

# RIDGID PIPE BEVELLER EARNS TOP GRADE AT WELDING SCHOOL

B-500 BEVELLER TESTIMONIAL

NAME: MICHAEL HALLAM  
TITLE: WELDING INSTRUCTOR  
COMPANY: VANCOUVER ISLAND  
UNIVERSITY



Student Hayley Hindle uses the RIDGID B-500 Beveler.

**\$10,000**

ANNUAL WELD GAS  
SAVINGS AT VIU

**33%**

QUICKER PIPE  
PREPARATION

Michael Hallam trains welders for jobs in oil fields, shipyards and construction sites in British Columbia, Canada, and he wants them learning on the best equipment.

That's why he bought a RIDGID® B-500 Transportable Pipe Beveler for his classroom at Vancouver Island University (VIU), where he heads the welding program with 230 students.

"It's a product I've been waiting for. It's cost-effective. It's a very nice quality and it does a really quality job. It's just a perfect product for what we need," said Hallam, who has been teaching at VIU since 2007. He is an Interprovincial Red Seal Journeyman Welder with a BC Level A Welder certification and holds certification in PWP 7, PWP 10 and PP101.

**"THE B-500 GIVES US PERFECT BEVELS AND LANDS, WHICH MAKES FOR BETTER WELDS."**

Hallam, who worked at welding and fabrication shops and pulp mills before joining VIU, said he had been looking for something better and faster than the flame bevelers the program had been using.

He saw the B-500 demonstrated at a trade show in Vancouver and asked the RIDGID sales rep for a demo at VIU in April 2015. He liked the way it performed side by side

against the flame bevelers and ordered a B-500 the next day.

"When we were using flame beveling, after all the grinding and filing, we'd have variations in thickness, which made it hard to get consistent root openings. The B-500 gives us perfect bevels and lands, which makes for better welds," he said. "We still have a couple of flame bevelers and no one uses them anymore. The students will wait in line to use the RIDGID beveler."

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The B-500 saves space, time and money while improving quality, he said. It reduces the prep time for a pipe from one hour to 20-25 minutes and produces better results than the flame bevelers. "That was a huge advantage to us. Our students are here to weld, not to spend hours on prep time," Hallam said.

"I think it was very well-designed," Hallam said. "It feels comfortable in your hand; it doesn't feel awkward or out of balance; the handle is the right length. It feels good for working in whatever position, horizontal or vertical."

But the RIDGID B-500 is not just a classroom star. Hallam said the tool would be ideal in a shop or in the field.

"I wish we had something like this in the industry [when I worked in it]. It would have been a huge advantage and a huge time savings," he said. "I think that the beveler is perfect for field jobs. You can attach it to the end of a 20-foot piece of pipe, you can put a perfect bevel on it with a perfect land every time. There's very little setup or cleanup."

The beveler has been tough enough to withstand heavy use, he said.

"Our students can be really tough on equipment. A lot of my budget is consumed by repairs from student abuse and this tool has stood up to everything," he said, adding that **he's only had to rotate the inserts once during nine months of heavy use.**

Hallam plans to buy two more B-500s for VIU's other campuses and has recommended it to instructors at other schools.

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