

Owner's Manual & Safety Instructions

Save This Manual Keep this manual for the safety warnings and precautions, assembly, operating, inspection, maintenance and cleaning procedures. Write the product's serial number in the back of the manual near the assembly diagram (or month and year of purchase if product has no number). Keep this manual and the receipt in a safe and dry place for future reference.

CHICAGO ELECTRIC **WELDING**

70 AMP ARC WELDER

Includes:

6 ft. welding cable with multi-angle
Electrode Holder
6 ft. Ground Cable with clamp
Five 1/16" electrodes
Handheld face shield
Chipping hammer with wire brush

Shielded Metal Arc Welder

AC Outlet for a Smooth & Easy Welding Process

120 volt, 20 amp, single phase input



- Weldable materials: steel, stainless steel, cast iron
- Material thickness: Up to 1/8" thick
- Thermal overload protection with indicator light
- Welding current: 40-70 amp AC
- Duty cycle: 30% @ 55 amp (Rated), 20% @ 70 amp (Max.)
- Electrode diameter ranges: 1/16"-3/32"

Visit our website at: <http://www.harborfreight.com>
Email our technical support at: tech@harborfreight.com

ITEM 68888

When unpacking, make sure that the product is intact and undamaged. If any parts are missing or broken, please call 1-800-444-3353 as soon as possible.

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WARNING

Read this material before using this product.
Failure to do so can result in serious injury.
SAVE THIS MANUAL.

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WARNING SYMBOLS AND DEFINITIONS

	This is the safety alert symbol. It is used to alert you to potential personal injury hazards. Obey all safety messages that follow this symbol to avoid possible injury or death.
DANGER	Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.
WARNING	Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.
CAUTION	Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in minor or moderate injury.
NOTICE	Addresses practices not related to personal injury.
CAUTION	

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING

Read all safety warnings and instructions.

Failure to follow the warnings and instructions may result in electric shock, fire and/or serious injury.

Save all warnings and instructions for future reference.

General Safety

PROTECT yourself and others. Read and understand this information.

- Before use, read and understand manufacturer's instructions, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's), employer's safety practices, and ANSI Z49.1.**
- Keep out of reach of children.**
Keep children and bystanders away while operating.
- Place the welder on a stable location before use.**
If it falls while plugged in, severe injury, electric shock, or fire may result.
- Do not overreach.**
Keep proper footing and balance at all times.
- Stay alert, watch what you are doing and use common sense when operating a welder.**
Do not use a welder while you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication.
A moment of inattention while operating welders may result in serious personal injury.
- Avoid unintentional starting.** Make sure you are prepared to begin work before turning on the Welder.
- Never leave the Welder unattended while energized.** Turn power off if you have to leave.
- The warnings, precautions, and instructions discussed in this instruction manual cannot cover all possible conditions and situations that may occur.** It must be understood by the operator that common sense and caution are factors which cannot be built into this product, but must be supplied by the operator.
- This product, when used for welding and similar applications, contains or produces a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects (or other reproductive harm).** (California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq.)
- Handling the cord on this product will expose you to lead, a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, and birth defects or other reproductive harm.**
Wash hands after handling. (California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq.)

Fume and Gas Safety

FUMES AND GASES can be hazardous to your health.



1. **Exposure to welding or cutting exhaust fumes can increase the risk of developing certain cancers, such as cancer of the larynx and lung cancer.**
Also, some diseases that may be linked to exposure to welding or cutting exhaust fumes are:
 - Early onset of Parkinson's Disease
 - Heart disease
 - Ulcers
 - Damage to the reproductive organs
 - Inflammation of the small intestine or stomach
 - Kidney damage
 - Respiratory diseases such as emphysema, bronchitis, or pneumonia
2. **Do not use near degreasing or painting operations.**
3. **Keep head out of fumes.**
Do not breathe exhaust fumes.
4. **Use enough ventilation, exhaust at arc, or both, to keep fumes and gases from breathing zone and general area.** If engineering controls are not feasible, use an approved respirator.
5. **Work in a confined area only if it is well-ventilated, or while wearing an air-supplied respirator.**
6. **Have a recognized specialist in Industrial Hygiene or Environmental Services check the operation and air quality and make recommendations for the specific welding situation.** Follow OSHA guidelines for Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL's) and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists recommendations for Threshold Limit Values (TLV's) for fumes and gases.

Arc Ray Safety

ARC RAYS can injure eyes and burn skin.



1. **Wear ANSI-approved welding eye protection featuring at least a number 10 shade lens rating.**
2. **Wear leather leggings, fire resistant shoes or boots during use.** Do not wear pants with cuffs, shirts with open pockets, or any clothing that can catch and hold molten metal or sparks.
3. **Keep clothing free of grease, oil, solvents, or any flammable substances.**
Wear dry, insulating gloves and protective clothing.
4. **Wear an approved head covering to protect the head and neck.** Use aprons, cape, sleeves, shoulder covers, and bibs designed and approved for welding and cutting procedures.
5. **When welding/cutting overhead or in confined spaces, wear flame resistant ear plugs or ear muffs to keep sparks out of ears.**

Electrical Safety

ELECTRIC SHOCK can KILL.

1. **Turn off, disconnect power, and discharge electrode to ground before setting down torch/electrode holder and before service.**
2. **Do not touch energized electrical parts.**
Wear dry, insulating gloves. Do not touch electrode holder, electrode, welding torch, or welding wire with bare hand. Do not wear wet or damaged gloves.
3. **Connect to grounded, GFCI-protected power supply only.**
4. **Do not use near water or damp objects.**
5. **People with pacemakers should consult their physician(s) before use.** Electromagnetic fields in close proximity to heart pacemaker could cause pacemaker interference or pacemaker failure.
6. **Do not expose welders to rain or wet conditions.** Water entering a welder will increase the risk of electric shock.
7. **Do not abuse the cord.** Never use the cord for carrying, pulling or unplugging the welder. Keep cord away from heat, oil, sharp edges or moving parts. *Damaged or entangled cords increase the risk of electric shock.*
8. **Do not use outdoors.**
9. **Insulate yourself from the workpiece and ground.** Use nonflammable, dry insulating material if possible, or use dry rubber mats, dry wood or plywood, or other dry insulating material large enough to cover your full area of contact with the work or ground.



