

SAVING TIME,
**WORKING MORE
EFFICIENTLY.**

RE 6 ELECTRICAL TOOL FIELD TEST

NAME: STEVE SOTO
TITLE: FOREMAN
COMPANY: MILLENNIUM
CONTROL SYSTEMS



No filing required
with the RE 6

When you run a lean operation, it means working smart – and looking for efficiencies wherever you can. When your shop is small, but handles big-time clients, this efficiency is especially important.

As the foreman for Millennium Control Systems, Steve Soto makes efficiency his business. His crews build large cabinets and work stations for industrial automation and control systems. Their days are filled cutting and crimping wires as well as punching holes in cabinets. Saving time as well as reducing the amount of equipment needed at his shop both add to Soto's bottom line.

"Things here move quickly; we try to run lean," he says. "A lot of my strategic planning is overcoming not having time to finish what needs to be done." With the

RIDGID® RE 6, and its innovative 3-in-1 RIDGID QuickChange System™, Soto noticed the difference in big ways.

125% MORE EFFICIENT

Saying you'll save time is one thing; proving it is another. Soto challenged two of his team members – Jake Davidson and Joe Kalish – to a side-by-side time trial of an old manual knockout driver vs. their new RE 6 on identical project doors. Kalish used the RE 6 during the challenge, and Davidson used the manual tool. Kalish noticed the difference right away. "The quality of the hole is important to us. Some punchers pull or

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push on the material creating small burrs; the RE 6 doesn't do that. It provides a flatter punch that doesn't need to be filed, which is a huge time savings."

Head-to-head, the RE 6 performed 27% faster in flat-out punching the holes. When taking into account the filing step, the RE 6 performed a whopping 125% faster. Davidson, who has been a wireman field technician for eight years, noticed one other important characteristic: overall comfort. He did his best to try and keep up with the RE 6, but he was noticeably slower on his last four holes than his first four. Had this time trial run longer, the time difference would have been even greater. "The RE 6 is just quicker over the long haul. It's not only easier to use, but there's also less muscle strain and fatigue."

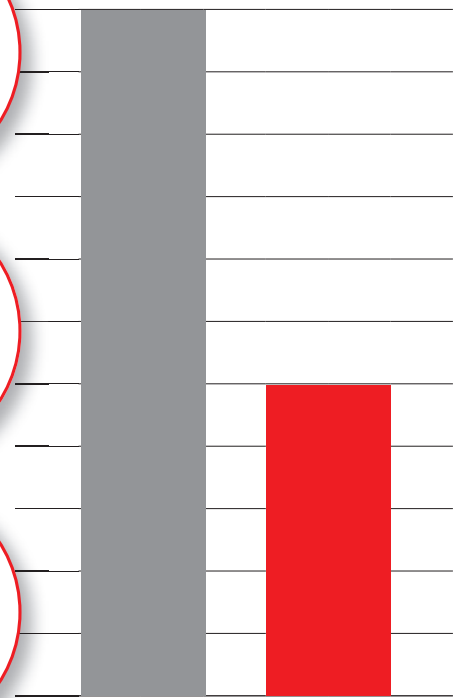


125%
MORE EFFICIENT
 NO FILING
 REQUIRED

27%
FASTER PUNCHING
 5-SECOND PUNCH
 TIME*

75%
FEWER TOOLS
 3-IN-1 TOOL
 PLATFORM

COMPETITIVE TOOL COMPARISON TIME NEEDED TO MAKE HOLES



Competition

RE 6

75% FEWER TOOLS

The 3-in-1 nature of the RE 6 allows Soto's crews to use one tool to cut wire, crimp lugs and punch holes. How critical is this for Soto? Before the RE 6, four hand tools were needed to complete the same tasks for each cabinet Millennium builds. With 12 cables per cabinet (on average) and two ends to every wire, 24 cuts are needed with every job. His manual cutters not only consistently frayed these wires, but left his crews with repeated stress on their hands and wrists. In comparison, Soto says, "once the jaws on the RE 6 close, it cuts like butter. It is way faster, especially when using it multiple times in one sitting."

His team is also making as many as 70 hole punches per project. Previously, Soto's crews used a manual hydraulic punch driver. An immediate benefit of the RE 6 was how much faster the process went, going from manually pumping the punches to a quick, responsive battery-powered tool. They also didn't need to file some of the sharp edges created by their manual tool. Additionally, the RE 6 was compatible with the punch set Soto already had in his shop – meaning he got all of the benefits of a new tool, without having to purchase additional knockouts.

ONE TOOL PLATFORM

Since most of the work Millennium does happens inside their shop, Soto's crews often tag team to get the job done. This is where the time savings really come into play. "The fact that we can do three different processes with one tool instead of four is definitely attractive. I was cutting, another guy was crimping. We were able to share the tool; we just switched out the heads. We saved time with no hassle," says Soto.

Of course, with several electricians sharing one tool, it's important that it can take a beating and have a long battery life. "That [being battery-operated] was one of my concerns. There is nothing more annoying than when a battery goes dead in the middle of a job. But these batteries will last a whole shift, no problem," Soto says.

ZERO LEARNING CURVE

The search for a new crimper is what initially led Soto to the RE 6. After he watched a YouTube video on the product, he thought it was too good to be true. An in-person demo turned him into a true believer. "Our main focus was that we wanted a controlled-cycle crimp. So, no matter who was using it, we would get a consistent crimp," says Soto.

"It is so intuitive [to use] – there is no learning curve. We had some of our newer workers try it and they barely needed any instruction. This tool makes it possible for those who are less experienced to provide quality work."

FASTER, SMARTER, BETTER

Soto has already seen how the speed of the RE 6 has had an impact on Millennium's efficiency, but he knows the best is still to come. "It's something we are definitely going to depend on for the next few years. I am confident that we made the right decision, and that we will continue to see a return on our investment."



*Approximate punch time