



Gift Ideas For The Guy Who Welds

It can be challenging buying a gift for someone who welds. It's because most people, who are not welders, have little or no knowledge about welding stuff; it's always simpler to give the familiar. Welders understand this fact.

But, if you're willing to step out of your comfort zone and shop in the unfamiliar, here's a short list of gifts that'll always strike an "arc" with your welder.

STOCKING STUFFERS

Multi comb square



Welding projects are like a puzzle, with one big exception: you make the pieces of the puzzle.

One of the jobs in making the pieces, is figuring out the cuts, the angles and where it is to be welded. The multi combination square makes it easier to do this job.

This multi square is a tool for laying out: giving the correct angle; finding the center on the pipe; and showing where level is.

Welding Gloves



Before you go to buy some welding gloves, know what type of welding process is being used. It'll save you from leaving empty handed and frustrated. There's a big difference between gloves for stick welding and gloves for tig welding; about the same difference between sandals and work boots. When you're stick welding, there's a lot of heat coming from the welding. So, the welder is needing a thick glove (almost like an oven mitt). But, Tig welders need to be able to feel things. A good test for a tig glove is to see if you can pick up a dime lying on a table.

Welding Blanket



Not all welding gets done in a metal shop or a dirty ditch. Sometimes it must be done in an area that's not designed for welding: an office, or hallway, etc. The blanket protects areas, like carpets and desks, from hot sparks. Or more importantly, starting a smoldering fire that ends by burning the place down.

Face shields



Face shields are protection for the eyes and the face. They are light, easy to slip on and give a wide view of the work area: no excuse not to have protection.

The visors are available in clear or shaded. The darkened visors can be used for plasma cutting and oxy-acetylene welding.

Covers on Welding Machines



Tool guys love their various tools. They account for them like diamonds. So, buying a cover for their welding machine is a nice thoughtful gift. It protects the machine and enhances its looks.

Here's a hint to save a 2nd trip to the store. Find out the manufacturer's name, the model, and the serial number of the machine. This will assure that you get the right cover. For example, on an engine drive, the muffler can be in the middle or at the end. Having the above information will make it a successful purchase.

GIFTS THAT DON'T FIT IN THE STOCKING

Welding Curtains



The reason they make see-thru welding curtains is so, the sparks and UV rays don't affect others. The see-thru is for the welder's safety: you can see the person working and know everything is okay.

Heavy Duty Clamps



Clamps, clamps and more clamps. They're a welder's best friend. You can never have too many best friends. These are the tools that tightly hold the material in place while the welder is making a weld.

Because not all welding is done on a welding table, it's nice to have a variety of clamps. There are clamps that can hold things on an angle; or work in the middle of the table.

It's always great when the clamp can be tightened or loosened with one hand. And if it can't be done with one hand, then make sure it's easy to tighten the clamp.

Extra Cylinder



There's nothing worse than running out of gas – whether you're driving a car or welding. A spare cylinder will cover that problem.

If your welder does tig and mig, he should have 2 cylinders. Tig welding uses argon and mig welding uses a mixed welding gas.

ADF Helmet



There are ADF (auto darkening filter) helmets for every budget. Whatever your budget is make sure replacement lenses are available. Over time the clear plastic lenses that protect the ADF need to be replaced.

The more expensive ADF's have good color of the welding puddle, a well-balanced headgear and the ability to change the settings on the lens.

Fume Extractor



The smaller the shop, the more welding fumes are a problem. It's not only the welder who's breathing in the fumes – its everyone else who is close by.

GIFTS TO DREAM ABOUT

Engine Drive



With the engine drive, it allows you to go where there's no electricity.

This is not a “one trick pony”. They'll have 120 volts and 240 volts outlets to power your other stuff. Welding is just one of the things it can do.

