

To anyone considering the purchase of a Miura steam boiler,

We have been operating the same Miura LX-50 steam boiler in support of a manufacturing process since March of 1996. Its compact size, energy efficiency, rapid pressure build and ease of operation were a perfect fit for our highly variable process needs, and continue to be so today. Following Miura's simple directions, we feed the boiler with clean, soft water and as much condensate return as we are able to. We perform daily full blowdowns and automatic surface blow-offs to control solids buildup, follow the advice of a reputable water treatment group to control for corrosion and perform the routine water testing and boiler maintenance and inspection tasks outlined in the owner's manual. We also perform annual combustion tune-ups and tear-downs of the boiler for state-required internal inspection. Typically that annual inspection, from the start of tear down to the return to full steam takes less than three hours with only a couple people.

Early on, the boiler was subjected to heavy thermal cycling. Our manufacturing process was highly variable, so we would often start the boiler in the morning and turn it off at the end of the day, just to do the same thing the next day and the next day after that. We haven't been that abusive for a while, but I think the boiler handles thermal cycling better than the piping system does. We have had no problems with the pressure vessel, even passing a hydro test at 20 years of age just to be sure.

What issues have we had? When we first started using the boiler we would have pilot ignition problems on many cold, windy Minnesota winter days, but working with Miura technical service we were able to resize an air orifice and haven't had the problem since. We've replaced the ignition transformer a few times in the last 22 years and the surface blow-off conductivity control once. We replaced the fan motor at 11 years. We finally installed air intake filtration and replaced the original burner after heavily fouling it with drywall dust from a nearby remodeling project at 16 years. The burner control was just replaced last year to resolve some sporadic, nonspecific alarms, but, as I understand it, Miura has moved to a more robust burner control in the current models.

We converted from propane to natural gas several years ago without issue and are contemplating a switch from soft water to RO water to reduce our blowdown and blow-off frequencies. Our boiler does not have the low fire and monitoring options that the current model has, so we've even contemplated a controls upgrade. If we decide to upgrade or upsize, Miura would be my first choice.

Donavan Zammert
Maintenance and Engineering Manager
Epitopix

