

## FEATURED PRODUCT

### STA-DRY® Harness Adapter

- Connects main and/or mid-main 36 series STA-DRY® modular harness systems to the 34 series STA-DRY® SLIM-7™
- Molded plug connections keep moisture and contaminants from penetrating the electrical system
- Corrosion resistant pre-applied dielectric grease
- Easy to install



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PAST ISSUES

## Composite vs. Brass

Are you still using brass fittings when making repairs to your air tubing?

While traditional brass fittings are no less effective at getting the job done, there are definitely some benefits to using composite fittings instead.

Whoever said, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," never encountered a brass elbow fitting that just happened to be pointing in the opposite direction where your air tubing needed to go, or never had to change multiple fittings at one time.

So what they say must be true – that necessity is the mother of all inventions. And in this case, the need for a fitting that was quicker and easier to install, (not to mention lighter), brought about the composite fitting as an alternative to brass fittings. In a study done by a major manufacturer, the estimated labor savings, which took into consideration time and cost, was up to 42%!

There are many types of composite fittings available on the market. Two examples are the male elbow composite fitting and a union composite fitting.

The male elbow composite fitting has the ability to swivel. (This swivel is not "live", and is only moved during installation.) So in comparison to its brass counterpart, manipulating the tubing in the right direction most likely will not require additional tubing and fittings. The fitting is simply swiveled in the direction that the tubing needs to go.



A straight union fitting is great for in line leaks! Just cut the air tubing to the desired length and insert on either side of the fitting. In the time it takes to prepare to change a straight union brass fitting, you have already installed the tubing to its composite equivalent. In the same study previously mentioned, it was concluded that it took about 80% less time to install tubing to a composite fitting, than it did to a brass fitting.



Fittings that work properly require proper installation. The following are some tips to remember when installing composite fittings.

- **ALWAYS** tighten the fitting by hand and then apply final torque with a wrench at the hex. **NEVER** use a wrench on the composite non-threaded end.
- **ALWAYS** cut tubing square with a clean edge. Cutting tubing at an angle can lead to improper sealing.
- **ALWAYS** use tube cutters to cut tubing. **NEVER** use dikes, a knife, a saw or dull tool to cut the tubing. Avoid burrs, dirt and anything that can cause improper sealing.
- **ALWAYS** allow adequate bend radius of the tubing. Kinking the tubing and/or applying excessive side loads can cause leaks.
- **NEVER** allow contaminants to enter fitting and cartridges.
- **NEVER** attempt to disassemble tubing from the fitting with the vehicle air system under pressure.

## TIPS

- Using a dust boot on a composite fitting keeps dust and debris from getting into the release button. If this button becomes clogged, the fitting cannot be release, and therefore it cannot be removed.
- Using a plug provides a positive seal of protection for open fittings.

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