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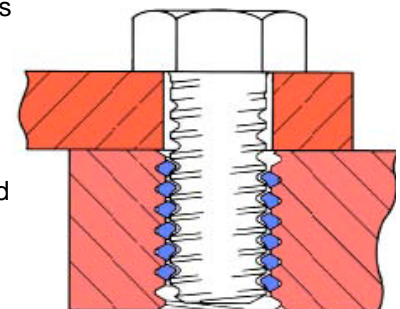
From underground train to aeroplane, the rise of Cross's Spirallock® thread insert

The Spirallock® wire thread insert made by Cross displays remarkable vibration resisting properties, which have been confirmed by exhaustive in-house testing programmes. The design, which is free running and re-usable, has proved to be more effective than any alternative. Even when the bolt has lost some of its tension, due to temperature or wear, it still remains locked. This is a better result than anticipated, a rare example of a product exceeding expectation.



In the early 1990's the inserts were successfully incorporated into the design of new rolling stock for the London Underground Central Line. Aluminium gearboxes designed and built by Hamworthy Hygate and Hamworthy Transmissions used the inserts to prevent loosening of the bolts that hold the gear cases together. As with all railway applications, the vibration conditions are very severe.

This application helped Cross to confidently promote the use of its Spirallock® inserts in a helicopter rotor head that was being re-designed to eliminate a potential fretting problem. Success here heralded the further adoption of the inserts in the helicopter's transmission system, echoing the original underground train application.



The latest development now involves Cross in a series of tests with the manufacturer of components for a new jet engine for the Nimrod aircraft. Here, the inserts are being tested on transmission components to once again eliminate potential problems identified with alternative fastenings. According to Cross, a breakthrough with the Nimrod engine could see its Spirallock® thread insert accepted for a burgeoning range of aerospace engine applications – so watch this space!

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Spirallock® is a registered trademark of Spirallock Corporation.