

Welding

General

- You control slag deposition in 3 ways...travel speed, arc length, and angle of electrode. Experiment with all 3.
- 1.6mm: much flux in relation to metal in the rod, so you have a huge amount of slag and a small weld pool which makes it hard to maintain the arc length properly. 2.5mm are probably the best to learn on as there's a nice ratio of flux to metal in the rod, they burn down at a rate that's not too fast, and don't generate huge amounts of heat like 3.2 or 4.0mm rods do, meaning you don't need thick chunks of steel to practice on. 2.0mm are better than 1.6mm, but still more tricky

6013 do's & don't

- **Higher amp for T-joints** then for flat (2 surfaces). 6013's need to run real hot on an inside corner or you get slag inclusion.
- Work on clean metal. It's not a deep penetration rod and therefore does not burn through surface contaminants very well.
- In T-joint hold rod 30-35 degrees from horizontal plane, to make sure that enough is deposited on the vertical plane. Gravity will take care of horizontal plane
- Having a slag stringer in the start of a 6013 bead is very common. What you are seeing is the heavy flux on top of the weld pool, and not molten metal. Getting a slightly slower start to the weld bead will solve this problem. A little hesitation before moving the rod will give the puddle time to bridge between both surfaces and solve this problem.
- **Establish a weld pool at start:** Try pausing when you first strike up so that a puddle can form and slow the travel speed down a little for the first inch. Try doing a very small circular motion at the start. You can see when the pool has formed by the bright semi circular ring at the trailing edge of the arc,
- Arc length, electrode angle, current settings, welding speed, can all affect the formation of the pool,
- holding too long of an arc length, and it is difficult to manipulate the metal where to go. Put the rod right into the crack
- **1.6 rods are difficult to learn** 2mm aren't much better. 2.5 are the best place to start, you can get away with a lot, but picking up bad habits isn't easy, with 3.2mm rods you can just drag the end of the rod on the metal and it will weld, try that with a 2.5 and you will find problems. 1.6mm rods burn away faster than a sneeze and are hard to control.

Alternatives

- 6010
- 7018 (7016)

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