



American Welding Society®  
DETROIT SECTION



## APRIL 2026 Inside This Issue

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Check out the latest videos published by the American Welding Society on its YouTube page.

AWS Technical Nights are open to everyone! We encourage that members bring students and non-members to learn more about our organization and industry.



## AWS-Detroit Technical Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2026 • 6 to 8pm  
TRUMPF Inc. Laser Technology Center  
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CLICK LINK TO R.S.V.P.:  
<https://www.eventsquid.com/event/31377>

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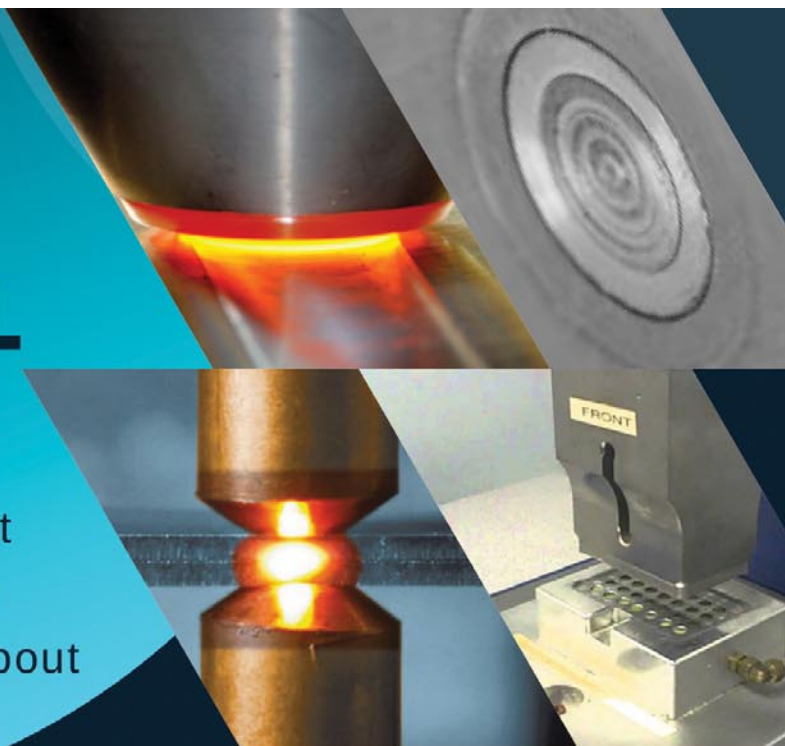
- Intro from a TRUMPF Inc. Executive Member
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- Networking



**MILESTONE SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTATION** (See page 7)

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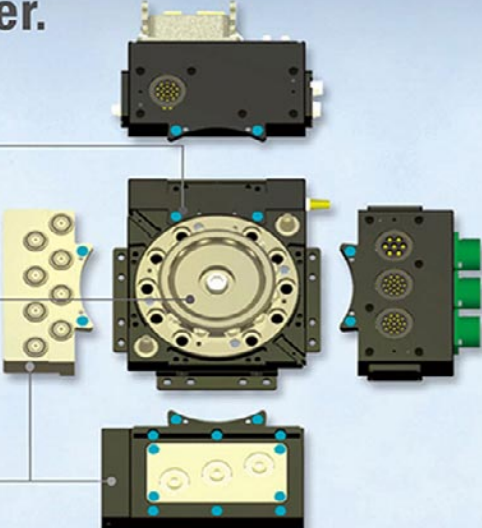
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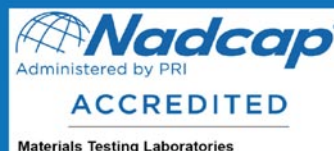


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# CWI ROUNDTABLE

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Saturday  
April 18th,  
2026

