FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH FLEXHONES

FlexHone tools may simply look like bottle brushes with blobs of abrasive on the end of each bristle, but don't let their simplicity fool you. Every day they are used to save or make money, improve performance, prevent loss of compression, help eliminate oil burning, improve the quality of manufactured goods.

They have a host of applications:- From the bores of small engines up to large ships engines, from paint ball pistols to big naval guns, from small hydraulic valve bodies to large hydraulic or pneumatic cylinders.

They are easy to use, because they centralize themselves in the bore and are self-aligning; they only require relatively low rotational speeds. They can be withdrawn while still spinning without flying apart, allowing you to surface finish right up to the very ends of a cylinder, past the limits or ring or seal travel, and so ensure good sealing and helping eliminate "Blow By".

FlexHones are essentially surface finishing tools, and are not intended to be used to remove metal or to vary the shape or size of bores, thus often allowing the same pistons to be used again, whereas the use of a rigid or mechanically expanded hone would generally mean that an oversize piston would have to be used. FlexHones, because of their soft honing action will remove the torn and folded metal generally left by rigid hones, and create a plateaued surface with improved service characteristics as mentioned previously, plus better ring and seal life, less oil burning or loss, less running in or bedding in time, shorter time required on dynamometer to reach full power.

A variety of grit sizes can be obtained, with finer grits such as 320 or 400 often being used on high performance and race engines. However these cost substantially more to make than the more common 180 and 240 grit FlexHones. 180 grit has been the most popular grit size for automotive engines for some years, being used both as a deglazing hone and a secondary hone after rigid honing. For higher engine speeds finer grit Flexhones are available.

For hydraulic and brake cylinders 240 grit is more popular. Lubricants with different viscosities can be used to vary the results obtained by the Flex Hone, so making it more versatile.