

Testimonial for Comco, Inc.

"When I first arrived at the San Diego Natural History Museum in the Fall of 1978 the Department of Paleontology had in use a Comco MB-100 microblaster. At that time the blaster was only occasionally being used to remove sedimentary matrix from invertebrate fossils, primarily the mineralized shells of clams and snails. Initially attached to a small work station without a dust collector, the microblaster was not being utilized to its full potential. A year later we had built a larger work station, purchased a Torit dust collector, and started using the MB-100 in the preparation of vertebrate fossils, typically mineralized whale and dolphin bones. For larger specimens like baleen whale jaw bones and skulls, we hauled the microblaster up to the Museum's roof and cleaned fossil specimens in the open air with only a large electric fan to keep the work area free of abrasive powder. For the next 15+ years staff members and volunteers in our department used the MB-100 to prepare hundreds of fossils including some specimens representing species new to science. During this period the microblaster was a mainstay in our fossil preparation laboratory, with only minor periods of downtime to replace solenoids, tubing, O-rings, and reservoir orifices. In the late 1990s we purchased a new Comco MB-1000 microblaster and retired our trusty 1970s vintage model, although we occasionally brought the MB-100 out of retirement when an additional workstation was need. The MB-1000 microblaster served us well until just this year when we replaced it with the new generation Comco AF10-1 AccuFlo machine. The AF10-1 is an amazing machine and we have constructed a new 24"x44"x78" workstation for it so we can work on very large whale fossils indoors. I should add that at the San Diego Natural History Museum, old Comco microblasters don't die, they just go into semi-retirement for occasional use when the current Comco workhorse is tied up and our fossil preparation laboratory is so full of workers that another microblaster work station is needed."

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Date