

In Brief

Fasep V651 Wheel Balancer

Fasep has been designing and manufacturing wheel balancers for over 30 years and the latest product from the Italian company is the Videotronic V651.

The machine incorporates a tilting system with a pneumatic locking system, which allows horizontal mounting and centring of the wheel. The V651 includes the Fasep laser system for application of adhesive weights, already a feature on other models in the Fasep range. This allows weights to be positioned with ease and accuracy.



The Fasep Videotronic V651

The Videotronic V651 was featured on Fasep's stand at Automechanika, where it attracted a great deal of interest, says the company. *pg*

Unipart Consumables Catalogue

Unipart has unveiled its latest consumables catalogue to enable customers to replenish items easily on a regular basis from a single supply source. For the first time, it features the recently introduced portfolio of engine treatments, as well as the comprehensive range of Unipart bodyshop and workshop consumables, lubricants, hardware, antifreeze and brake fluid, also merchandising products.

The fully illustrated, colour catalogue comprises over 100 pages and is divided into sections covering the main product groupings and sub-groups with each category containing a 'Quick Part Number Reference Guide'.

The catalogue also includes advice on health and safety matters, oil spillage procedures and waste disposal for fluid products.

Unipart consumables are available, with no minimum order quantities, from local Partco Autoparts, Express Factor and Brown Brothers' branches. Catalogue copies are available from local distributors. *pg*

Robotic Identification Of Tyre Assemblies

The car assembly line is increasingly automated and one area where there has been a demand from industry for automation in wheel and tyre assembly. Cognex, a leading machine vision supplier, has developed two new high performance identification systems for sizing and selecting wheels and tyres for assembly prior to delivery to the point of mounting on the vehicle.

The TIS-8000 Tyre Identification System provides high accuracy, in-process verification and identification of tyres using specialised machine vision software for recognising tyre treads and sidewalls. Common applications include tracking and sorting tyres during manufacturing, verifying the correct tyre models prior to mounting on to wheels, and ensuring the correct sequence of tyres prior to shipping. The WIS-8000 Wheel Identification System automatically recognises wheel spoke patterns, wheel finish, and other features to ensure the presence of correct wheels. Common applications include identifying wheels prior to balancing to trigger proper balance routine, ensuring that the correct wheels are paired with the correct tyres for a particular vehicle.

"Tyre and wheel manufacturers and assemblers are constantly looking to automate part identification in order to minimise hand-

ling and assembly errors," said Justin Testa, Senior Vice President of Marketing for Cognex. "By identifying tyres and wheels with 99.99% accuracy, these new identification systems will enable companies to reliably authenticate wheel and tyre models from the time they are produced to the time they are assembled on to vehicles. This, in turn, will greatly improve production efficiencies while reducing costly production downtime and rework."

The TIS-8000 and WIS-8000 systems are able to offer exceptional ID accuracy and reliability by leveraging Cognex's revolutionary PatMax(R) geometric pattern matching technology. This technology, which has several patents pending, recognises specific part features - such as treads and spoke patterns - despite variations in part position, scale, or appearance. The systems are also very simple to use, featuring highly intuitive operator screens that make application setup and changeover as easy as pressing a button. Users can also easily store applications into memory and download them to other production lines where tyres and wheels need to be identified. With the constant improvement in computer technology, how long before such systems start to arrive at tyre wholesalers to streamline internal handling and dispatch work? *es*

Creepers Get Design Treatment

A revolutionary new auto mechanic's creeper from the USA is now available throughout the United Kingdom.

Called 'The Bone', because its uniquely shaped one-piece moulded body resembles a huge dog bone, the creeper's unusual shape allows large, specially designed 12.7 cm diameter wheels to be used and still cradles the user 2.5 cm to 7.6 cm closer to the ground than many conventional creepers. Most important to users, the large diameter wheels roll easily over cracked pavement, floor drains, grates and other obstacles that can stop an ordinary creeper dead in its tracks.

The rib-reinforced body is moulded of a state-of-the-art, engineering grade co-polymer to resist the effects of common solvents, so cleaning is quick and easy at the end of the job. The smooth, comfortable one-piece design has no cracks, corners or ot-

her pinch points, and the outboard wheel pods prevent tipping and flipping. The large diameter wheels make it work, and the patented body makes the large wheels possible!

The Bone is 119.4 cm long, 64.8 cm wide, has about 2.5 cm ground clearance and weighs in at about 10 kg. The wheels are warranted for the life of the creeper, and the body carries a limited one-year warranty. *es*



If it works as well as it looks...