

BENEFITS OF IMPROVING STEP BOLT DESIGN FOR STEEL UTILITY POLES

Perfect For Reducing Costs In The Electrical Industry

THE CHALLENGE

A manufacturer of steel utility poles was experiencing production line bottle necks when welding step bolt attachment clips onto the poles.

- ▶ The clip welding process made it difficult to align the clips along the full length of the pole leading to clip misalignment, improper welds, missing clips, and damage during shipping.
- ▶ The full installation method utilized a welded clip and two hex nuts to attach hot dip galvanized step bolts.
- ▶ There were safety concerns due to the fact that the lineman had to install the step bolts using two hands while ascending the pole.

THE SOLUTION

Leveraging our engineering, tooling and manufacturing capabilities, Sherex developed the industry's first large size rivet nut product line.

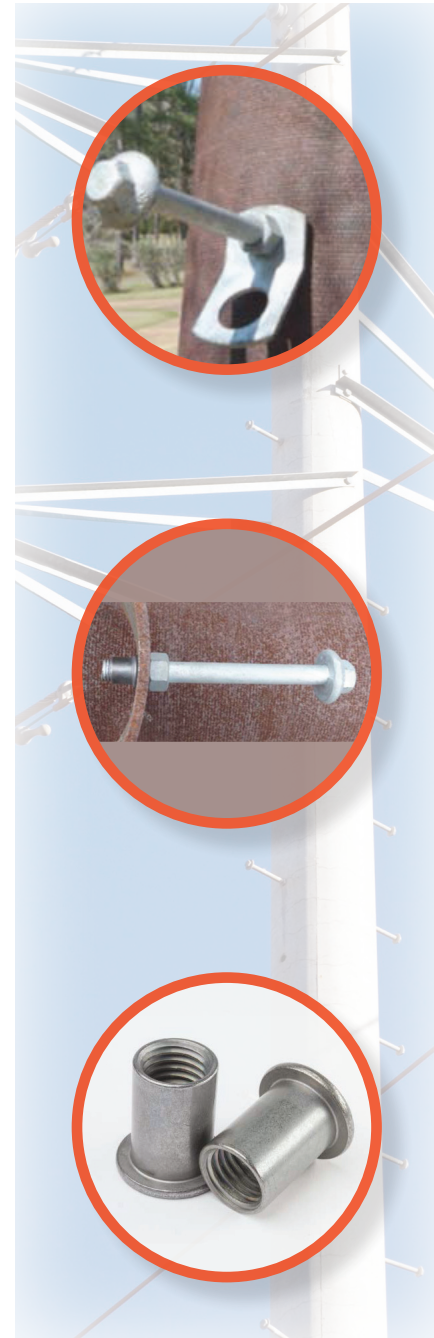
- ▶ The large size rivet nut was designed with an oversized thread for use with hot dip galvanized step bolts.
- ▶ Sherex collaborated with its tooling partner, MDS, to develop the FLEX-18, an installation tool powerful enough to pull the large rivet nuts. This hydro-pneumatic tool provided the capability to pull 18,000lbs and allowed the operators to install rivet nuts accurately and efficiently.
- ▶ Utilizing the rivet nut solution, the manufacturer was able to laser cut holes into the pole to ensure each hole was properly spaced and in a straight line.
- ▶ The fast, turnkey solution eliminated the welding process, the clip, and one of the hex nuts, and allowed for the installation of the step bolts to become a one hand operation on the assembly line.

THE SAVINGS

Annual step bolt production: 25,000

COST SAVINGS: \$6.00 PER STEP =

UP TO \$150,000 IN SAVINGS!





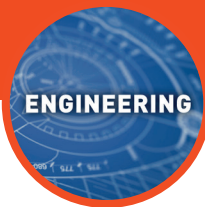
REDEFINING THE WORLD OF DISTRIBUTION



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EFC Is A Solutions Provider.
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