

This would be great for spare parts business, but expensive for the machine owner, so Mr. Fawick decided to make the shoes replaceable for both the expanding and constricting type clutches. After many unsuccessful tries at various fastening methods, the present shoepin and lockwire arrangement was decided upon as being best. (slides of EB & CB showing shoe)

As mentioned earlier, the use of Airflex Clutches on oil drilling equipment started very early in the development. Engineering layouts were made for engine clutch applications in early 1939 and for pumps and engine compounding in early 1940.

In the fall of 1941, the Oilwell Supply Company of Oil City, Pennsylvania, successfully installed two (2) 26 x 6-1/2 constricting elements as master clutches on their No. 64 drawworks to transmit 400 HP at 400 RPM.

Late in 1943, the Unit Rig and Equipment Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma, applied their first 16 x 5-1/2 constricting units as engine clutches on a medium sized rig. At about the same time, a 36 x 6 constricting unit was used by the International Hoist and Derrick Company of Beaumont, Texas, as the hoist clutch on their newly designed M10,000 rig.

The Houston and Los Angeles Divisions of Emsco Derrick and Equipment Company began using Airflex in early 1944, followed closely by the Torrance California Division of Ideco in 1945 and National Supply Company in 1946.

The success of these early units led to the adoption by all major rig manufacturers of Airflex as standard equipment for the pump drive, engine compounding, master clutch, high and low drum clutches, rotary as well as, for the inertia brake.

Through the years, the Airflex Clutch construction has evolved to its present, sophisticated state. The units are manufactured at the Airflex Plant of Eaton Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio. (slide of aerial view & front entrance - insert slide 13 & 14 Group I)