ARC AND HOT SLAG can cause fire.

- 1. Clear away or protect flammable objects.**
Remove or make safe all combustible materials for a radius of 35 feet (10 meters) around the work area. Use a fire resistant material to cover or block all open doorways, windows, cracks, and other openings.
- 2. Keep ABC-type fire extinguisher near work area and know how to use it.**
- 3. Maintain a safe working environment.**
Keep the work area well lit. Make sure there is adequate surrounding workspace. Keep the work area free of obstructions, grease, oil, trash, and other debris.
- 4. Do not operate welders in atmospheres containing dangerously reactive or flammable liquids, gases, vapors, or dust.**
Provide adequate ventilation in work areas to prevent accumulation of such substances. *Welders create sparks which may ignite flammable substances or make reactive fumes toxic.*
- 5. If working on a metal wall, ceiling, etc., prevent ignition of combustibles on the other side by moving the combustibles to a safe location.** If relocation of combustibles is not possible, designate someone to serve as a fire watch, equipped with a fire extinguisher, during the cutting process and for at least one half hour after the cutting is completed.
- 6. Do not weld or cut on materials having a combustible coating or combustible internal structure, as in walls or ceilings, without an approved method for eliminating the hazard.**
- 7. Do not dispose of hot slag in containers holding combustible materials.**
- 8. After welding, make a thorough examination for evidence of fire.** Be aware that easily visible smoke or flame may not be present for some time after the fire has started.
- 9. Do not apply heat to a container that has held an unknown substance or a combustible material whose contents, when heated, can produce flammable or explosive vapors.**
Clean and purge containers before applying heat. Vent closed containers, including castings, before preheating, welding, or cutting.

Welder Use and Care

- 1. Do not use the welder if the switch does not turn it on and off.** Any welder that cannot be controlled with the switch is dangerous and must be repaired.
- 2. Disconnect the plug from the power source before making any adjustments, changing accessories, or storing welders.** Such preventive safety measures reduce the risk of starting the welder accidentally.
- 3. Prevent unintentional starting.** Ensure the switch is in the off-position before connecting to power source or moving the welder. Carrying or energizing welders that have the switch on invites accidents.
- 4. Store idle welders out of the reach of children and do not allow persons unfamiliar with the welder or these instructions to operate the welder.** Welders are dangerous in the hands of untrained users.
- 5. Use the welder and accessories in accordance with these instructions, taking into account the working conditions and the work to be performed.** Use of the welder for operations different from those intended could result in a hazardous situation.

Maintenance

1. **Maintain welders.** Check for misalignment or binding of moving parts, breakage of parts and any other condition that may affect the welder's operation. If damaged, have the welder repaired before use. *Many accidents are caused by poorly maintained welders.*
2. **Have your welder serviced by a qualified repair person using only identical replacement parts.** This will ensure that the safety of the welder is maintained.
3. **Maintain labels and nameplates on the Welder.** These carry important information. If unreadable or missing, contact Harbor Freight Tools for a replacement.
4. **Unplug before maintenance.** Unplug the Welder from its electrical outlet before any inspection, maintenance, or cleaning procedures.

Gas Shielded Welding - Cylinder Safety

Cylinders can explode when damaged.



1. **Never weld on a pressurized or a closed cylinder.**
2. **Never allow an electrode holder, electrode, welding torch, or welding wire to touch the cylinder.**
3. **Keep cylinders away from any electrical circuits, including welding circuits.**
4. **Keep protective cap in place over the valve except when the cylinder is in use.**
5. **Use only correct gas shielding equipment designed specifically for the type of welding you will do.** Maintain this equipment properly.
6. **Protect gas cylinders from heat, being struck, physical damage, slag, flames, sparks, and arcs.**
7. **Always use proper procedures to move cylinders.**



SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

Grounding

WARNING



TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK AND DEATH FROM INCORRECT GROUNDING WIRE CONNECTION:

Check with a qualified electrician if you are in doubt as to whether the outlet is properly grounded. Do not use the Welder if the power cord or plug is damaged. If damaged, have it repaired by a service facility before use. If the plug will not fit the outlet, have a proper outlet installed by a qualified electrician.

Grounded Welders

1. The grounding prong in the plug is connected through the green wire inside the cord to the grounding system in the Welder. The green wire in the cord must be the only wire connected to the Welder's grounding system and must never be attached to an electrically "live" terminal.
2. The Welder must be plugged into an appropriate outlet, properly installed and grounded in accordance with all codes and ordinances.

Extension Cords

1. It is advised to avoid using an extension cord if possible. If an extension cord is used, it must be 25 feet or less with a 10 AWG or thicker size wire.
2. As the distance from the supply outlet increases, you must use a heavier gauge extension cord. Using extension cords with inadequately sized wire causes a serious drop in voltage, resulting in loss of power and possible welder damage.
3. The smaller the gauge number of the wire, the greater the capacity of the cord. For example, a 14 gauge cord can carry a higher current than a 16 gauge cord.
4. When using more than one extension cord to make up the total length, make sure each cord contains at least the minimum wire size required.
5. If you are using one extension cord for more than one welder, add the nameplate amperes and use the sum to determine the required minimum cord size.
6. If you are using an extension cord outdoors, make sure it is marked with the suffix "W-A" ("W" in Canada) to indicate it is acceptable for outdoor use.
7. Make sure the extension cord is properly wired and in good electrical condition. Always replace a damaged extension cord or have it repaired by a qualified electrician before using it.
8. Protect the extension cords from sharp objects, excessive heat, and damp or wet areas.