9:00am - 11:00am

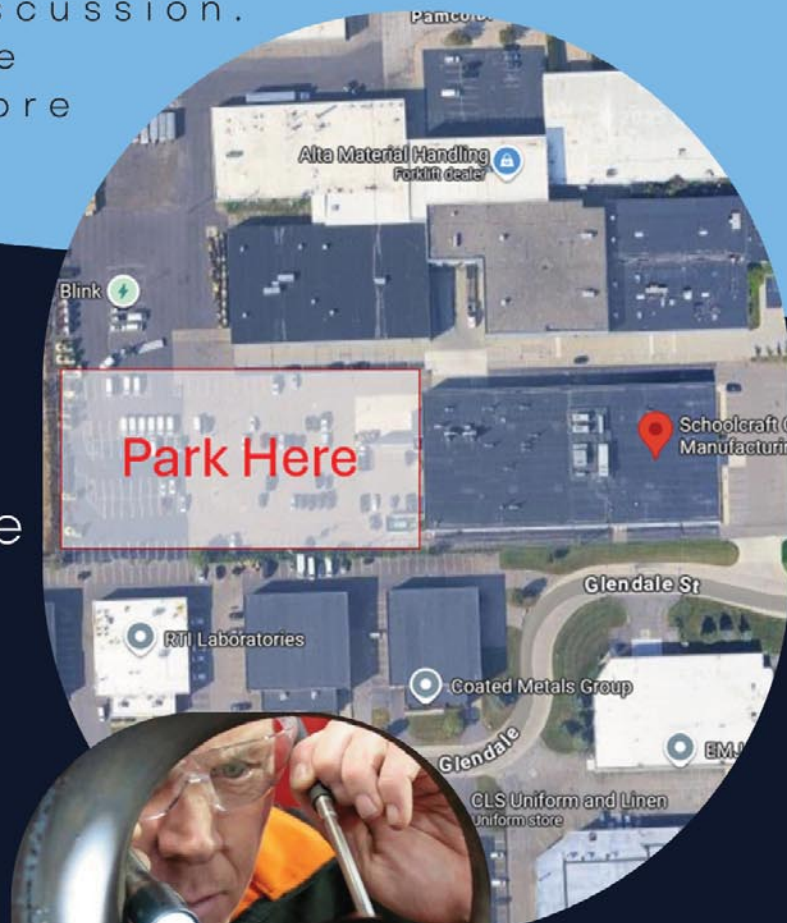
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- 9 to 9:30 - Coffee, Donuts,  
and Networking (oh my!)
- 9:30 to 11 - Discussion

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Chairman's Message  
**Donnie Crist**

## Hello AWS Members and Friends,

As we move into the spring season, it is impressive to see the continued engagement and steady momentum across the AWS Detroit Section. The first quarter of 2026 has reflected a strong balance of technical learning and meaningful connection, reinforcing the value our section brings to both industry professionals and the next generation entering the field.

On March 7th, we hosted our annual Ladies' Night Gala at the Henry Ford Museum. This event once again proved to be a highlight of the year, bringing together members and guests for an evening of networking and celebration in a truly unique setting. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to George Meeker and the entire Ladies' Night Committee for their time, effort, and

attention to detail in making this event such a success. By all accounts, it was a great evening enjoyed by many.

Looking ahead through April, there are several excellent opportunities to stay engaged and involved. On **Thursday, April 9th, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**, we will host our monthly Technical Meeting at **TRUMPF Inc.'s Laser Technology Center**. This promises to be a valuable session, and I encourage everyone to review the details in this edition of the e-Bulletin and register as soon as possible.

In addition, abstract submissions for the Sheet Metal Welding Conference XXI are **due April 30, 2026**. The conference will take place **November 3-5, 2026**, and additional information can be found in the bulletin. This is an excellent opportunity to contribute technical knowledge and showcase advancements within our industry.

We will also host a **CWI Roundtable on April 18th from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Schoolcraft College MEC Building**. This event provides a valuable forum to connect with peers, share insights, discuss challenges, and explore new ideas within the welding community. A map and full event details are included in this month's e-Bulletin. Thank you for your continued involvement and support of the AWS Detroit Section. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming events this month.

Warm regards,  
Donnie Crist

## Our Mission

is to advance the science, technology and application of welding and allied joining and cutting processes worldwide, including brazing, soldering and thermal spraying. AWS Detroit provides support for the industry in many ways, including:

- » Institutional Grants (endowment based);
- » Scholarships through Application (endowment based);
- » Scholarships through aptitude (HSWC);
- » Vocational Support (case by case but budgeted each year), Institution (e.g. supply gas and materials), Local Contest (e.g. travel expense), International Contest (e.g. travel expense);
- » Student Memberships (evaluated each year);
- » Student Chapter (evaluated each year);
- » Technical and Educational Opportunities.

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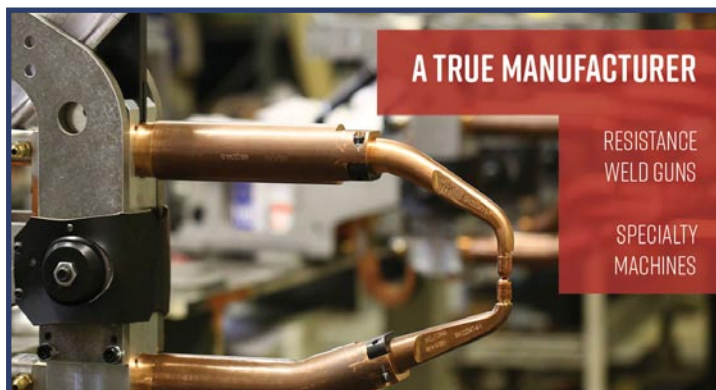


