

LEAN LINE



Square Peg in A Round Hole

Grunau Metals developed a simple and innovative approach for fabricating I-beams that require several rotations to complete a weld. They placed the beam into scrap pieces of large diameter pipe; these rings were placed on both ends of the beam and then placed on simple roller stands. This process eliminated the requirement to use a crane to flip and rotate the heavy I-beam.

In doing so, the Metals Shop will save 20 minutes of labor on each I-Beam fabrication. Removing the crane from this procedure reduces set-up time since the number of riggings is reduced and it increases safety while the crane is freed up for other operations. At the time this process was invented, the Metals Shop was working on a specific project where 60 I-beams still needed to be fabricated so the project realized 20 hours of labor savings. Plans are already in place to adapt this process for other sizes of I-beams.

Lean Mission: To continually examine our processes to provide greater value to our customers without waste.