Symbology

	Workpiece Ground Cable
	Electrode Cable
	Overheat Shutdown Indicator
	Cooling Fan
	Housing Ground Point
	Volts Alternating Current

A	Amperes
OCV	Open Circuit Voltage
KVA	Kilovolt Amperes (Volts / 1000 * Amperes)
IPM	Inches Per Minute
AWG	American Wire Gauge

Specifications

Power Input	120V~, 60Hz, 20A (A dedicated circuit is required)
Max OCV	40V
Welding Current Range	40 - 70 A, AC
Capacity	Up to 1/8" thick mild steel
Duty Cycle	30% @ 55 amps
Weldable Materials	Steel, Stainless Steel, Cast Iron
Electrode Diameter	1/16" - 3/32"
Included Accessories	Handheld face shield, Chipping hammer with wire brush, five 1/16" electrodes

Setup

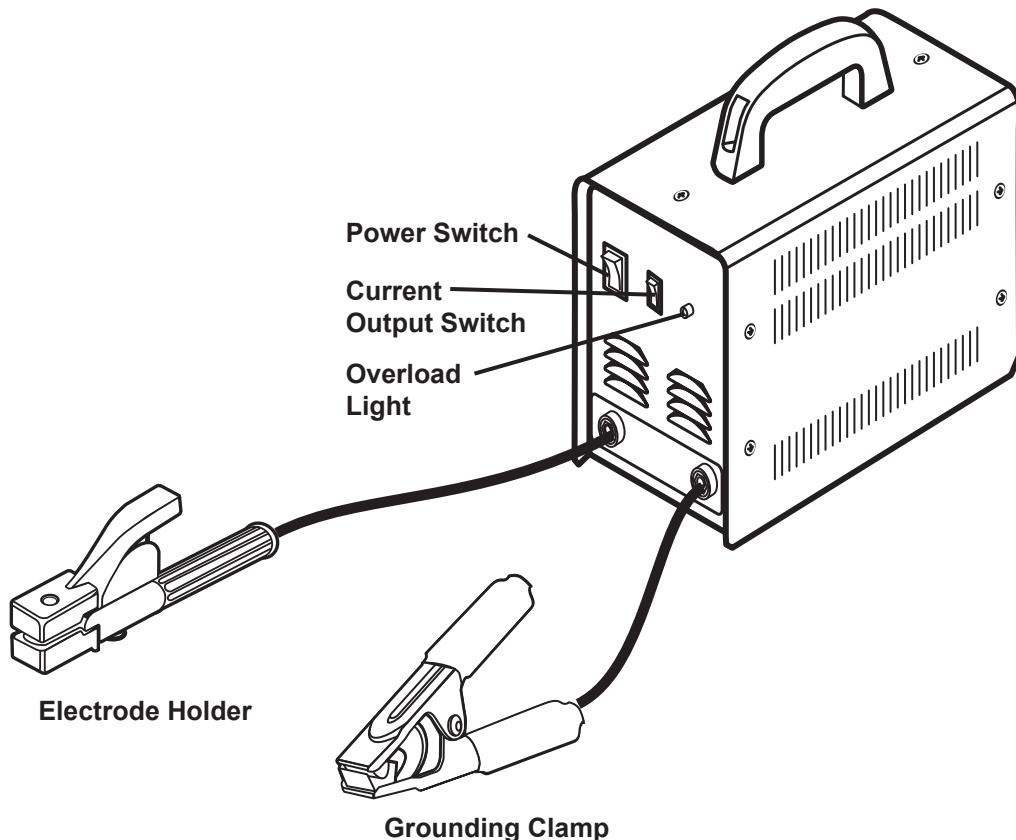


Read the **ENTIRE IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION** section at the beginning of this manual including all text under subheadings therein before set up or use of this product.

WARNING

TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY FROM ACCIDENTAL OPERATION:
Turn the Power Switch off and unplug the welder before assembly.

Components and Controls



Operating Instructions

WARNING

To Prevent Serious Injury and Permanent Eye Damage:

Wear protective gear during use; an ANSI-approved welding mask shade 10, ear protection, welding gloves and apron, NIOSH-approved respirator, and fire resistant work clothes without pockets. Light from the arc can cause permanent damage to the eyes and skin. Do not breathe arc fumes.

Duty Cycle (Duration of Use)



30% DUTY CYCLE
AT MIN SETTING

3 minutes welding
followed by
at least 7 minutes of rest



20% DUTY CYCLE
AT MAX SETTING

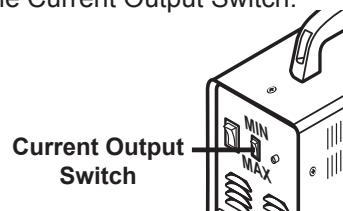
2 minutes welding
followed by
at least 8 minutes of rest

Thermal Overload Protection - This Welder has an internal thermal protection system to help prevent this sort of over-stress. When the unit overheats, it automatically shuts down and the Overload Light turns on. The Welder automatically returns to service after cooling off. Rest the Electrode Holder on an electrically non-conductive, heat-proof surface, such as a concrete slab, well clear of the ground clamp while allowing the welder to cool with the Power Switch on, so that the internal fan will help cool the Welder. When the Welder can be used again, use shorter welding periods and longer rest periods to prevent needless wear.



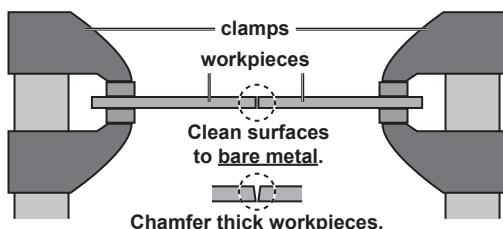
This unit has two duty cycles, one at the MIN setting and one at the MAX setting on the Current Output Switch.

Avoid damage to the Welder by not welding for more than the prescribed duty cycle time. The duty cycle defines the number of minutes, within a 10 minute period, during which a given welder can produce a particular welding current without overheating. For example, this Welder, when set at the MAX setting, has a 20% duty cycle and must be allowed to rest for at least 8 minutes after every 2 minutes of continuous welding. Failure to carefully observe duty cycle limitations can easily over-stress a welder's power generation system contributing to premature welder failure.



