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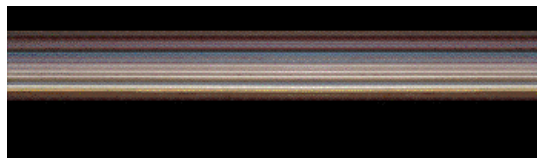
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10-07-2007, 06:02 PM

#13

dz1

Join Date: Feb 2007 Location: United States Posts: 38

Plasma retrofit done

finally got around to testing it out with the plasma cutter 😊

did not use a THC, just using the Z stepper to power the torch up and down. mounted the torch solid did not use the spring platform (although it might still need it)

I did buy a relay to turn teh torch on and off like the router spindle, but wanted to see if I could make a reliable mechanism to mechanically trip teh normal manual switch without having to cut wires inside the plasma cutter and void my warrenty. forgot the post but there is a guy on here who did it and said it worked flawlessly for him so i took a stab at it. took a couple designs to get it right, ended up using a steel post across the trigger with a pivot on one end and wired to a preloaded spring setup on the other.

turns out you really need a preloaded spring design (i think his was too but i missed it when i looked at it) for springs to get to the more solid point they usually have to compress a bit first, but you want the torch to turn on within

a very narrow margin so you dont have much room for wasted travel and compression, you could use a stiffer spring, but the whole point of the spring is to make sure you dont over stress the gun when moving the gun down into the trigger assembly. anyway ended up finding a good balance and gun triggers very reliably. on the hinge side (and i use that work loosely 😊 you will also see a guide bar to keep it in the orientation i want, not in the pict is another guide bar i added to capture the pivot plate so it could not slide down and get sloppy when the gun was all teh way up.

the sleeve the eyebolt goes through is just that a sleeve the preload on teh spring is variable and done by the nuts, so when the eyebolt does start to slide through the sleeve, it already has a fair amount of tension on it, the torch reliably activates within about .020" of set point

oghh and the clamp to hold the torch in place, hacked off the end of a c-clamp and welded in place. torch is aligned by fitting in between two closely fit bits of angle iron.

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10-28-2007, 07:39 AM

#14

[dz1](#)

Join Date: Feb 2007
Location: United States
Posts: 38

tore the machine down for winter storage , had it apart and packed up in about an hour and a half, not bad.

while it was down i figured i would clean up any loose ends left over from initial construction. I will be welding in sleeves for all holes going through the frame so the light tubing cant crush and maybe adding some c-channel to reinforce/ give a flat stable mount for the two lower cross braces.

i broke down and replaced the 13/64 direct drive ball screw on the X with a 3/4x8 x 4start lead screw. this changes it from .2" advance /rev to .5" advance/rev to get a 2.5x faster travel. looking at my old settings my x was limited to 30ipm, just bench tested it and was now stable at 80ipm which should now be better suited for the (main) plasma cutting portion of its design ended up costing 160 bucks for new stuff, not to bad..can still sell the old ballscrew on ebay i guess.

i love it when actual measurements line up with (or slightly surpass) theory 🍷

now i have to wait till spring to really test it out again boooooo



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