

powercoil®



Manufactured from high quality chromium nickel stainless steel, PowerCoil Wire Thread Inserts provide high strength internal threads that resist the effects of temperature and corrosion. Their unique design ensures superior threads whose compound performance cannot be reproduced by any other single fastening method. Available in two basic forms, free running or screw locking, they are much lighter and less expensive than any other equivalent type of thread insert and because of their compact size they can generally be incorporated into existing designs where no previous provision has been made.

Free Running

Produced from precision profiled austenitic stainless steel wire wound into a helical spiral, PowerCoil free running inserts have a spring like appearance. When installed, using any one of a variety of manual or automatic tools, they provide strong permanent internal threads which resist heat and corrosion. Once fitted, their position is maintained by the action of radial pressure between their coils and the flanks of the tapped hole. This pressure exists because their free diameter is larger by a calculated amount, than their installed diameter.

Screw Locking

Screw locking (or prevailing torque) inserts are of particular value in applications subject to the effects of cyclic vibration or impact. In addition to the benefits afforded by free running inserts, PowerCoil screw locking inserts offer the additional security of prevailing locking torque. This is achieved by the action of one or more polygonal grip coils positioned within the inserts length, which exert radial pressure on the male thread. Each grip coil consists of a number of tangential locking chords which protrude inside the minor diameter of the normal free running coils. As the male thread passes through these grip coils, the locking flats are displaced thus exerting radial pressure or prevailing torque on the male thread. On removal of the male thread, the locking coils relax to their original form permitting repeated assembly whilst retaining a measurable level of prevailing torque.

Note It is recommended that only close fit plated or lubricated bolts or screws are used with screw locking inserts.

Features & Benefits

For many years, helically coiled wire thread inserts have been vastly underestimated. The popular misconception that they were designed for the repair of damaged threads has given this unique fastener a false image.

They are much lighter and less expensive than any other equivalent type of thread insert and because of their compact size, can generally be introduced into existing designs where no previous provision has been made. Unlike many other economic measures, their introduction increases quality and performance whilst reducing overall product cost. Their introduction may result in the use of thinner sections or lighter parent materials without sacrificing thread strength.

They protect tapped threads against failures due to stripping, seizing, corrosion and wear. PowerCoil wire thread inserts are produced from austenitic stainless steel wire which is work hardened to a tensile strength above 200,000psi and a hardness of Rc43-50. The inserts have an exceedingly smooth surface finish which virtually eliminates friction-induced thread erosion.

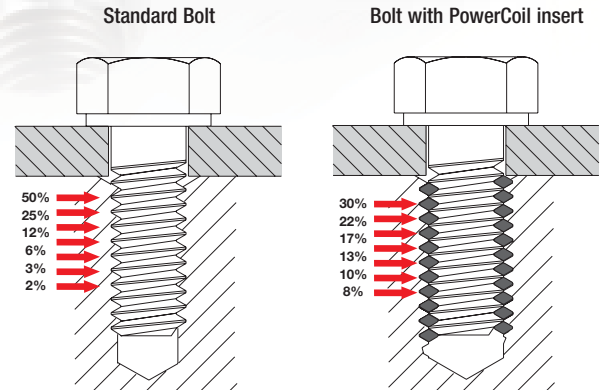
The continuous helically coiled design negates the need for thick wall structures to support the internal and external threads - the diamond profile wire coil IS the thread. PowerCoil wire thread inserts can be installed in reduced size bosses or flanges and within constricted areas - saving space and weight while providing high strength. A boss radius equal to the nominal bolt diameter is usually sufficient.

A complete range of installation tools are available to suit specific production techniques. A range of hand tools exist for small runs and repairs; electric and pneumatic tools are available for high volume production requirements.

Strength

Due to their flexibility, wire thread inserts create internal threads which have a much improved distribution of residual stress loading when compared with conventional tapped holes, where up to 70% of the shearing forces are carried by the first three threads in the tapped hole. The flexibility of wire thread inserts helps to compensate for pitch and flank angle errors, inherent in normal tapped holes, and significantly enhances the load bearing capacity by deflecting the residual forces into a helical hoop stress which is dispersed into the wall of the tapped hole. This enables the design to be confidently based on the bolt strength utilising smaller and shorter threads even when used in low strength materials.

The high tensile coils of a wire thread insert undergo a diameter reduction during installation. The outward spring-like force of the coils "locks" the insert into place. Each coil can flex independently to contact the greatest amount of parent material thread surface. Both static and dynamic load bearing capabilities are improved.



Eliminate Stress

Virtually no stress is introduced into the parent material because there is no staking, locking, swaging or keying in place. The outward "spring action" of the insert holds it in place.

Wear Resistance

The combination of material hardness and the brilliant surface finish of wire thread inserts creates internal threads in which wear due to thread friction is virtually eliminated. This is of particular value in applications requiring repeated assembly & disassembly. The low frictional coefficient ensures that virtually all of the applied assembly torque is converted into clamping load. Thus providing threads that stay tight.

Corrosion Protection

The 18/8 austenitic stainless steel wire used in PowerCoil inserts resists corrosion under normal environmental conditions. Galvanic action within the thread assembly is reduced, increasing the life of the fastening assembly.

Galvanic corrosion is most significant form of corrosion affecting inserts and fasteners. Galvanic corrosion occurs when dissimilar metals are in contact in the presence of an electrolytic solution. All metals exhibit different degrees of "activity" or "nobility" and can be arranged in a galvanic series of increasing activity. Gold and platinum are most noble while zinc and magnesium are most active. The most common electrolytic solution encountered is ordinary water. Seawater or salt spray is more damaging because of high concentrations of dissolved salts.

The best way to preclude galvanic corrosion is to use similar potential metals and eliminate the electrolyte conductor. The active stainless steel of PowerCoil wire thread inserts are not passivated. This minimizes the possibility of galvanic corrosion occurring when they are installed in aluminum or magnesium parent materials. Some additional precautions for reducing galvanic corrosion are:

1. Isolate the fasteners from the electrolyte. This can be done through gasketing or sealing.
2. Specify cadmium plated inserts. The cadmium plate provides a sacrificial barrier against corrosion. In addition, the cadmium plate has lubricating properties that minimize galling when stainless steel screws are used.
3. Apply corrosion inhibiting pastes or compounds to the screw. These include zinc chromate primer (MIL-P-8585) and strontium chromate primer (MIL-P-23377). Note: Pastes applied to the CoilThread Insert can become trapped between the wire and the hole and cause loss of proper tolerance. It is therefore recommended to apply the paste only to the screw, not the insert. If zinc chromate primer is applied to the tapped hole it should be thinned and applied sparingly. The insert should be installed while the primer is still wet.
4. Specify a dry film lubricant such as molybdenum disulphide on the inserts. This provides a secondary barrier against corrosion.
5. Where practical or where it will not interfere with the completed assembly, the external joint should be coated with a suitable paint.