FDB PANEL FITTINGS
KNOWLEDGE BASE

Ref: KB 07.1

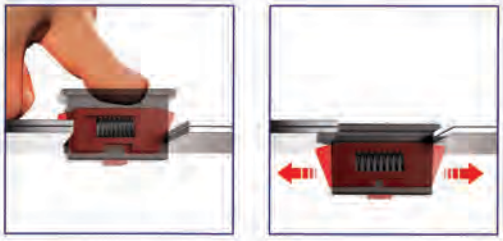
D-Snap Technology (SNAPLINE)

D-SNAP® technology is an innovative fixing and assembly system for the sheet metal and panel building industries and can save time and money in the construction of enclosures and mounting of hardware such as locks, hinges, handles etc.

It enables reductions of up to 90% in assembly time since no tools are required for installation and also reduces costs as no additional mounting hardware is required.

Traditional assembly and fitting out of enclosures involved welding, screwing or riveting panels and associated hardware, all of which have significant cost implications in terms of labour and the various fixings required to join or mount components and accessories. Snap technology provides a unique alternative to traditional fastening methods.

The inspiration for an alternative fastening system is based on a well-known principle that has proved itself countless times over. This is the spring latch, commonly used on domestic doors. When the door is closed, a bevelled bolt is pushed against the pressure of a spring. As soon as the bolt has passed the edge of the strike plate, it springs out of the guide channel and locks the door. This principle exactly satisfies the requirement for an alternative to traditional means of fastening. See diagram below.



D-SNAP® technology has already found favour with manufacturers of specialist enclosures and racks, industrial machinery, HVAC equipment as well as the electronic and automotive industries. Fasteners that incorporate snap technology are quick to install, very secure and extremely economical. They also offer a high load-bearing ability.

Because it is installed as a single piece, the snap fastener offers many advantages for the user. The main advantages are time and money savings in the assembly of a wide variety of enclosures and cabinets. However additionally, when the need for costly storage of panel parts is eliminated, the overall manufacturing process speeds up. Other parameters may also be improved e.g. outlay for fasteners used in the assembly process is considerably lower, since the snap fasteners are delivered as pre-assembled components and are immediately ready for installation. Over and above this, the user profits from the superior functionality afforded by a system where no parts can get lost after installation.

This unique modular technology requires only rectangular hole punching to suit the relevant component which can then be pushed into place by hand to achieve a firm positive fit. The system can be used to fabricate complete cabinets by means of joining elements which can hold sides to back, panels to frames etc. Other components then complete the assembly with snap-in hinges and door closure/security items and so on. The technology that enables this, ensures a tight "locked-in" fit once installed and provides robust service when in use.

See the video "Save 90% of assembly time" at www.youtube.com/user/FDBpanelfittings

D-Snap Technology (SNAPLINE)

An typical example of snap-line technology is the 40mm x 40mm diecast hinge with 180° opening for RH or LH operation (see 4-250SL below). These are particularly suitable where full door opening is required. They may be used on standalone enclosures/racks or on side-by-side installations with several versions available - with cast in screws or countersunk holes on one leaf and SNAP-LINE® fitting on the other leaf - or with SNAP-LINE® fitting on both leaves to enable a simple "blind" push-in fitting that does not require access from the rear. This can provide up to 90% savings in hinge assembly time.


4-246SL


4-250SL


4-150SL

The D-SNAP® range of panel assembly joiners is designed to enable specialist cabinet builders to quickly assemble panel parts into a robust structure. These specialist joiner components operate to fasten two or more sheet metal panels together by simply pressing and snapping the joiner into prepared panel cut-outs. They are ideal for fastening cabinet components, e.g. removable top or base and for robust fixing and joining of panels of similar or varying thickness, e.g. multi-component motor control cabinets. Just some of the many styles available are illustrated below.


1-040SL


1-041.02SL


1-044SL


1-046SL


1-042SL

D-SNAP® joiners will adjust to varying thicknesses of panel and use standard 30x10mm cut-outs enabling rapid assembly after painting. Where removable panels are needed then pull-off forces may be chosen from 15N/30N/50N dependent upon component.

Typical of the many SNAP-LINE® locking devices, is a low profile swing handle, ideal for enclosures and control panels where "no-tools" snap-in fitment and resistance to vibration will be appreciated. Featuring clamping ranges from 1.2mm to 2.5mm, LH and RH application and blind assembly, which - like the D-SNAP® hinges – can offer a significant reduction in assembly time.


2-075SL


2-090SL

In addition to the range of locks, hinges and joiners, there are many complementary items available including compression locks, rods, rod guides, pull handles and captive screws.


1-081SL


1-120SL


6-1001SL


3-910SL


6-1133SL


6-1200.01SL


6-1600SL

These notes represent a brief overview of D-SNAP technology but Dirak have published a comprehensive, illustrated pocket book on the subject.

Please click **here** for a free copy

D-SNAP® is a registered design of Dirak GmbH