



## Reduce Shielding Gas Use and Improve Starts

This guide presents steps to measure and reduce gas use while improving weld start quality:

Two publications quote knowledgeable welding authorities indicating the average user of MIG welding consumes from **3 to 6 times** the amount of shielding gas they could or should use. Check References at:

[http://www.NetWelding.com/Sales\\_Literature.htm](http://www.NetWelding.com/Sales_Literature.htm)

### Estimate What Your Shielding Gas Usage Should Be:

1. Determine wire purchases in pounds over past 6 months.
2. The right column (numbers in red) tell you about how much gas you should have purchased to weld each pound of wire.

Note: You'll need to convert purchases to Cubic Feet (CF) If purchasing CO<sub>2</sub> in pounds, there are 8.74 CF per pound of CO<sub>2</sub>. If purchasing liquid Argon in gallons there are 113 CF per gallon.

Wire Type	Size	Typical Lbs/hr	CF Gas/ pound Wire Purchased
Solid	.035	3.5	10.0 CF
Solid	.045	7.0	5.0 CF
Cored	.035	6.5	5.5 CF
Cored	.045	7.5	5.0 CF
Cored	1/16	11.0	3.5 CF
Cored	3/32	14.5	2.5 CF

### Example

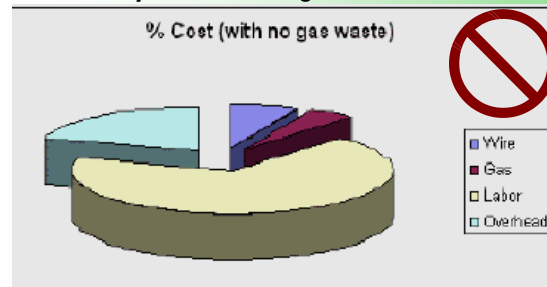
You purchased 46,000 lbs of 0.045 diameter solid wire in the past 6 months and during the same period 610,000 CF of Argon and CO<sub>2</sub> combined:

1. Multiple the value from the far right column (red numbers) in the above table times the wire purchase amount; 5.0 CF/ pound X 46,000 lb of wire purchased = 230,000 CF of gas you should have purchased.
2. But you purchased 610,000 CF of gas. Therefore 610,000 – 230,000 = 380,000 CF was wasted or 380,000 Wasted / 610,000 Purchased = **62% Gas Wasted! You can do better!**
3. If you use several types of wire, treat each individually and add the total gas requirements.

### The % Cost of Shielding Gas

A typical way welding gas costs are presented simply multiplies the hours spent actually welding times the gas flow setting. This is based on an **erroneous assumption** that no gas is wasted.

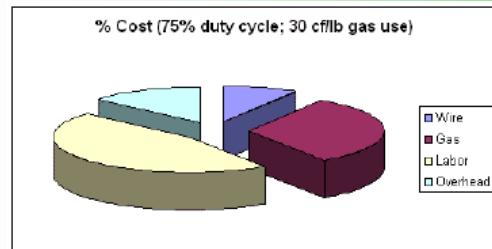
The cost of shielding gas is often quoted by gas suppliers as only about 5% of total welding cost. But this does not include the inevitable extra gas used which may not even come from leaks or excess flow settings as we'll show in the next example. This pie chart is typical of what is shown in most welding articles. **Then why is your gas use so much more? Your not alone!**



## The % Cost of Shielding Gas (continued)

If the typical gas waste (as defined in published literature) is used, a much different picture is found.

The pie chart on the right assumes the 30CF of shielding gas per pound of wire is used that the two published articles (one by a major gas supplier) site as typical. Now shielding gas costs are not 5% of total cost but rather 32%!! Depending on what you're paying for gas this could be you!



## Where Does the Extra Gas Go?

Excess gas is stored in the hose from gas source to feeder and expelled at high velocity at every weld start. An example of a fabricator who tested our patented **Gas Saver System (GSS™)** provides a graphic picture of how much gas is wasted at the weld start. Note: gas leaks, high gas flow settings etc, are not part of this test. Savings achieved were just from reduced gas surge at the weld start!



This manufacturer of truck boxes selected a repetitive job of welding doors. They put a full cylinder of shielding gas on an existing welding system with the existing gas delivery hose. They welded 236 doors with that cylinder. They then put on a new full cylinder and our **GSS** with no changes in gas flow or welding procedures. When the cylinder was empty they had welded 632 doors! That is 2.7 times more parts or said another way they were wasting 63% of the gas they were using! See many more production examples at: [http://www.NetWelding.com/Production\\_Test\\_Results.htm](http://www.NetWelding.com/Production_Test_Results.htm)

## How Does Our Patented **GSS** Work?

The gas savings come from the reduced hose volume with additional savings and improved starts from a built-in start flow surge flow restrictor. Total reduction in gas surge is 80 to 85%.

You can obtain a full explanation on the following web page:

[http://www.NetWelding.com/Sales\\_Literature.htm](http://www.NetWelding.com/Sales_Literature.htm) Download a PDF file of this information.

Although the **GSS** looks and is simple, this recently patented product is unique and maintains the key important features of a gas delivery system, namely:

1. It maintains the system pressure so automatic flow compensation is retained. That is why high pressures were built into the system since the invention of MIG welding in the 1950's!
2. It provides a controlled amount of extra shielding gas at the weld start at a flow rate that does not produce excess turbulence to displace air in the weld zone and torch nozzle and body.

These features provide the benefit of reduced spatter weld starts and improved weld start quality.

### IN SUMMARY, The **Gas Saver System** :

1. Has no moving parts to wear, leak or need repair.
2. Has no knobs to set or adjust.
3. Controls the start gas surge but NOT any reasonable, non-turbulent, welding gas flow. Reasonable steady state flows are set on existing or conventional flow controls. There is no need for the welder to drill out a restriction orifice! Most welders appreciate that the excessively high gas surge at the weld start they were getting with conventional systems is now controlled.
4. The **GSS** gas delivery hose is very heavy wall with fiber reinforcement. It can even be stepped on and will not stop or alter the gas flow rate.
5. Many thousands are in use in Industrial Fabrication Shops.

## It is Easy to Install the Gas Saver System in Most Installations:



If you have a different configuration than shown,  
Email:  
[TechSupport@NetWelding.com](mailto:TechSupport@NetWelding.com)

## Has Your Shop Tried Gas Saving Products Unsuccessfully?

The Gas Saver System is different than past proposed solutions to the gas waste problem. Welders appreciate the benefits.

- It maintains automatic flow compensation for the flow restrictions that occur in production.

*(This does not happen with low pressure systems. When testing low pressure systems, we've measured gas flow reductions of 65% or more due to system restrictions that can be caused by spatter build-up or bent torch and gas hoses.)*

- It provides a controlled amount of extra gas at the weld start to quickly purge air in the weld zone and torch nozzle.

*(In addition to maintaining the higher pressure needed to have automatic flow compensation some extra gas at the weld start must also be maintained. This does not occur if flow control is placed directly at the wire feeder)*

- It does not limit any reasonable, non-turbulent flow settings. Welders don't need to drill out flow control orifices! If controlling max flow is desired add our patented Flow Rate Limiter:

See it at: [http://www.NetWelding.com/Flow\\_Rate\\_Limiter.htm](http://www.NetWelding.com/Flow_Rate_Limiter.htm)



Flow Rate Limiter  
WAT FRL

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# 7,019,248 or # 7,462,799  
Canada: 2,455,644

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For questions, email