NORTON SAINT-GOBAIN FAB

CASE STUDY
Norton FAB Wheels
(Fixed Abrasive Buff)

APPLICATION: **BUFFING A HIGH NICKEL AEROSPACE COMPONENT WITH AN AUTOMATED BUFFING SYSTEM**

THE CUSTOMER'S CHALLENGE

A major aerospace manufacturer was using a traditional cloth buffing wheel and significant amounts of liquid compound to buff a component and create an acceptable radius and finish. Due to the high volume of spray compound, their current buffing machine was breaking down regularly causing significant downtime. They were also spending a great deal of time and money to clean the component after the messy buffing operation.

INCUMBENT INFORMATION

Buff: 12 Ply, 2 pack Cloth buff and liquid compound

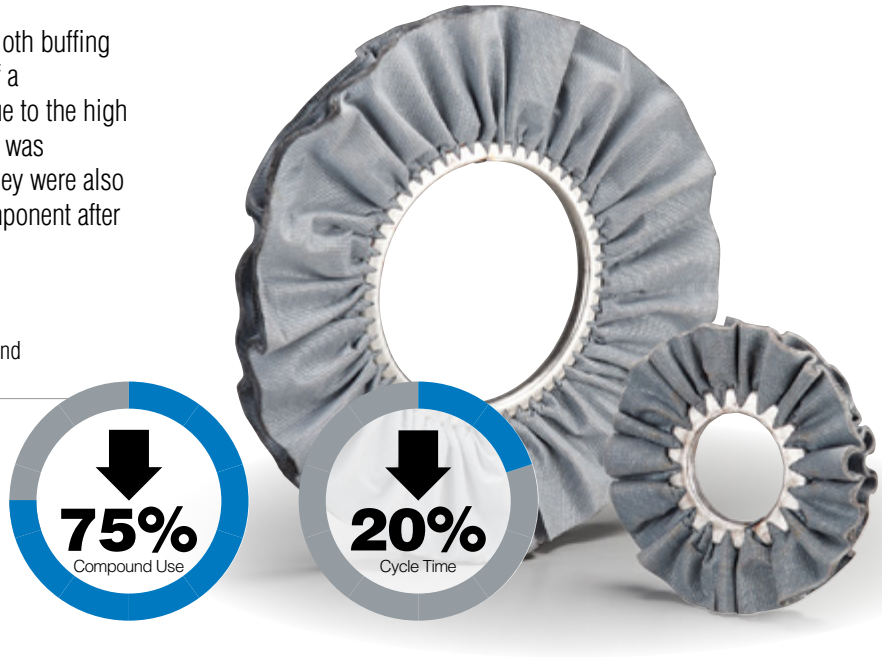
vs.

NORTON FAB INFORMATION

Buff: 16" x 7" x 1.5", 16 ply, 4 pack

MACHINE TYPE: Automated Buffing Machine

COMPONENT: High Nickel Aerospace component



Norton Wheel Achievements

The Norton FAB wheel was tested to determine if it could create an acceptable finish while reducing machine maintenance downtime through minimization of liquid compound use.

Using the Norton FAB wheels, the customer was able to reduce compound use by at least 75%. Additionally, with an improved cut rate due to abrasives being embedded into the cloth of the FAB wheels, they also saw a 20% decrease in cycle time. This allowed for improved part throughput and an overall increase in production.

By switching to Norton FAB wheels in their automated buffing process they can meet their finish requirements with significantly less compound use. In addition, with cost savings realized from purchasing less compound they can also save money in part clean-up and reduce machine maintenance and downtime, to say nothing of the impressive value added with additional output capabilities.

FORM #8831

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