Setting up the Weld

1. **Make practice welds on pieces of scrap the same thickness as your intended workpiece to practice technique before welding anything of value.**
Clean the weld surfaces thoroughly with a wire brush or angle grinder; there must be no rust, paint, oil, or other materials on the weld surfaces, only bare metal.
2. Use clamps (not included) to hold the workpieces in position so that you can concentrate on proper welding technique. The distance (if any) between the two workpieces must be controlled properly to allow the weld to hold both sides securely while allowing the weld to penetrate fully into the joint. The edges of thicker workpieces may need to be chamfered (or beveled) to allow proper weld penetration.



Welding

1. Place the Welder on a level surface that can bear its weight near the work area.
2. Secure the Grounding Clamp to a clean, exposed metal part of the workpiece.
3. Place the uncoated end of the electrode inside the jaws of the Electrode Holder. Electrode types vary for welding different metals.
4. Turn the Current Output Switch to MIN for 1/16" electrodes and to MAX for 3/32" electrodes.
5. Plug the power cord into a grounded 120V electric socket and turn the Welder on.
6. Stroke the workpiece lightly to ignite the arc. Tips for igniting the arc:
 - a. Stroke the surface with the electrode.
 - b. Strike the surface like a match with the electrode.
 - c. Tap the surface with the electrode.
7. When the arc ignites, tilt the electrode forward and hold it near the workpiece.
8. When finished welding; lift the electrode from the workpiece and turn the Welder off.
9. Place the handle down on a nonflammable, nonconductive surface.
10. To prevent accidents disconnect the tool from its power supply after use. Allow the tool to cool down, clean, then store the tool indoors out of children's reach.

IMPORTANT: A 20A dedicated circuit is required.

⚠ WARNING! To prevent serious injury and death: If the operator is not holding the Electrode Holder, it must be sitting on a nonconductive, nonflammable surface. The Stick Welder will immediately turn on when the Power Switch is turned on.

Welding Tips

A good way to test welding technique is to examine a weld's appearance after it has cooled and the slag has been removed. Then, better welding can be learned by adjusting your weld technique to remedy any problems found.

Cleaning the Weld

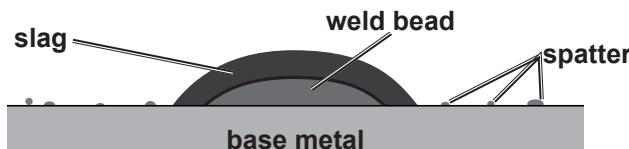
⚠ WARNING



TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY:
Continue to wear ANSI-approved safety goggles and protective wear when cleaning a weld.
Sparks or chips may fly when cleaning.

1. A weld will be covered by slag: use a Chipping Hammer to knock this off. **Be careful not to damage the weld or base material.**
2. Then, use a Wire Brush to further clean the weld or use an angle grinder (sold separately) to shape the weld.

A typical Weld before cleaning.



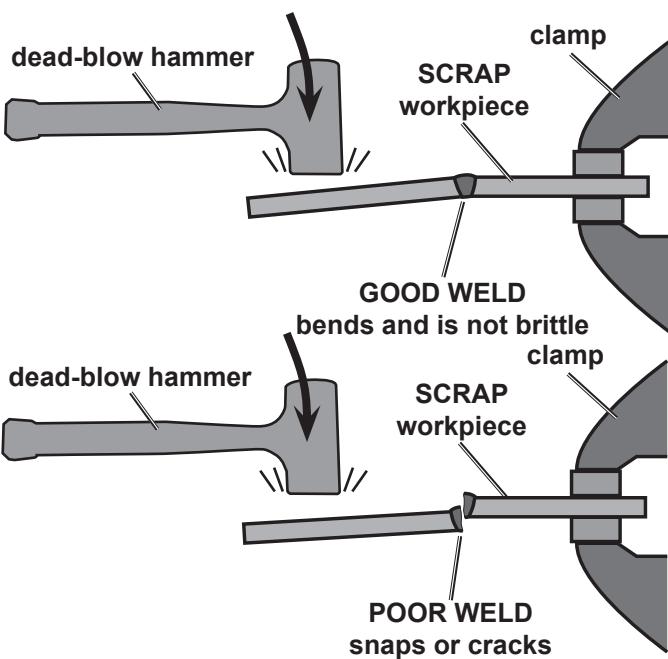
After practice welding for a few seconds, STOP and examine your weld using the guidelines starting on the next page.

Strike Test

A test weld on a **PIECE OF SCRAP** can be tested by using the following procedure.
WEAR ANSI-APPROVED SAFETY GOGGLES DURING THIS PROCEDURE.

