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WEDGE CONNECTOR TECHNOLOGY





GORAN STOJADINOVIC MCE, MEng(EI) PRODUCT & INNOVATION MANAGER THE WEDGE CONNECTORS DILEMMA: FIRED WEDGE CONNECTORS VS BOLT-DRIVEN WEDGE CONNECTORS VS CONNECTORS WITH THE WEDGE-SHAPED DRIVE SCREW MECHANISM

by Goran Stojadinovic

Based on the premise that connectors are the weakest link in any electrical circuit, and that the wedge-connection concept provides more reliable contact and lower resistance over a long time period than other non-tension connectors, this paper examines several types of wedge connector in order to determine how effectively they perform their critical role.

Looking primarily at fired wedge and "bolted wedge" connectors, Goran's analysis of their attributes suggests that the fired wedge design abrades a greater contact area with less oxidation during installation than the slower and less extensive "bolted wedge" method, and that insufficient abrasion along the latter's electrical current path creates higher resistance. The greater propensity for installation errors in "bolted wedge" connectors could also have a detrimental effect on the strength and longevity of the connection. This is corroborated through TransNet's HV Test Lab testing that found the "bolted wedge" connectors they tested had over three times greater contact resistance than the fired wedge connectors which displayed superior thermal properties.

In addition, the strength and elasticity of the materials used for the respective C-bodies can lead to different service life outcomes, with the less elastic "bolted wedge" C-body more vulnerable to thermal cycling. This is supported by collated lab and field tests showing the rate of contact resistance increase over time is far greater for bolted or compression connectors than fired wedge connectors. All these factors significantly impact the respective lifetime costs of these connectors.

To read the complete paper please scan this QR code or go to https://tinyurl.com/ wedge-connectorsdilemma



AMPACT PRODUCT FEATURES

Controlled tapers ensure permanent interlocking of components for repeatability and variance prevention

Design maintains lower resistance throughout connector service life Inhibitor with abrasive particles cleans contact surfaces to reduce corrosion and line loss

> 'C' member flexes to maintain constant contact pressure during thermal expansion/ contraction

> > Integral locking

feature prevents environmental

loosening



IT'S ALL ABOUT HOW IT ARCHES ITS BACK

Spring-action "C" shaped connector housing generates constant pressure between the conductors and tapered wedge compensating for mechanical fatigue and thermal cycling

Unique grain structure produces increased strength and lifetime reliability



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THE AMPACT SYSTEM

AMPACT wedge pressure technology connectors have been around for over 50 years and is proven to offer the highest quality connection available. The technology behind the AMPACT range ensures the connector body retains a constant pressure even under continual temperature changes, both ambient and load related.

AMPACT tap connectors use the action of a metal wedge to secure the two conductors to be connected at opposing ends of the C-clamp. The wedge is inserted at a speed of about 40 m/s using the AMPACT connector tool. The method of high-speed insertion is very effective in abrading all sliding surfaces and in disrupting surface oxide film to generate large numbers of contact spots in the electrical interfaces.

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BENEFITS OF THE AMPACT SYSTEM

- Range taking, 4.8mm–23.20mm OD in copper, aluminium & bimetal connections
- Gel covers available to ensure integrity of the connection in harsh NZ environments (especially in bi-metal situations)
- Low resistance connection
- Cost effective, long life connection
- Lightweight easy to use

FOR ALL NON-TENSION CONNECTIONS

"AMPACT System"– same high quality connection every time

Very price competitive - saves \$\$\$

• Used throughout NZ & the world

Removable & reusable with no damage to conductors

No variables when using the proven

• Fast installation time

C119.4 CLASS AA WHEN QUALITY CAN'T BE COMPROMISED



We can design and build a custom selection chart for individual networks to reduce inventory requirements.



TransNet offers product and tool maintenance training for the AMPACT system.

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The AMPACT connector's unique spring ability reduces resistance, helping the connector and connection remain cooler.

OVER 2.8 MILLION INSTALLATIONS PER YEAR*

Engineered tooling + Correct force = Perfect connection!

