Hose Clamp Oil Levels

I use a regular automotive hose clamp on my oil sight glasses to show operators where the oil level should be. (The type that has three prongs that are expanded with pliers.) The clamp fits tightly to the glass tube tight which has no chance of movement. (Submitted by Bruce Montag. Thanks Bruce!)

Noria Lubrication Boot Camp starts August 16. More information.

Each tip published will earn the sender $100. Submit your tip.

Sponsor: Contamination Control Quiz Now Available

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Book Bits: How Multigrade Oils Work

From the "The Practical Handbook of Machinery Lubrication".

Multigrade oils are made by blending a low viscosity oil with special additives called viscosity index improvers. For example, when these polymer additives are blended in the correct proportion with an SAE 15W oil, the oil flows like an SAE 15W oil at low temperatures and like an SAE 40 oil at high temperatures. The result is an SAE 15W/40 oil that will provide wide protection over an extended temperature range.

More information about the book "The Practical Handbook of Machinery Lubrication"

Sponsor: Breather Tips from Des-Case® - Don't forget about pump protection!

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Message Boards: Experiences with Ultrasonic Grease Guns

Our Message Boards have had some lively conversation and hot topics lately. Recently, Pete from the Diablo Canyon Power Plant posted the following questions and has received some interesting feedback:

"Anybody have much experience with ultrasonic grease guns? At what frequencies do they detect bearing noise? Does frequency even play a part in

ultrasonic detection? Would it be better to purchase an ultrasonic grease gun or just an ultrasonic gun (more uses)?"

Q & A: Advice for Using Filtration Carts

"We frequently use filter carts as a part of our contamination control program. Do you have any information on how long we should filter the oil using this type of filtration?"

Off-line filtration is a powerful asset to the lubrication technician. Without interfering with the operation of the equipment, one can keep the oil clean with full time offline filtration, or the oil can be cleaned periodically with a portable rig, such as a filter cart.

When using a filter cart, the oil is taken from a dirty sump, filtered and returned to the dirty sump. So the cleanliness of the filtered oil is diluted, so to speak, by the dirty oil residing in the tank. To overcome the dilution effect, the tank volume must pass through the filter approximately seven times to achieve the equivalent of single-pass filtration (where the oil is pumped from one container to another through a filter).

For example, if you have a 30-gallon tank and a filter cart that pumps at 5 gpm, you need to run the cart for 42 minutes to equal single-pass filtration (30 gallons X 7, divided by 5 gpm). If you want to achieve two-pass filtration, you must engage the off-line filter for 82 minutes, or about an hour and a half.

Use this rule of thumb to manage scheduling activities where portable filtration is rotated from machine to machine within the plant.

Submit a question