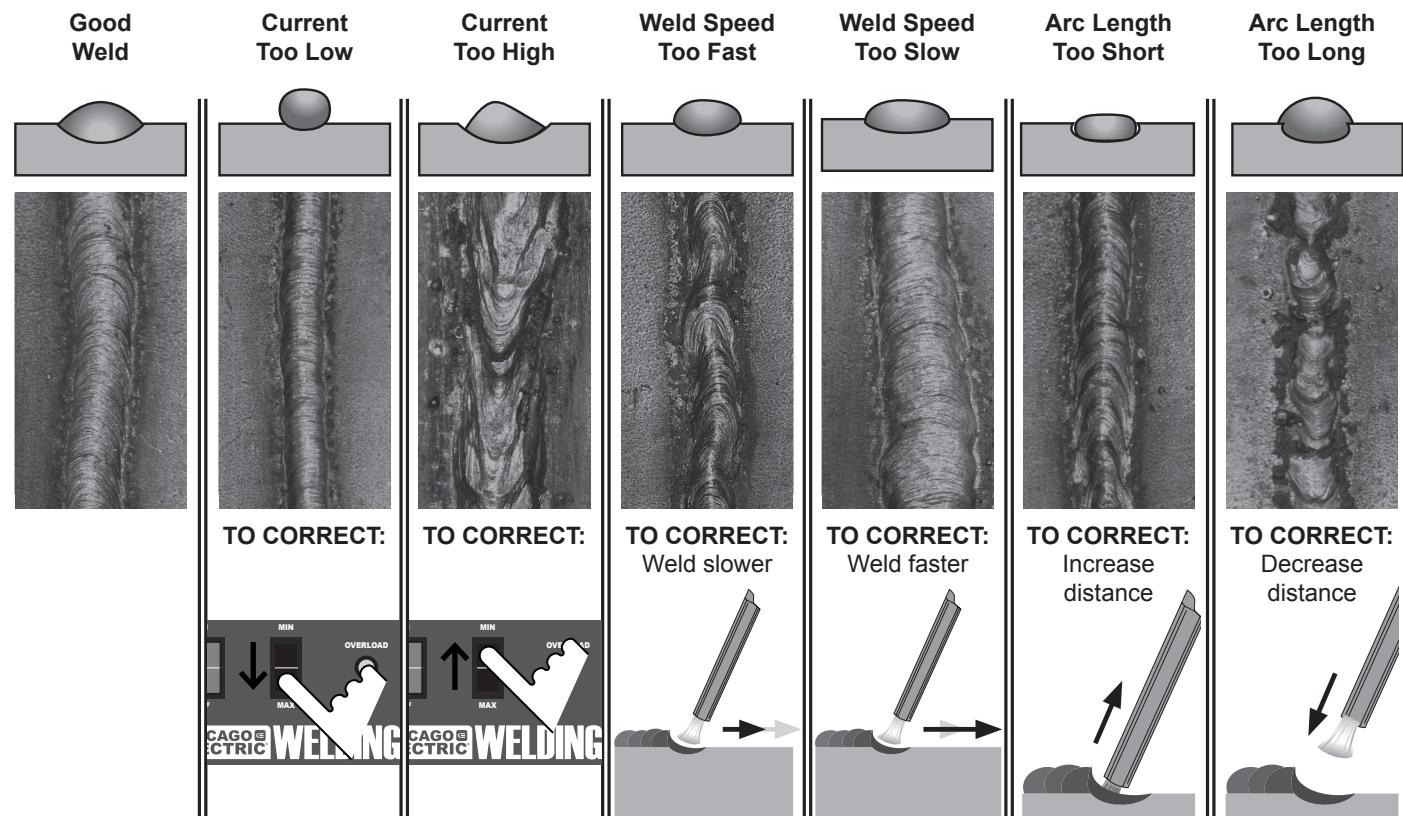
WARNING! This test **WILL** damage the weld it is performed on. This test is **ONLY** an indicator of weld technique and is not intended to test working welds.

1. After two scraps have been welded together and the weld has cooled, clamp one scrap in a sturdy vise.
2. Stay clear from underneath while you strike the opposite scrap with a heavy hammer, preferably a dead-blow hammer.
3. A **GOOD WELD** will deform but not break, as shown on top.
A **POOR WELD** will be brittle and snap at the weld, as shown on bottom.