*Worldwide

AMPACT TOOL TECHNOLOGY

AMPACT tools are actuated by firing a special powder-loaded shell within the tool — in order to reduce the time and effort required to tap a power line. The compact tools are manufactured in high-grade steel to precise tolerances.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

- Installing taps takes a fraction of the time needed for conventional crimp type connectors
- Taps may be used to connect multiple conductor combinations, reducing inventory
- No damage to the conductors when installing or removing tap
- Lightweight, poweractuated tools require minimum operator effort

THE COMPLETE KIT

The AMPACT tool kit includes a robust toolbox, the AMPACT power unit, a small tool head, all connector take off clips and a stainless steel wire brush for cleaning the conductor. Large yellow heads are sold separately and are required when installing yellow connectors.



EXCEEDS REQUIREMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ANSI C119.4 CLASS AA

TE'S SILICONE INSULATOR TECHNOLOGY



SILICONE POST INSULATOR - 11KV

The CZ2120 silicone line post insulator has been used extensively throughout NZ with no reported failures. It combines mechanical strength with excellent pollution performance. It consists of protruded fibreglass rods and non-tracking silicone housing directly bonded to metal end fittings. A corrosion-resistant tie top fitting is crimped to the pultruded fibreglass core to allow the transition of mechanical loading to the line and mounting structure. This is the insulator to use when reliability counts.

A patented crimp control technology monitors for damage to the fibreglass rod while achieving maximum mechanical strength. The direct bonding of the polymer housing to the metal end fitting results in an ideal moisture barrier in the sensitive interface area.

FEATURES

- Composite design
- Lightweight easy installation
- Builds a huge safety factor into the design of any 11kV system
- Vandal and break resistant
- Impact resistant
- High tracking and erosion resistance
- M20 pin includes double helix spring washer & half nut

- Excellent performance under polluted conditions
- Reduced maintenance costs
- Direct bonding to end fitting offers moisture barrier on fibreglass rod
- Tie top fitting

BOX QTY

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	CZ2120-000
INSULATOR STYLE	TIE TOP
USAGE VOLTAGE (KV)	11
CREEPAGE DISTANCE (MM)	535*
DRY ARC DISTANCE (MM)	223
NO OF SHEDS	6
SCL (KN)	11
WET POWER FREQUENCY WITHSTAND (KV)	38
DRY POWER FREQUENCY WITHSTAND (KV)	60
LIGHTNING IMPULSE WITHSTAND (KV)	105
WEIGHT (KG)	2.02
COLOUR	GREY
END FITTING	GALVANISED CAST STEEL
HOUSING	SILICONE
CORE	FRP
PIN INCLUDED	M20 × 219MM STUD, SPRING WASHER, DOUBLE HELIX SPRING WASHER SQUARE

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277mm

100mm

115mm

*535mm creepage at 11kV = 48.63mm per kV. Level 4 or Extra Heavy Duty creepage = 31mm per kV. This insulator has massive creepage for NZ conditions!

WASHER & NUT

6 (48 × 6 PER PALLET)



Ph 0800 442 182 +64 9 274 3340





TN275NZHP VOLTAGE DETECTOR

The TN275NZHP is a high voltage proximity detector with nine detection settings from 240V AC to 275kV AC, an internal pickup sensor plate, sensitivity selector, and a visual and an audible annunciator. Physical contact with electrical conductors is not necessary when testing for live lines.



KEY FEATURES

- Sealed by 'O' rings
- 9 voltage settings: 240V, 3.3kV, 6.6kV, 11kV, 22kV, 33kV, 66kV, 110kV, 220kV
- LEDs for visual indication
- Sound indication
- Easy-to-prove method and self test
- High impact nylon casing
- Non-contact work by proximity
- Universal hotstick fitting
- Lightweight, robust & compact
- Detect low voltage on any systems
- Meets EN61000-3-2, EN61000-3-3, EN61326-1, EN55011, EN61000-4-2, EN61000-4-3, EN61000-4-4, EN61000-4-5, EN61000-4-6, EN61000-4-11

TIC-300PRO VOLTAGE

Rugged and reliable for utility, industrial, heavy manufacturing and mine safety applications, the Amprobe TIC 300 PRO with VolTect[™] detects voltages in low, medium and high voltage applications with bright visual and loud audible alerts.

