

editor's note



WHEN MY MIDDLE CHILD'S BOY SCOUT TROOP PARTICIPATED RECENTLY IN A SKILLS COMPETITION, I WAS AT A LOSS ON HOW TO HELP JOSHUA PREPARE.

Yes, I could quiz him on the animal track identification guide. And I could review the plant identification guide with him. But when it came to tying knots, I was completely useless.

Fortunately, YouTube came to my rescue. If you search for “7 knots every scout should know” you’ll find a plethora of useful videos that patiently demonstrate these basic techniques. And let me assure you, my computer is a lot more patient than I ever would be.

I got to thinking about YouTube the other day when I was talking with my friend Chris Curven from Applied Bolting Technology. We were talking about NASCC: The Steel Conference (www.aisc.org/nascc) and various learning opportunities when I mentioned how much I enjoyed some of their YouTube videos (search for Applied Bolting and you’ll find a whole set of them). While some of Applied Bolting Technology’s videos are completely product oriented, others are more general. My favorite? Their video on “Torque isn’t Tension.” It’s a fabulous explanation of the difference in just over five minutes. It explains what torque and tension is and then gives a visual explanation of how to measure it, why it’s important to understand the difference, and how it applies to the real world. The video is straight and to the point. It’s the type of information every engineer, fabricator and detailer needs. (And if you enjoy the video, stop by their booth at this year’s NASCC: The Steel Conference and ask for a live demonstration. The video’s great; but nothing replaces a face-to-face conversation.)

Of course, Applied Bolting Technology isn’t the only company in our industry with a presence on YouTube. AISC offers a look at SteelDay footage at “SteelDayTV” on YouTube, MSC has posted some videos of blast

tests (seriously cool stuff—search for “Blast Test of W14x233 Column”), and you can find bridge information on the NSBASteelBridges channel. Several universities offer information on the Student Steel Bridge Competition, Peddinghaus offers “Peddi-TV” (you can even find footage shot at last year’s Steel Conference), and Tekla has an incredible variety of videos on detailing and structural issues.

If you search for “structural steel” you’ll find videos ranging from “How to pass the AWS 3G structural stick welding test” to demonstrations of the PythonX Robot Plasma system from making bolt holes and bevel cuts to demonstrations of bending from Albina Pipe. You can see columns being painted and galvanized. You’ll find videos from AutoDesk and Bentley, from detailing and structural engineering firms, and just about anything else you might want (and at a price you can’t beat—YouTube is free!).

If you have any questions beyond what you see on the videos, I recommend traveling to Dallas in April for NASCC: The Steel Conference (www.aisc.org/nascc). In addition to the more than 100 technical sessions, there’ll be nearly 200 exhibitors demonstrating the latest products. (Though if you have any questions about tying knots, I’d suggest you talk to a Boy Scout.)

See you in Dallas!

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