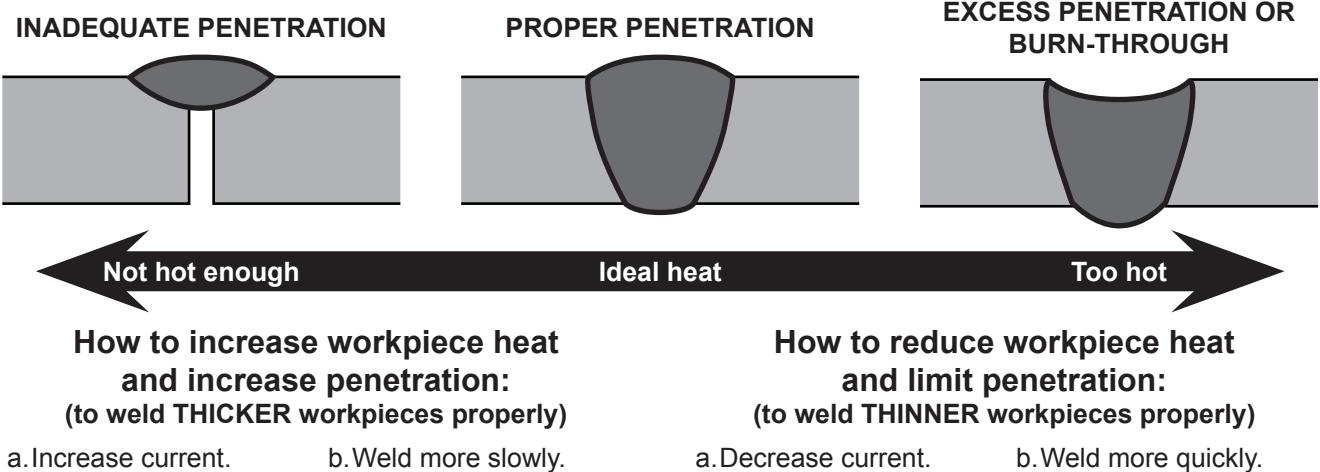


Example Weld Diagrams

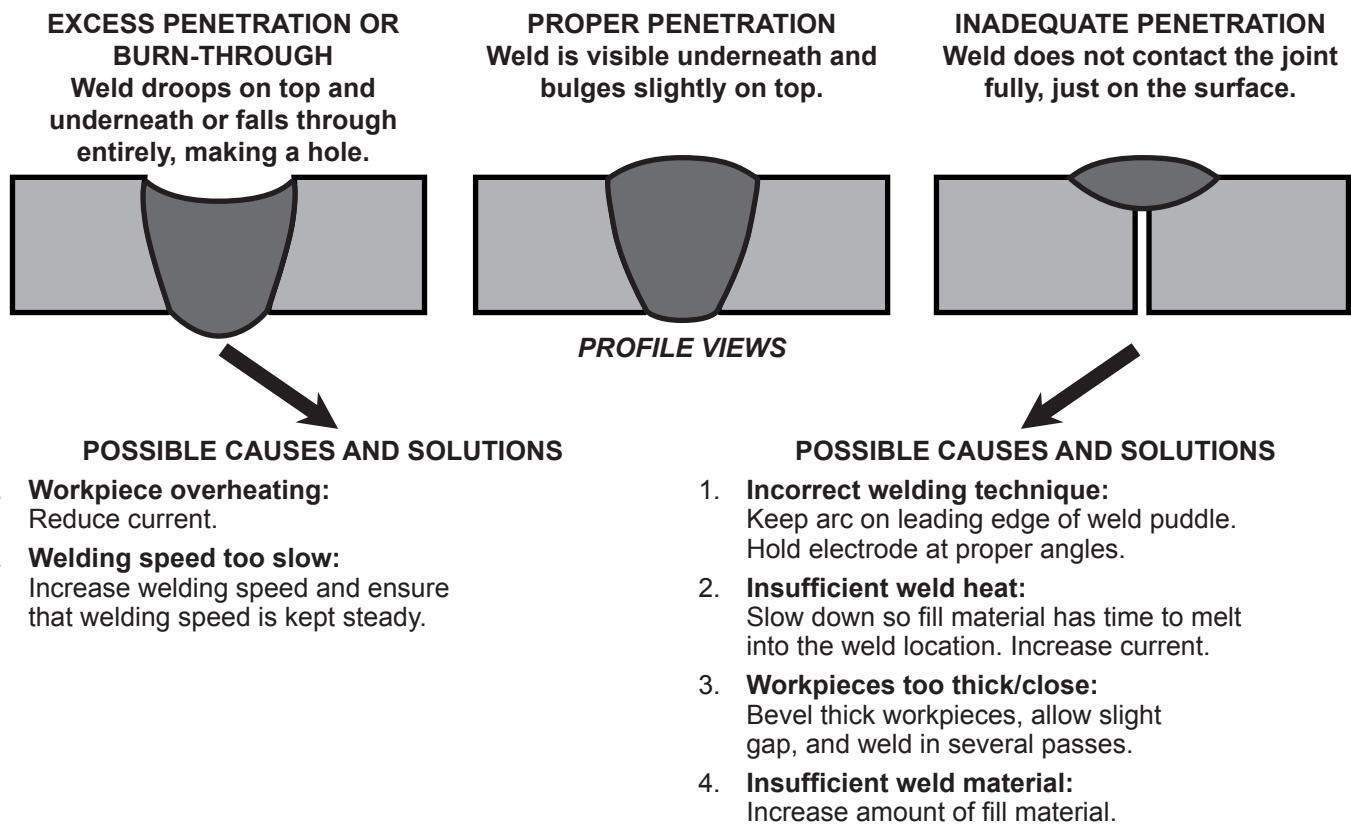
CLEAN WELDS FIRST! Stick welds will have a coat of slag over them until cleaned.



Diagnosis - Workpiece Heat Control / Weld Penetration

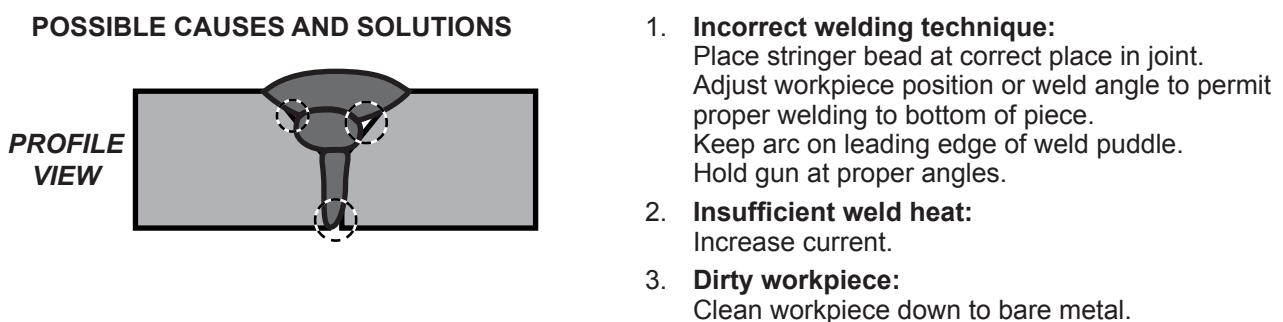


Penetration (Workpiece Heat Control)



Weld Not Adhering Properly

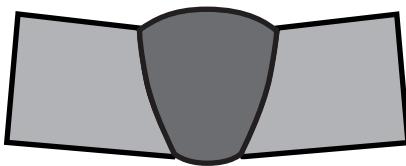
Gaps present between weld and previous bead or between weld and workpiece. See areas below.



Bend at Joint

POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

PROFILE
VIEW



1. **Improper clamping:**
Clamp workpieces securely.
Make tack welds to hold workpieces.
2. **Excessive heat:**
Weld a small portion and allow to cool before proceeding.
Increase weld speed.

Coat of Slag Over Weld

TOP
VIEW



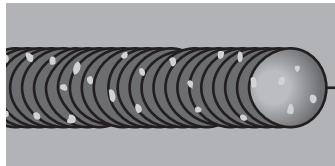
PARTIALLY CHIPPED AWAY TO SHOW WELD

Slag is a necessary part of a stick weld. It shields the weld from impurities. Clean off the slag with the Chipping Hammer and Wire Brush after welding.

Porosity - Small cavities or holes in the bead.

POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

TOP
VIEW

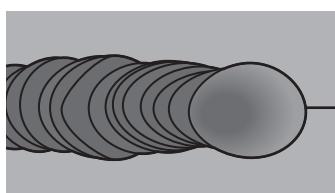


1. **Dirty workpiece or electrode:**
Clean workpiece down to bare metal.
Make certain that fill material and electrode are clean and free from oil, coatings, and other residues.
2. **Inconsistent welding speed:**
Maintain steady weld speed.

