How to Compute Tip Force of a Rocker Arm Spot Welder

Example Data

PSI of the compressed air in the cylinder:

Diameter of the cylinder:

D1 (Pivot point to the cylinder)

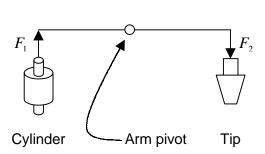
D2 (distance from the tip to the pivot point also known as the Throat Depth)

30 lb/in²

4 inches

10 inches

20 inches



Step 1 – Compute the force exerted by the cylinder.

Need to Know:

Formulas:
$$Area = \pi \left(\frac{D}{2}\right)^{2} \qquad F_{1} = (PSI) \times (Area)$$

$$Area = 3.14 \left(\frac{4}{2}\right)^{2} \qquad F_{1} = \left(30 \frac{lb}{in^{2}}\right) \times \left(12.56 in^{2}\right)$$

$$= 12.56 in^{2} \qquad = 376.8 lbs_{f}$$

Step 2 – Compute the sum of the moments around the pivot point to calculate the force at the $tip(F_2)$.

Formula:
$$F_1D_1 = F_2D_2$$

Solve for
$$F_2$$
: $F_2 = \frac{F_1 D_1}{D_2}$

Plug in Numbers:
$$F_2 = \frac{(376.8lb_f)(10in)}{20in} = 188.4lbs$$

The answer 188.4 lbs. assumes the force applied at the tip to be a point force (not spread over a wide tip).



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