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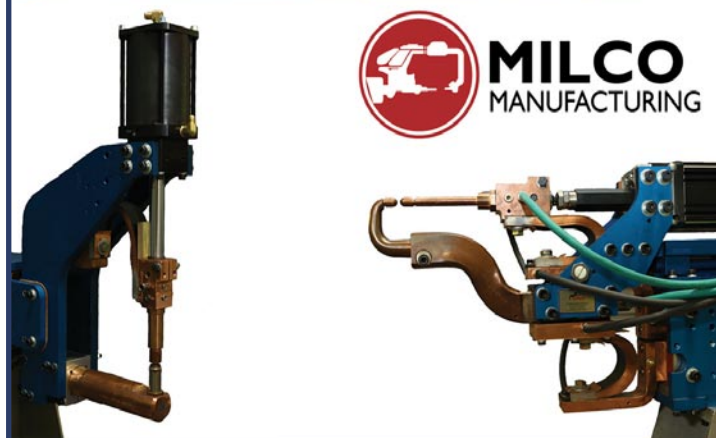
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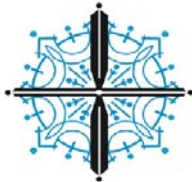
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## Twenty-three AWS-Detroit Section Members Receive a Milestone Service Award

By Dr. Mark D. Gugel, AWS-Detroit Service Awards Coordinator

The members of the AWS Detroit Section would like to extend our **heartfelt appreciation** to all of the following members for their dedicated service as Welders, Certified Welding Inspectors, Welding Instructors, Welding Engineers, Welding Sales, AWS Standards Committee Members, AWS-Detroit Section Leadership, AWS-District 11 Leadership, or AWS National Leadership. Without dedicated members like these, our Society could not advance the science, technology, and application of welding and allied joining and cutting processes worldwide, including brazing, soldering, and thermal spraying.

### GOLD AWARD

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Warren Peterson\*

### SILVER AWARD

#### 25-YEAR

Matthew J. Rogers  
Scott Strawn

*\*These awardees have asked to receive their award at the AWS-Detroit Section Technical Meeting on Thursday, April 9*

*\*\*These awardees have received their awards (either in person or at the AWS-Detroit Section Ladies' Night Gala)*

*All others will receive their awards either at FabTech in Las Vegas or in the mail*

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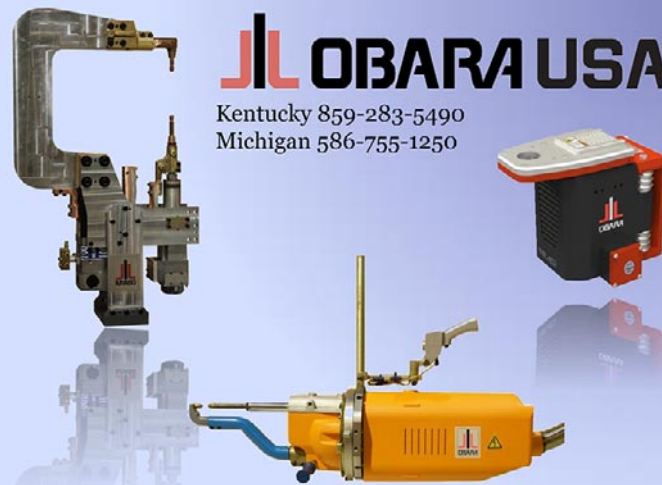
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# Beyond The Process: Square Groove Weld

By Jason Nicholson

## PART 1: DEFINING THE SQUARE GROOVE

Have you ever seen a welding symbol with just two lines coming from down from the reference line? That is a Square Groove Welding Symbol<sup>1</sup>. For a refresher, check out Figure 1.

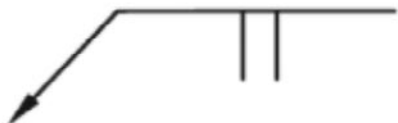


Figure-1: Square Groove Welding Symbol

## WHAT IS A SQUARE GROOVE WELD?

According to AWS A3.0: Standard Welding Terms and Definitions, the square groove is “a weld groove formed by the combination of butting workpiece having a square edge shape and a planar surface of a companion member.”<sup>2</sup>

In the simplest terms, a square groove weld is when two pieces of metal have their edges put together, and you weld all the way through the joint.

The most economical square groove welds are welded from one side, with as little gap as possible, and minimal edge prep depending on process.

## BUT WHAT DOES A SQUARE GROOVE WELD LOOK LIKE?

(See Figure 2)

The square groove looks simple but can be rather difficult. Processes that have very high deposition and penetration are usually best for this, such as Submerged Arc Welding (SAW) and Hybrid-Laser Arc Welding (HLAW) or Friction Stir Welding (FSW). Electron Beam Welding (EBW) can also be a good choice depending on the application. I'm sure there are other processes well suited for this joint.