Crooked/Wavy Bead

POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

TOP
VIEW

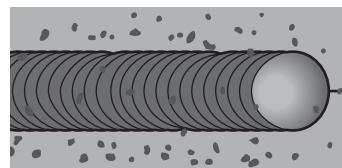


1. **Inaccurate welding:**
Use two hands or rest hand on steady surface.
2. **Inconsistent welding speed:**
Maintain steady weld speed.

Excessive Spatter

POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

TOP
VIEW



Fine spatter is normal. Spatter that is grainy and large is a problem.

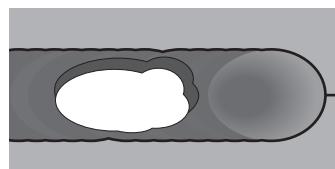
Dirty workpiece or electrode:

Clean workpiece down to bare metal.
Make certain that electrode is clean and free from oil, coatings, and other residues.

Burn-Through - Base material melts away, leaving a hole in the weld.

POSSIBLE CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

TOP
VIEW



1. **Workpiece overheating:**
Reduce current.
2. **Welding speed too slow:**
Increase welding speed and ensure that welding speed is kept steady.
3. **Excessive material at weld:**
Reduce amount of fill material.

WARNING**TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY, FIRE AND BURNS:**

Unplug the Welder, rest the tool on a heat-proof, electrically non-conductive surface, and allow all parts of the Welder to cool thoroughly before service.

1. Periodically remove the Right and Left side panels, and using compressed air, blow out all dust from the interior.
2. Store in a clean and dry location.
3. **For optimal weld quality, clean and inspect the Contact points before each use.**

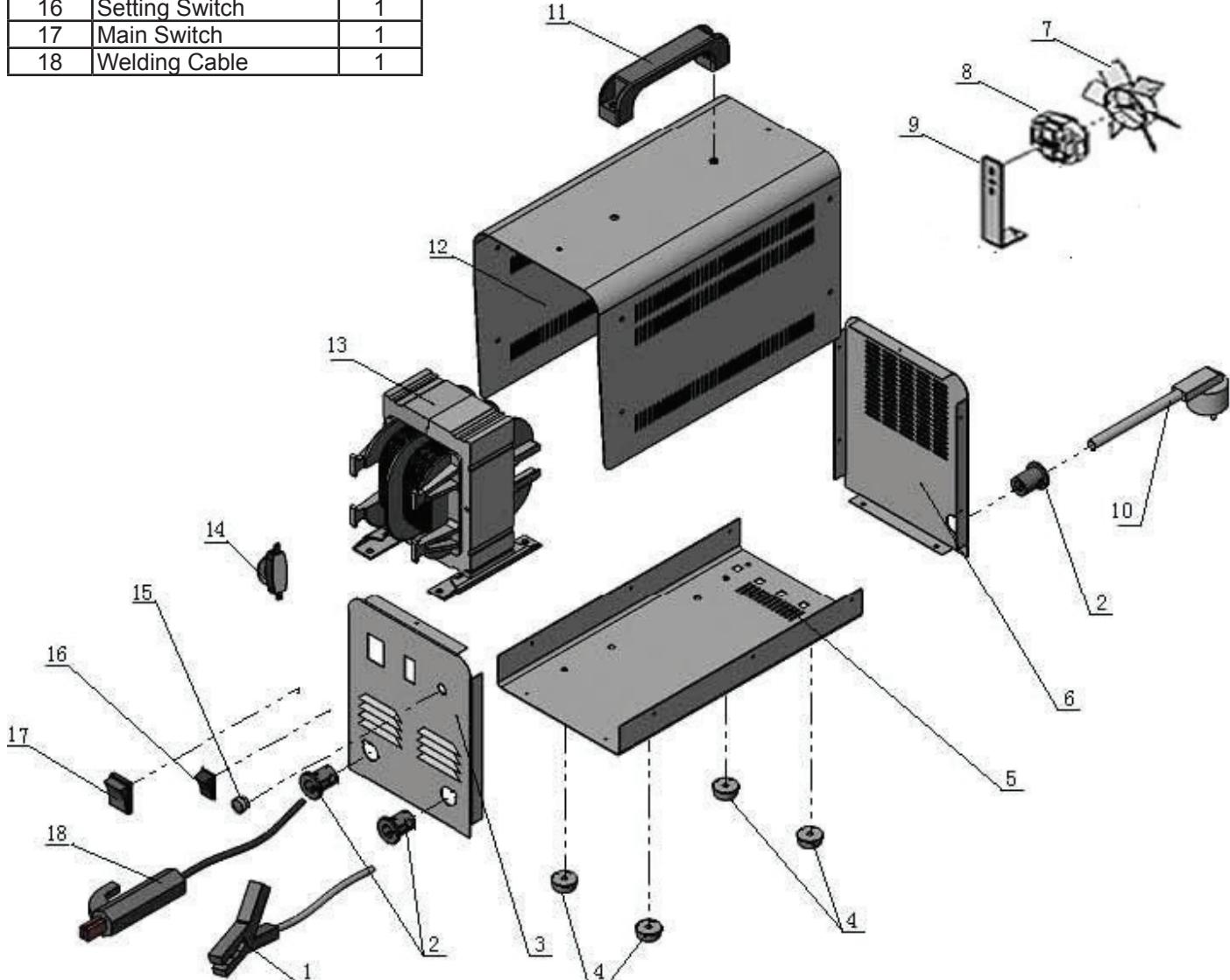
Troubleshooting**IMPORTANT!**

Be CERTAIN to shut off the Welder, disconnect it from power, and discharge the Electrode Holder to ground before adjusting, cleaning, or repairing the unit.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Power Switch Lights, but Welder Does Not Function When Switched ON	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tripped thermal protection device. 2. Faulty connection. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce duration or frequency of welding periods to help reduce wear on the welder. Refer to Duty Cycle (Duration of Use) on page 8. 2. Qualified technician must check connection.
Power Switch Does Not Light When Switched On	Unit is not connected to outlet properly or outlet is unpowered	<p>Verify the voltage at the outlet and the connection to the outlet. If voltage is not present at outlet, check circuit breaker/GFCI devices; if any are tripped, determine and remedy cause before resetting. Verify that the circuit is designed to supply the required input</p>
Weak Arc Strength	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incorrect line voltage. 2. Improper gauge or length of extension cord. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check the line voltage and, if insufficient, have a licensed electrician remedy the situation. 2. Extension cords are not recommended. If possible, eliminate the use of an extension cord. If an extension cord is needed, refer to the guidelines on page 6.
Welding Arc Not Stable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loose Electrode Handle cable or Ground cable. 2. Damaged Electrode Handle or loose connection within Electrode Handle. 3. Adjust current setting. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check to ensure that all connections are tight. 2. Have a qualified technician inspect and repair or replace, as necessary. 3. Make sure setting matches recommended setting.

