

The B80 Story – August 2008

This drill had performed well since 1980, albeit with many modifications over this time. The original drill left its USA factory with a 10 foot mast. This mast had been extended to 20 foot and the hydraulic power doubled during its first transformation upon its arrival in Australia. These modifications had converted what was a very basic drill into a very versatile one, which could be used in a variety of different configurations, eg. As an air rotary, mud rotary, diamond tool and cable tool.

The B80 was mounted to an International S-Line with a power divider to drive the drill. A deck mounted 850/150 GM powered compressor was added.

The drill was long overdue for a major rebuild by the time it came to Texco Drilling Ltd. In late 2004 the decision was made to move forward with this plan. A new truck and deck engine were purchased mid 2005. By mid 2006 the basic configuration was decided upon - A short compact drill that could be used on confined job sites, with many drilling systems. In August 2007 the drill was withdrawn from service and the rebuild began.

Before:



Once the drill was stripped down it was found most of the main components were beyond repair. What started as a refurbish soon became a ground up rebuild. Thanks to the efforts of a diligent and skilled group of staff and subcontractors, nine months of hard work culminated in the creation of a very versatile machine.



Dismantling the original unit.



Seaview Engineering provided the purpose built deck on the Nissan 380 carrier.



Refurbishing and refitting of the mast and drivehead in the Texco workshop.



The Operator's station takes shape.



Running hydraulic lines so they remain 'captured' whatever the drill head position.



Swinging operator station moves controls away from compressed air dischargers.



Finishing touches prior to roll out.



Ready for the first job.



All the work was done at the workshops of Martin Hydraulics and Texco Ltd. Many thanks to Martin Hydraulics for their understanding of what we were trying to achieve. All the complex hydraulic issues were solved in a practical manner.

Credit also to all the Texco staff involved in the creation of a modern, versatile, drilling tool.



Since the “new” B80 began work in May 2008, its versatility and compactness has kept it in high demand. Some of the most interesting work it has been involved with includes:

Site	Job Description	Drilling System Used
Jacksons, West Coast	18m, 160mm test drill	Tubex 140 Geotech
Salisbury St, Christchurch	20m, 168mm hole into sand silt and gravels	Cable Tool Geotech
New Brighton, Christchurch	70 x 12m, 168mm holes, into sand	Air Rotary (drag bit) Geotech
Milton	HQ Triple Tube, 5 x 200metre	Mineral investigation
Bunnings, Dunedin	Rotary wash, 6 x 10metre.	Environmental monitoring
Kaikoura	200mm Tubex 190, 2 x 135 metre	Waterwells
Christchurch Engine Centre	15 x 8m Tubex 115 and threaded casing	Anchors
Canterbury University, Christchurch	4 x 15m at 45degrees, Tubex 140	Ground permeability