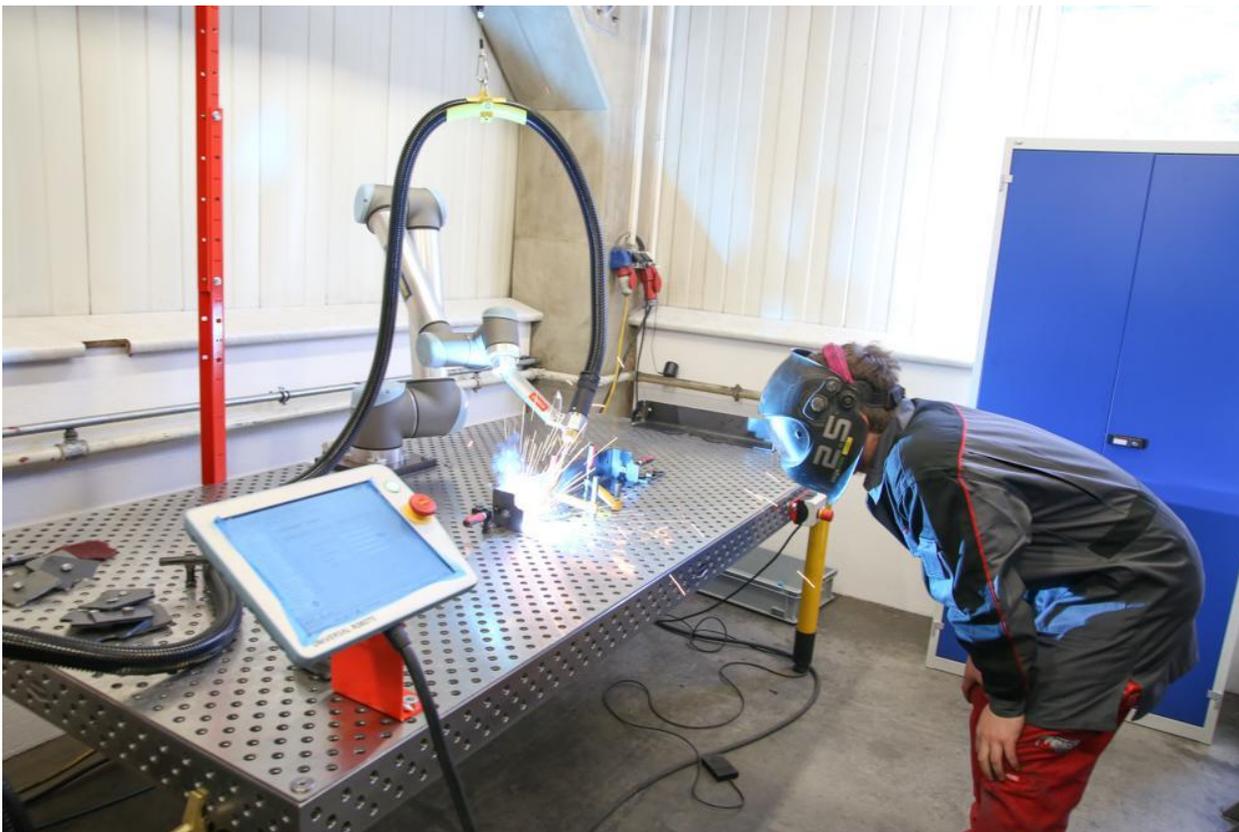
Multi welder



A multi welding machine can do 3 different types of welding: tig, mig and stick. In the old days, it required at least 2 different welding machines.

Thanks to modern technology, inverters and software, these welding machines are very helpful to novice welders. Often novice welders have difficulty trying to figure out the parameters needed to weld. These machines are programmed to automatically set the correct welding parameters. They are also programmed to produce an excellent welding arc to produce a quality weld.

Cobots



A cobot is a robot. It has the looks and articulation of a very flexible arm.

The cobot is easier to use than a robot. First, you decide what motions it needs to do. Next, you program it. This can be done on app on your smartphone or tablet. Then push PLAY.

The cobot is friendlier than a robot. It's safe to work around and uses less work space than a robot.

Buying gifts for welders = many happy returns. Remember these are the same people who can weld a muffler; fix or fabricate a fence or gate; weld a unique BBQ that lasts forever; make solid shelving; build a child's swing that adults can play on; the list goes on.



The other thing to remember at this time of the year, manufacturers like Miller have sales on some of their selected welding machines. You purchase the machine at a sale price, send in your invoice, and they send you a rebate check. Everyone wins: the user gets a great machine with a 3-year warranty (peace of mind) and “Santa” gets a rebate check (is it hee-hee or HoHo?).

If we can help you, give us a call.

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