Parts List and Diagrams

Part	Description	Qty
1	Grounding Cable	1
2	Cable Holder	3
3	Front Panel	1
4	Foot	4
5	Bottom	1
6	Back Panel	1
7	Fan Blade	1
8	Motor	1
9	Fan Bracket	1
10	Power Cord	1
11	Handle	1
12	Enclosure	1
13	Transformer	1
14	Thermal Relay	1
15	Indicator	1
16	Setting Switch	1
17	Main Switch	1
18	Welding Cable	1



Record Product's Serial Number Here: _____

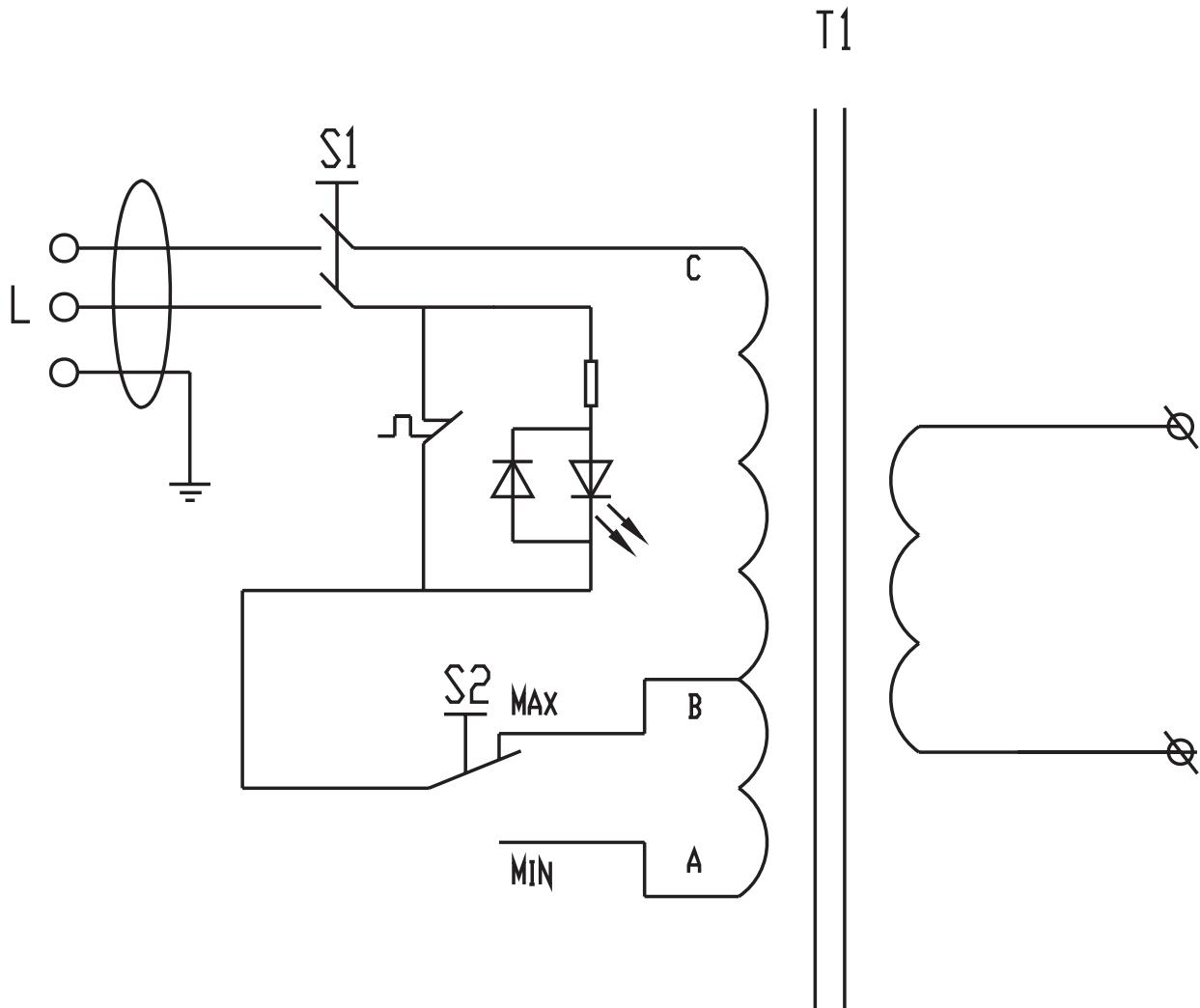
Note: If product has no serial number, record month and year of purchase instead.

Note: Some parts are listed and shown for illustration purposes only, and are not available individually as replacement parts.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY

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Wiring Schematic



CHICAGO ELECTRIC **WELDING**

Limited 90 Day Warranty

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To take advantage of this warranty, the product or part must be returned to us with transportation charges prepaid. Proof of purchase date and an explanation of the complaint must accompany the merchandise. If our inspection verifies the defect, we will either repair or replace the product at our election or we may elect to refund the purchase price if we cannot readily and quickly provide you with a replacement. We will return repaired products at our expense, but if we determine there is no defect, or that the defect resulted from causes not within the scope of our warranty, then you must bear the cost of returning the product.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

