

Through Fire and Flames

(RMD150-AS)

When I began my search for a tubing bender I didn't know what type of bender I was looking for, what brand of bender, let alone did I know much about tubing benders at all. Through a couple internet searches I came across a company called Baileigh Industrial. After looking on the site and seeing the incredible equipment that they had I knew this was the company I wanted to get my bender from. At first I was looking at their manual tubing bender and thought this would work for what I was going to be doing, which is building race car chassis. While talking to a few people at work about my plans, one of them mentioned to me that there was a tubing bender that came from a company that my employer purchased in 2002, because that company had a major fire that completely destroyed the manufacturing building.

When I went to look at the unit that was acquired from that purchase, I immediately recognized what it was, it was a RMD 150-AS. It was a machine I was looking at, but was way out of my price range that I could afford at the time. This machine has been sitting in this outdoor enclosure since the purchase. It was covered in dirt, grease, leaves, oils and had corrosion on it from the heat and the chemicals that was used to extinguish the fire. The electrical cord was melted, the cylinders were discolored from the heat, the degree dial stickers were melted, plain and simple the unit needed some help.

So I brought the unit to my shop and started to clean it up. I could not believe how thick and dirt was on the unit, it spent a good couple days just getting all of that cleaned off, upon cleaning I discovered the auto stop wheel, it was buried under the grim, of course was of no use because it was badly discolored and sticker was melted off. After getting the machine mostly cleaned, first thing I wanted to check was to see if it would even run. So I replaced the power cord on the unit plugged it in and flipped the switch. All that was produced was a humming noise and a blown breaker. The motor would not turn. I immediately figured that motor must be seized from the water and heat

From there I proceeded to start taking the unit apart, the unit had a square bending die on it that was seized to the spindle that took some finesse to remove. By the time I had it remove the die wasn't usable any more, after removing everything that I needed to again access to the motor, I found that the motor still spun freely, which was relief, cause now I knew the motor wasn't junk. I found that the one of the motor starter capacitors was badly corroded and the terminals broke off. I replaced that along with the auto-stop micro switch. Moment of truth, will the machine at least run, plugged it in and flipped the switch. The machine started up and was so quiet that I thought something was wrong. I could not believe it, that motor ran like it was brand new. I then took inventory of what else needed to be replaced, hydraulic lines, horse show degree wheel, auto-stop degree wheel along with the stickers, pressure gauge, fluid filter and the cylinders needed to be rebuilt because the seals were melted and burned to a crisp, so I order new seal kits as well.

After getting everything put back together, added hydraulic fluid and fired the machine up, the cylinders were moving, it was amazing. After we got all the air out of the system, it was time to see if this thing would bend a piece of tubing. So I put on one of the tubing dies that I order from Baileigh and placed the tube in the unit, locked the counter die in place and proceeded to bend the tube. IT DIDN'T. But I remember reading in one of the manuals something about machine not building pressure and the reason for it. Ahh Haa, the auto stop degree wheel was not engaging the micro switch, reason was because the spacer washer was on the wrong side of the wheel. Once that was switched around, and 20 hours or cleaning and rebuilding, around \$500 in parts, the machine was bending a piece of tubing.

This says a lot for Baileigh. To pull a machine from a fire, leave it sit outside for 5 plus years, replace minimal parts on the unit and to have it function like it just came out of production, Baileigh has my vote for best built machines by far. I am very proud to say I own Baileigh equipment and forever will be a lifelong customer of theirs. Superior products, superior knowledge and an awesome support and customer service staff. Brennon was my contact through this whole process and was very helpful and very knowledgeable on everything. I cannot say enough about this company other than thank you so much for your great equipment. Next time someone asks me where to get metal working equipment you can bet you ass it will be Baileigh Industrial.

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