



GULLCO Expands Ceramic Weld Backing Product Range Across Sizes and Configurations

September 21, 2026

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GULLCO International, Inc., a manufacturer of welding and cutting automation equipment, has highlighted its KATBAK ceramic weld backing product line, offering fabricators a range of profiles, sizes, and configurations engineered to support single-sided welding across a variety of industrial applications. The company confirmed that the line spans backing sizes from 1/4 inch to 2 inches, with special sizes and configurations available on request.

Ceramic weld backing is used to support the molten weld pool during the root pass of a joint, allowing welders to complete a weld from one side while producing a consistent back bead on the underside. GULLCO positions its KATBAK product line as a solution for operations seeking X-ray quality back beads on the root pass without access to the reverse side of the workpiece.

The KATBAK line is designed to allow welders to deposit more weld metal and to complete the root weld and fill in a single pass. According to the company, this approach helps fabricators reduce weld defects and the rework that often follows, while limiting the need for costly gouging and grinding operations that add labor and time to a project.

"Ceramic weld backing continues to play an important role in how fabricators approach single-sided welding, and the breadth of the KATBAK range reflects the variety of joints our customers encounter," said Jeff Zook, Director at GULLCO International. "By offering these products across a wide span of sizes and configurations, the goal is to give welders the flexibility to match the backing to the application rather than force the application to fit a limited set of options."

Each KATBAK profile is paired with a pressure-sensitive foil that adheres the backing to the underside of the joint. GULLCO notes that the foil is wider and heat receptive, a design intended to improve adhesion to the workpiece and hold the backing in position during the weld. The consistency of that placement is a factor in the quality of the resulting back bead.

The product line includes a broad catalog of profiles identified by individual part numbers, covering flat backings, radiused shapes, and specialized geometries suited to different joint designs. This variety allows the backing to be selected according to root opening, material thickness, and the profile of the desired back bead. Fabricators working with differing plate thicknesses and joint types can therefore standardize on a single supplier across multiple applications.

GULLCO manufactures and distributes the ceramic backing directly, and the company states that customers who do not find a needed profile within the standard catalog can contact GULLCO or an authorized GULLCO distributor to discuss specific requirements. This arrangement supports custom geometries for applications that fall outside standard configurations.

Moisture control is a consideration for consumable welding materials, and the KATBAK products are conveniently packaged and sealed in plastic for moisture-proof protection. Keeping the backing dry until the point of use helps preserve the integrity of the ceramic and the adhesive foil, both of which contribute to reliable performance at the joint.

Ceramic weld backing is applied across industries that GULLCO serves, including shipbuilding, tank welding, infrastructure, military fabrication, oil and gas, and power generation. In these sectors, single-sided welding with a supporting backing can reduce the handling and repositioning of large or heavy assemblies, where turning a workpiece to weld the second side is impractical or expensive.

The emphasis on reducing gouging, grinding, and rework reflects a broader focus within the fabrication industry on weld quality and productivity. When a root pass is supported by a properly selected ceramic backing, the resulting weld is more likely to meet inspection requirements on the first attempt, which reduces downstream inspection failures and the associated repair cycles.

GULLCO International has manufactured welding and cutting automation equipment for the industrial fabrication market for decades, with operations in the United States and Canada. The company's product portfolio includes welding and cutting automation carriages, portable plate beveling machines, welding electrode stabilizing ovens, and the KATBAK ceramic weld backing line, alongside a range of related accessories.

Additional information about the KATBAK ceramic weld backing line, including the full catalog of available profiles and sizes, is available at www.gulco.com. Fabricators seeking guidance on selecting a backing for a specific application can contact GULLCO or a local GULLCO distributor for further details.

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Gulco International

Gulco International is a leading manufacturer and world supplier of welding automation, with over 70 years in business, available in 80 countries worldwide.

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