

Improved aircraft wheel inspection with the Hocking WheelScan Mk IV

Aircraft wheel inspection has traditionally been time-consuming and difficult, with the only opportunity to inspect them existing during wheel refurbishment and tyre change. Failure to detect flaws early could end with disastrous results. To detect microscopic flaws in a cost-effective manner, reliable inspections have to take place at speeds the productivity of the wheelshop demands. Manual inspection does not offer the combination of speed and accuracy needed, only automatic equipment is able to carry out comprehensive inspections of large components at high speed. Hocking eddy current inspection enables you to reliably detect cracks on and below the wheel surface that may be invisible to the naked eye or other non-destructive testing techniques.

The new Hocking WheelScan Mk IV is a high performance, fully automated aircraft wheel inspection machine designed to detect cracks and corrosion in wheel half hubs. Compared to manual eddy current wheel inspection, WheelScan Mk IV will reduce testing time to approximately two minutes per hub, improve inspection accuracy, and permanently document the location and size of the indications. The full process of wheel inspection, from instrument calibration, through testing to verification check, is fully automated. WheelScan Mk IV will test all sizes of wheel hubs without the need for paint stripping. WheelScan Mk IV is a rugged machine designed to meet the needs of a busy wheelshop. It can be used to inspect up to 100 half hubs per day and is capable of lifting wheels weighing up to 200kg (440lbs), so whatever your inspection load it will cope.

Operation of the WheelScan Mk IV is mainly automatic, making it simple to use, even for an operator without previous eddy current training or experience. The front control panel on the machine features easy to read digital displays on all set-up controls and it can display measurements in either metric or imperial formats.

Overall the new WheelScan Mk IV takes aircraft wheel inspection a step forward. It offers airlines and maintenance centres simple, automated inspection of most wheel half-hubs whilst providing reliable results from 100% guaranteed coverage of the defined inspection area.

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