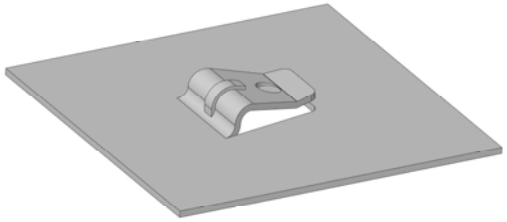
SOLUTION
BULLETIN

JOINING PARTS IN THINNER MATERIALS WITH SNAPLOCK™

THE PROBLEM:

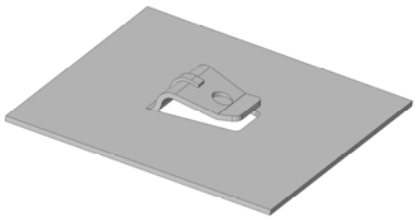
In a previous Solution Bulletin, we discussed that fabricators use fasteners (screws, rivets) or welds to join parts. To review, these secondary operations and materials add cost to the job. Joining parts doesn't necessarily require fasteners or welds. In that Solution Bulletin, Mate recommended using a SnapLock™ tool to lower manufacturing costs and speed delivery time. SnapLock eliminates expensive secondary operations such as spot welding, riveting or fastening with threaded hardware. With SnapLock, fabricated assemblies can be created efficiently and effectively with CNC precision.

SnapLock works great in thicker—16 gauge (1,50mm) or greater—materials, but what about thinner materials?



Above: SnapLock with Reinforced Tab for greater integrity when joining thinner materials.

THE MATE SOLUTION:



Mate's SnapLock™ with Reinforced Tab is for just such a purpose. The SnapLock with Reinforced Tab allows fabricators to join parts made from thinner—16 gauge (1,50mm) or thinner—materials, even if they are of dissimilar type and/or thickness. The reinforced tab incorporates a stiffening rib for greater integrity. In fact, a stiffening rib may be added to all lance and form applications for use with thinner materials

SnapLock is a Lance and Form assembly that provides a self-locking, spring loaded tab that snaps securely into a pre-punched hole. When engaged with a hole in the receiving tab, the small button provides a positive mechanical lock. It can also be removed, if needed.

Benefits include;

- Precision joint placement with CNC accuracy
- Assembly done in press brake
- Parts attached by hand in assembly
- Form placement can be inside or outside
- Eliminates or minimizes fasteners
- Joins dissimilar material types, such as stainless steel and aluminum
- Joins dissimilar material thicknesses
- Eliminates expensive secondary operations
- Fabricate and assemble pre-painted material

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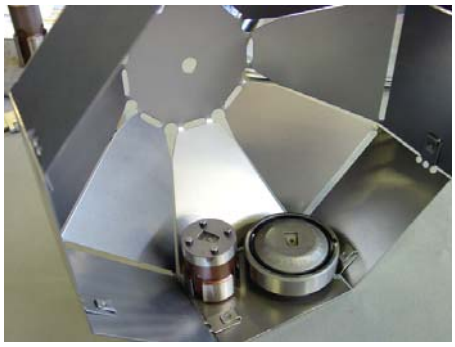
Besides joining parts, customers have used SnapLock in a wide variety of ways including:

- Locators for precise parts fit
- Shelf locators for metal furniture
- Easing downstream assembly
  - Eliminate tools and hardware
  - Eliminate welding
- Joining materials where welding is not possible, such as metal and PVC
- Use on prepainted materials where hardware or welding could mar surface
- Many more!



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- View videos of SnapLock at Mate's YouTube® site: http://www.youtube.com/user/mateprecisiontooling
  - SnapLock being fabricated in a turret press
  - Construction of a metal box shows SnapLock plus EasySnap™ and EasyBend™
- See how one customer improved throughput by 85% and decreased costs 20% with SnapLock. Download the article at http://mate.com/snaplock/

AVAILABLE TOOLING STYLES:

- Ultraform B and C Station
- SST 1-1/4 (B) Station
- 112 D Station
- 114 D, F Station
- Nova E, G Station
- Trumpf Size 2
- Salvagnini Size 3 C Station

HOW TO ORDER:

- Consult a Mate Applications Specialist to determine the ideal tool for your needs
- Subtype code: FY = SNAP LOCK REINFORCED TAB

MATERIAL RESTRICTIONS:

- Designed for materials < 16 gauge (1,50mm)

OTHER MATE PRODUCTS TO CONSIDER:

- Threadform tools
- Extrusions
- EasyTap™
- Other standard design lance and form tools

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