KEY FEATURES

- Utility tool for checking transmission lines, power distribution equipment, down power lines, fuses, and load break connectors
- Lower voltage setting for checking voltage presence in breaker panels, breakers, power outlets and wiring
- Verifies presence of Voltage from 30 VAC to 122,000 VAC (122kV)
- Non-contact AC voltage detection
- Visual and audible voltage indication
- Self-test verifies that tester works properly
- Ergonomic design with a convenient handle
- Drop-proof to 6-FT
- Use with Hot Stick for voltages higher than 1500V AC
- Instruction manual & handy carry case included

TN277NZHP VOLTAGE DETECTOR

The TN277NZHP is an ideal tool for checking the presence of AC high voltages and AC low voltages in cables, wall outlets, fuses etc. It provides a non-contact detection for AC voltages from 50V ~132kV. It is also suitable for industrial, utility and mine safety applications.

KEY FEATURES

- 2 ranges for selection (2 function buttons)
- LOW :50V~1.5kV, HIGH : 1.5kV~132kV
 Power consumption for voltage detection
- Power consumption for voltage detection is less than 40mA
- Circuit test function

APPLICATIONS

- Non-contact detection of live voltages
- Find faults in cables
- Check and detect live high voltage cables
- Trace live wires
- Check high frequence radiation
- Check grounding equipment
- Detect residual or induced voltages

TN895PR NON CONTACT PHASE ROTATION METER

Safety is always a priority in electrical work environments. With its non-contact clips, the TN895PR has been designed to ensure greater safety for its users. Eliminating any electrical or short circuit accidents caused by accidental contact between two metal points.

KEY FEATURES

- Non-contact detector clips
- Dual functions: Open phase and phase sequence detection
- Designed for checking a wider range of 3-phase power source from 75V to 1000V AC
- LED display lights with buzzer indicator
- Brightness button feature for better visibility
- Magnetic mounting feature
- CAT IV 600V

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BAT

TRANSNET'S HV TEST LAB IN ACTION

AS/NZS 4836:2011

ARE YOU COMPLIANT?

AS/NZS 4836:2011 SECTION 9

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

This Standard states the minimum requirements for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for working on or near Low Voltage Installations and Equipment. Not sure if this relates to you? Give us a call and we can advise you what PPE equipment you're required to have and whether yours is up to scratch.

SOME PPE REQUIRES IN-SERVICE TESTING

GLOVES • MATS • BLANKETS • BOOTS

Are you interested in reduced lead times for testing? All your TransNet gear will be tested ready to go into service as soon as it's in your hands.

Have a specific testing requirement? Talk to your local rep or contact customer services today.





WE OFFER FREE TESTING OF NEW TRANSNET PRODUCTS

Ph. 021 986 691 gtucker@transnet.co.nz TUCKER



HV TEST LAB UPDATE

All of TransNet's new insulating gloves, blankets, mats, conductor covers, and high voltage detectors are now being tested ready to go into service, and we are currently providing this equipment to customers throughout New Zealand and the South Pacific. All equipment tests are recorded and stored in the Testing Database which has been written specifically for our HV Lab, with a hard copy of the test certificate sent out with all equipment.

Our two High Voltage AC Test Sets are capable of 60kV at 160mA or 120kV at 80mA, with IANZ traceable calibrations. We also have two High Current Low Ohm meters, allowing us to carry out in service testing of all earthing and bonding equipment we sell and repair. Again, this equipment leaves Transnet tested and ready to go into service. In addition to this we have been able to test High Voltage Surge Arrestors and Insulators looking for potential problems.

The Lab has two Relay Injection Test Sets: one Single Phase Set capable of delivering 100A AC, and a second Three Phase Test Set capable of four voltage and current outputs. These sets are used to carry out Recloser protection testing on selected new reclosers and load break switches, which leave TransNet with insulation resistance and contact resistances testing completed. We have also been able to carry out testing and prove the operation of both AC and DC leakage current detection in our fixed and portable EVC equipment.

Our Test Lab has allowed us to evaluate potential new products such as HV Line Fault Indicators and High Impedance Fault Indicators, as we can check they are measuring correctly as well as induce faults to make sure they are working as programed. This also allows TransNet to demonstrate these products to customers.

