
Why a YKK SNAD™ Socket?

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Lawrenceburg, KY – This year, YKK Snap Fasteners America Inc. introduced its SNAD brand of plastic adhesive snap components for the marine industry. One of the main reasons this product line was developed was to replace existing metal screw studs in marine applications. A question that we are often asked about metal screw studs is, “Why does YKK only offer metal screw studs and no metal screw sockets? The answer to this question is because you cannot make a metal screw socket that would function properly. If you attempted to put a screw through the base of a metal socket, the socket would be virtually inoperable. The screw head would prevent the metal stud from engaging properly with the ring in the socket.

In the one hundred years that conventional screw studs have been available, no one has ever offered a screw socket. Then why would YKK Snap Fasteners America Inc. develop a plastic SNAD socket? The short answer is because we can!

The long answer to the question is because the unique and innovative SNAD design increases application possibilities over conventional metal snap components. Since there is no need for a functional spring in the plastic socket, there is no concern about any interference with a screw head. With the use of the 3M®, VHB® Tape, there is no need to use a screw to hold the component to the substrate. The SNAD user now has more flexibility concerning where he or she chooses to use the plastic stud and socket. Prior to the development of the SNAD socket, a metal stud went on a deck or bulkhead, and a metal socket went on a cushion or canvas. Now a plastic socket or stud can be used on the deck or bulkhead.

What is the advantage to being able to use the SNAD plastic stud and socket as suggested? Well, cost is one advantage. After the screw stud itself, the socket is usually the most expensive part of a typical metal snap combination. Since the SNAD sockets and studs cost the same, the design can now incorporate a lower cost metal stud in place of a metal socket.

Reliability is another advantage to using the SNAD studs and sockets. The conventional metal sockets have a working ring spring, and the springs need space in order to work properly to engage the stud and hold the snap together. Over time, the springs in the socket can become clogged with sand and grit or can corrode rendering them inoperable. SNAD sockets, however, have no separate moving parts and cannot corrode. The grooves in the domed top of the socket make it easy to clean and maintain in good working condition.

Durability is yet another advantage to using the SNAD studs and sockets. After the first few snap on/snap offs of a conventional metal socket, the snap value can decline. Life tests of the YKK SNAD products, however, show that the socket action is consistent after 10,000 snap on/snap off cycles.

Finally, flexibility and creativity are another advantage to using the SNAD products. The SNAD concept allows a marine fabricator to determine the best option for an application. Design no longer has to be restricted by product limitations that have been in place for decades.

YKK Snap Fasteners America Inc. is continuing to develop new and innovative fastening concepts to offer improved product design and performance with a lower overall cost.

For more information on the SNAD plastic adhesive studs and sockets and other YKK Snap Fastener America products, contact Rod Helwig at (502) 839-2297 or rodh@ykksnap-america.com.

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