

## New deal on welding gases ...

Words: Peter Ferguson, Eastern Victoria Chapter

*While I had my own business, I was always able to justify having an oxy set and later, a MIG and TIG welder in my home workshop – made doing “odd jobs” and building stuff really easy (only THEN I could not find the time to use it!)*

Now I’m retired, I can find the time, but the cost of bottle hire became so prohibitive that a few years back I sent back the bottles. I started using gasless wire in the MIG, and keep looking at my TIG welder wishing I could use it ... but it *NEEDS* gas!

I started seeing ads about where you could purchase bottles outright, at about \$450 per bottle plus refill and, although this is expensive, had resolved to myself I’d pay the one-time cost and at least have the convenience of being able to do jobs when I needed to.

I was about to take the plunge when I saw at Bunnings (*of all places!*) that they are supplying gas in another form: you pay a one-time *deposit* (which is refundable on return of the bottles) and then you pay for the re-filling in a changeover bottle, similar to BBQ gas. *Brilliant!*

The deposit on each bottle is \$200 – not cheap but you get it back as it’s only a deposit.

Re-fills on the bottles are also not cheap – \$99 for acetylene and welding gases and \$69 for oxy.

However, as there is no ongoing rent on the bottles, I’m happy to pay a premium price for the convenience of having the gear when I need it.

**If you are in the same situation, nip down to Bunnings and get yourself organised. There MAY also be some other suppliers doing the same (deposit) deal. ●**



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