

Cutting Concrete Column with Plunge Saw 1991 NOVA Award Nomination 15

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A project for Rockwell International required that a section of each first floor column of an eight story concrete structure be completely removed and replaced with a base isolator. While concrete cutting and demolition are common place, this job required a unique method of cutting that exceeded current cutting techniques. The horizontal cuts in the column had to be smooth so that the cut section could slide out easily. The jacking frame was only inches away from the column, and lubrication water was to be held to a minimum. Craftsman Concrete Cutting imported a plunge saw which needed a specially designed mounting so that it could be used in the horizontal direction. A 10 inch hole was drilled through the column and a saw blade with a hydraulic motor above it was passed through this hole. Successively larger blades were attached to the motor to cut the column from the inside out. Only 30 to 40 gallons of water was needed for each column, and this water was confined and collected by a thick plexiglass shield.

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