

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A pad conditioner head cleaning tool, comprising:
 - 5 a first clamp configured to removably engage a first portion of a sponge against an outer surface of a disk-shaped pad conditioner head at a first location;
 - a second clamp configured to removably engage a second portion of the sponge against the outer surface of the disk-shaped pad conditioner head at a second location; and
 - 10 an arm coupling the first clamp to the second clamp, wherein the arm is sufficiently flexible to permit the first clamp and the second clamp to be separated to fit around the disk-shaped pad conditioner head and sufficiently tensile to bias the first clamp and the second clamp inwardly to press the sponge against an outer surface of a pad conditioner head.
- 15 2. The tool of claim 1, wherein the arm is arcuate.
3. The tool of claim 1, wherein the first clamp and the second clamp are arcuate.
- 20 4. The tool of claim 3, wherein a center of arc of the first clamp and the second clamp is a center of the conditioner head when the pad conditioner head cleaning tool is secured to the pad conditioner head.
5. The tool of claim 1, wherein the first clamp is a unitary piece and the
25 second clamp is a unitary piece.
6. The tool of claim 5, wherein the each of the first clamp and the second clamp have an upper flange and a lower flange configured to accommodate the conditioner head.
- 30 7. The tool of claim 5, wherein a portion of the outside surface of each of the first clamp and the second clamps is recessed.

8. The tool of claim 1, wherein the first clamp, the second clamp, and the arm are a unitary arcuate body with a gap between the first clamp and the second clamp, the gap configured to receive the sponge.

5 9. The tool of claim 1, further comprising a sponge.

10. The tool of claim 9, wherein the sponge is a dry sponge.

11. The tool of claim 9, wherein the sponge is a wet sponge.

10

12. The tool of claim 9, wherein the sponge is disk-shaped.

13. A pad conditioner head cleaning method comprising:
installing a sponge in a gap in a pad conditioner head cleaning tool, the pad
15 conditioner head cleaning tool comprising:

a first clamp configured to removably engage a first portion of a sponge against an outer surface of a disk-shaped pad conditioner head at a first location;

a second clamp configured to removable engage a second portion of the sponge against the outer surface of the disk-shaped pad conditioner head at a second
20 location; and

an arm coupling the first clamp to the second clamp, wherein the arm is sufficiently flexible to permit the first clamp and the second clamp to be separated to fit around the disk-shaped pad conditioner head and sufficiently tensile to bias the first clamp and the second clamp inwardly to press the sponge against an outer surface of a
25 pad conditioner head;

urging the sponge into contact with the pad conditioner head; and
scraping the pad conditioner head with the sponge.

30

14. The method of claim 13, wherein installing the sponge in the gap in the pad conditioner head cleaning tool further comprises:

extending the first clamp to move the sponge into the gap;

disposing a first portion of the sponge into the gap and inside the first clamp;

5 releasing the first clamp to hold the first portion of the sponge;

extending the second clamp to move the sponge into the gap;

disposing a second portion of the sponge into the gap and inside the second clamp;

and

releasing the second clamp to hold the second portion of the sponge.

10

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising removing the pad conditioner head cleaning tool from pad conditioner head.

16. A method of cleaning a conditioner head, comprising:

15 bringing two clamping arms of a cleaning tool inward toward a disk-shaped pad conditioner head to press a sponge against an outer surface of the disk-shaped pad conditioner head; and

creating relative motion between the cleaning tool and the pad conditioner head to wipe the sponge against the pad conditioner head.

20

17. The method of claim 16, wherein creating relative motion comprises rotating the pad conditioner head.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein creating relative motion comprises
25 rotating the pad conditioner head tool in alternating directions with a clockwise-anticlockwise motion.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the sponge is a dry sponge.

30

20. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

moistening the sponge with a cleaning solution to provide a wet sponge; and

wiping the pad conditioner head with the wet sponge.