Traditional welding such as Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW), Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW), and Flux-Cored Arc Welding (FCAW) typically aren't the best for square grooves. These process usually don't penetrate through the full thickness of the joint unless the base metal is 1/16" thick or less. If they do, there's a good change excessive melt-

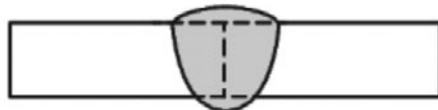


Figure-2: Square Groove Weld

through and distortion is there, too. Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW) is probably the best with the square groove on thinner material because it can get excellent penetration while minimizing distortion in the hands of a skilled welder.

This symbol is rarely applied to its actual purpose in businesses that do not have a strong culture of welding, and I'll discuss some potential root causes Part 2.

<sup>1</sup>AWS A2.4: Standard Symbols for Welding, Brazing, and Non-Destructive Examination (2020), Section 7.2.2, Pg. 30

<sup>2</sup>AWS A3.0: Standard Welding Terms and Definitions (2025), Clause 4, Pg. 62 and Figure B8, Pg. 101.

JASON NICHOLSON is a Welding Engineer for General Dynamics Land Systems. He has worked in a variety of industries and has worked across the world from Massachusetts to Japan in a variety of roles and responsibilities.  
[Nicholsonjason4955@gmail.com](mailto:Nicholsonjason4955@gmail.com)

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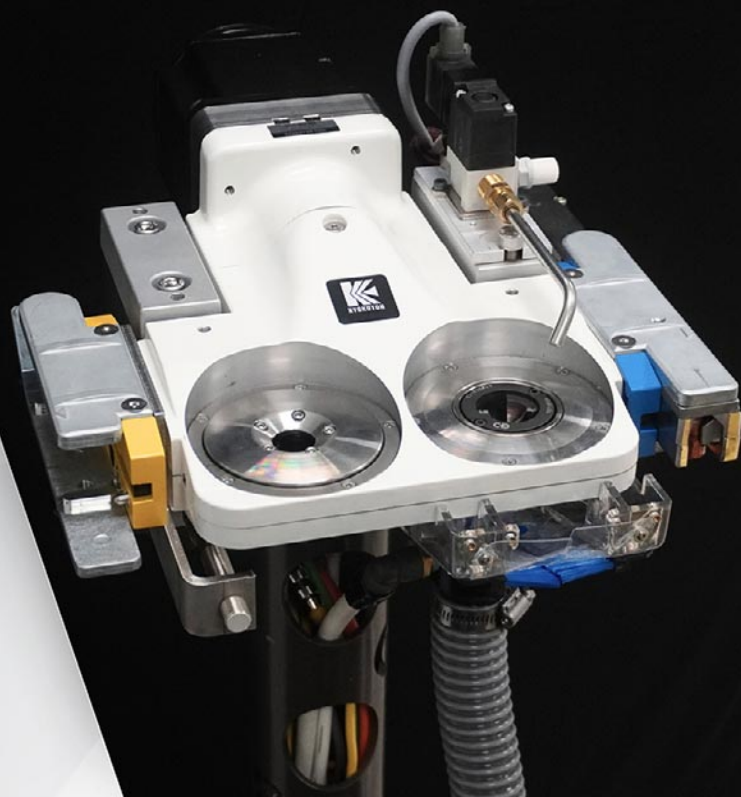


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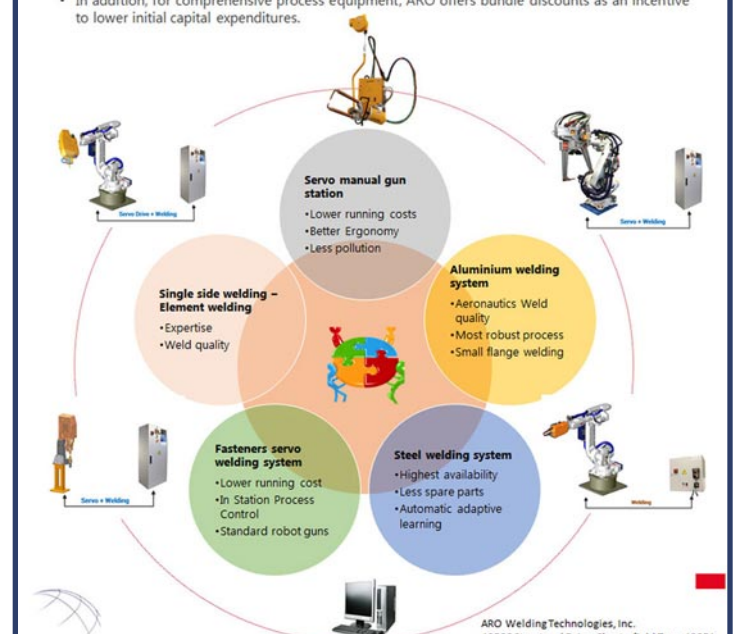
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