	Translet IN Test Laboratory 78 Cryms Read Emit Tarnali, Audiand
	Glove Test Report
	Customer: Transnet
	Report Number: TNHV201874
L) X	Equipment Description: Make: SutBURF Model: E011Y-0 Tert Provedue: GUXYS CASS: 0 Serial Number: GU23TA4 Tert Drue: 3282/D00. Name 2382/D000
A	Test Results: Applied Standard: ASTM F0496 Visual Inspection: PASS
	Electrical Test Results Applied Voltage: 5000/
	Serial: GL201874LH Current ID (mA): 4.1 mA Current IdO (mA): 4.1 mA Result: PASS
1000	Serial: GL201874RH Current t0 (mA): 4.1 mA Current t60 (mA): 4.1 mA Result: PASS
1.695	Test Result (PASS/FAIL): PASS
	Comment:
	Test Equipment: 120KV AC DIELECTRIC TEST SET PHENIX TECH
	denter resider. 1999 Calibration Dile: 17/06/2020
	Sell Allora
FAILED GLOVE UNDER TEST	Tested By: Garry Tucker Approved By: Phillip Hogg

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STAY SAFE AT WORK





IF YOU REQUIRE INSULATING GLOVES

- Pure latex gloves manufactured under ISO 9001 & ISO 14001
- Certified to EN 60903
- Also available in ASTM D120
- Excellent strength & durability

Class Colour	Max Use* Voltage AC/DC	Illustrative Labelling	
00 BEIGE	500/750	ANSI ASTM D120 EN60903 MAX USE 500 V AC TYPE 1 10 CLASS 00	
0 RED	1,000/ 1,500	ANSI ASTM D120 EN60903 MAX USE 1,000 V AC TYPE 1 10 CLASS 0	
1 WHITE	7,500/ 11,250	ANSI ASTM D120 EN60903 MAX USE 7,500 V AC TYPE 1 10 CLASS 1	
2 YELLOW	17,000/ 25,500	ANSI ASTM D120 EN60903 MAX USE 17,000 V AC TYPE 1 10 CLASS 2	
3 GREEN	26,500/ 39,750	ANSI ASTM D120 EN60903 MAX USE 26,500 V AC TYPE 1 10 CLASS 3	
4 ORANGE	36,000/ 54,000	ANSI ASTM D120 EN60903 MAX USE 36,000 V AC TYPE 1 10 CLASS 4	
Insulating Gloves and Sleeves must have a colour			

coded label to meet appropriate ASTM Specifications. *Max Usage Voltage when worn with leather protectors

WE SUPPLY MARIGOLD

- Outer protector gloves custom designed to perfectly complement the Marigold rubber insulating glove
- Manufactured without the use of solvents & hazardous chemicals utilising a proprietary aqueous dipping process
- Acid resistant
- Ozone resistant
- Low temperature resistant
- Comprehensive range of classes, colours, lengths & sizes, including half sizes
- Various cuff styles available including straight, contour & bell
- Arc Flash certified
- Fully tested



BALMORAL PANTHER TAIL

Panther Tail is a flexible conductor cover with a unique two tone design (black outside, yellow inside) for ease of visual inspection. Perfect for LV applications, Panther Tails meet the requirements of AS 4202 Class I, Appendix B.

Available by the metre in lengths up to 60m, with a special zip lock style fastening system, Panther Tails are quick and easy to install and can be cut to fit the required area exactly.

FEATURES

- Low voltage or high voltage applications
- Lightweight and easy to install
- Excellent weathering, UV, & abrasion resistance

Cat No. TPP15

15mm diameter, sold by metre
Cat No. TPP20
20mm dia, 3m lengths with interlocking ends
Cat No. TPP35
35mm dia, 3m lengths with interlocking ends
Cat No. TPP15-TL
Panther Tail installation tool



balmoral[™] engineering

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TPP15-TL

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MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION

Insulated Toolkits To Your Specs



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TransNet Tonga Nuku'alofa

Lakalakaimonu Multi Utility Complex Taufa'ahau Road Poutaha Nuku'alofa TONGA Ph +67 627 939 Fax +67 627 976 PO Box 2932 Nuku'alofa TONGA transnet@kalianet.to







TRANSNET CUSTOMISED TOOLKITS

Have you got specific or complex insulated tool requirements? Don't buy everything separately – TransNet can customise insulated toolkits for all areas of your business. Kits like this one can be custom designed to include the exact range of tools your team require, with custom cut trays to protect them all and an appropriately sized robust wheelie case to house them.

FEATURES

- Custom tool ranges to suit your needs
- Comprehensive range of insulated & non-insulated tools
- Custom protective foam trays
- Robust wheelie case

Talk to us about your requirements today.

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