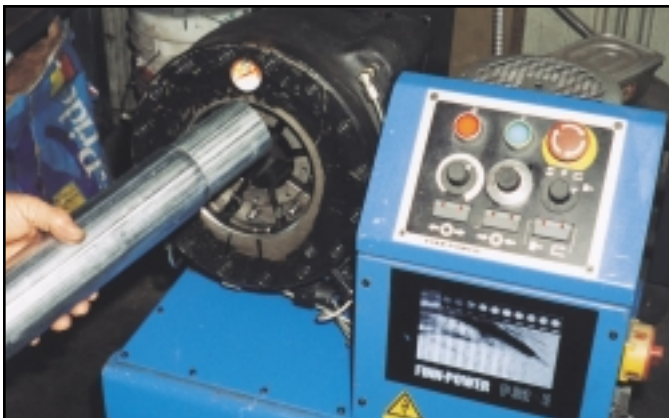


Finn-Power Swaging Machine Provides “Most Valuable” Support for Florida Shade Structure Manufacturer

Shade structures are not a new concept. The shade guard industry actually traces its roots back 2,000 years when the Romans rigged sails to shade about 75% of the Coliseum at any one time.

The modern shade guard industry was born 20 years ago in South Africa where protective canopies were constructed in order to protect the cars on automobile lots from hail damage. As they stretched the polyethylene over the car lots, it was discovered that not only did the canopies protect against hail damage, but they also had the ability to drop temperatures about 20 degrees. The shade industry spread rapidly to Australia,



The Finn-Power P32 swaging machine 200 tons of hydraulic force and a swaging range of up to 87 mm. While large in power, it is compact in size, and has earned a well-deserved reputation for ease of use, reliability, and accuracy.

where today law dictates that shade structures must be installed over playgrounds to protect the children from harmful UV radiation, which can cause melanoma. Melanoma is a major killer in Australia and is growing at an alarming rate in the U.S.

Imported shade protection products from South Africa and Australia couldn't pass the strict Florida building code, wind-load design standards that require



Jamie De Oliveira, quality control manager for Sunguard Shade Structures purchased the Finn-Power P32 swaging machine to find a cleaner, faster, and dramatically more cost efficient way to join the superstructure pipes.

structural designs to withstand forces up to 150 mph. As a result, it took all new fresh engineering to make the design of the framework to be strong enough to handle these wind loads. Today, sun shade structures are mostly used on commercial and industrial installations such as parks, recreational departments, schools, bleachers, playgrounds, commercial parking lots, etc.

“The Finn-Power P32 swaging machine is the most valuable tool we have in the company.”

Kevin Connelly, president of Sunguard Shade Structures, Inc., founded the company in 1997. “As part of our engineering, we try to design very strong units,” explains Connelly. “The traditional way to join the various pipes in the superstructure was through welding. But welding was very labor intensive.”

Connelly credits his quality control manager, Jamie De Oliveira, with discovering a cleaner, faster, and dramatically more cost efficient way to join the superstructure pipes – the Finn-Power P32 swaging machine. The Finn-Power P32 has 200 tons of hydraulic force and a swaging range of up to 87 mm. While large in power, it is compact in size, and has earned a well-deserved reputation for ease of use, reliability, and accuracy.

According to De Oliveira, Sunguard Shade Structures can take a certain-sized pipe, reduce it, and adapt a fitting. "We have eliminated welding and have actually made the part stronger through swaging," says De Oliveira. "Our superstructure may be the same size, however, as the structure grows in height, engineers spec a heavier, thicker pipe. Now we can take the thicker pipe and still reduce it to fit the smaller superstructure. The Finn-Power P32 swaging machine gives us the flexibility of design to make a larger or smaller pipe fit into the same size superstructure pieces simply by



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produced at Sunguard Shade Structures is swaged on the P32. Connelly points out additional

production benefits of the Finn-Power P32.

"Welding destroys the tube's galvanization. So not only do you have extra labor with welding, but also extra treatment of the welds to prevent rust. With swaging, we don't damage the galvanization, so there is no extra treatment that is necessary. We also dramatically reduce our labor and materials costs. For example, four pipes would take 1½ hours to weld. We can swage the tubes on the P32 in less than five

minutes. That's a dramatic decrease in labor costs."

Connelly continues, "The P32 swaging machine gives us the capability to build a very strong



Sunguard Shade Structures has eliminated welding and actually made the part stronger through swaging.

structure. When we have to fit small pipe into a large pipe for very long structures, taking the larger pipe and swaging it so we can fit the smaller pipe to bolt together in place, gives us the ability to go out even further...and it gives us the necessary rigidity. If we had to use the larger-size pipe throughout, it would cause a bowing effect. However, being able to swage the thicker, sturdier pipe gives us flexibility of design. It allows us to do things that we could not routinely do without the use of the swaging machine. The Finn-Power P32 swaging machine is the most valuable tool we have in the company."



The Finn-Power P32 swaging machine gives Sunguard Shade Structures the flexibility of design to make a larger or smaller pipe fit into the same size superstructure pieces simply by changing the dies. Example: A 4" O.D. pipe can be reduced to 2.875" OD."

changing the dies. We can take a 4" O.D. pipe and go down to 2.875" OD."

The material used in the superstructures is 11 gauge galvanized tubing. Every unit

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