TEPRO® K’ in K’

Threaded plastic fasteners solutions for plastic assemblies

Self-forming – self-tapping – adjustable – reverse-locked
The assembly of plastic components using plastic screws and thread inserts is largely dependent on the mechanical requirements of the joint and whether a permanent or reversible fixing is required. The material compatibility of the component and the fastener also proves to be an essential influence.

Whilst DIN/ISO screws and nuts are the preferred method of de-mountable fastenings into metal fabrications, they are often incompatible with the assembly of plastic components. In the medium to long term service life, vibration and temperature variations and other external influences can result in failure of the thread connection.

The Böllhoff solution is the development of plastics in plastic (K’ in K’) screw thread technology with specially designed thread profiles. This enables integrated solutions for permanent and reversible fastenings which are self-locking, self-tapping, self-forming, adjustable and tolerance compensating. In addition, K’ in K’ screws and inserts have been designed specifically for use in thin gauge plastic sheet and plate, thereby increasing the scope of TEPRO® in the assembly of engineering plastics.

The various configurations in the K’ in K’ fastening systems consist of a base section, in the form of a sleeve, rivet, clip etc., which retains an aligned screw/insert at the point of assembly. Secure fastenings by means of screw-in blind rivet system and screw-in clip system, also exhibit the in-service benefits of dampening vibration and noise transfer.
Effectiveness and functionality of thread profiles

The precise thread geometry is fundamental to the effectiveness of K’ in K’ screw fastenings, as the fastener forms or taps a ‘female’ thread into cylindrical, close tolerance, pilot holes.

Thread profile:
Thread pitch, height of profile, pitch angle as well as the radius at the flank end and flank base, all influence the effectiveness of tapping or forming an internal thread into the parent material. The characteristics of the base material determines the type of K’ in K’ thread profile.

Thread forming is determined by either patented option;
Böllhoff K’ in K’ regular thread
or the
Böllhoff K’ in K’ round and high thread

The K’ in K’ regular thread is used for screwing into hard plastic materials, where the thread form is cut into a pilot hole.
The K’ in K’ round and high thread is preferable for applications where the base material has a higher degree of elasticity and high impact resistance.

When which type of thread?

Hard solid carrier materials
Böllhoff regular thread

Carrier materials with high elongation and impact resistance
Böllhoff round and high thread
Details about forming and tapping process

A chip flute, running the length of the screw, enables effective tapping and forming without obstructing the thread flanks. The resulting cutting angle and adjacent clearance angle are at their most effective as the screw assembly is driven home under minimal torque.

The Böllhoff K’ in K’ regular thread corresponds to action of a screw tap and the Böllhoff K’ in K’ round and high thread to that of a thread former.

**Torque and thread locking**
The previously described geometry generates a low assembly torque during the process of turning the screw, whilst at the same time preventing any detachment under dynamic stress.

Unlike the conventional thread lock on metal screw connections, which can result in strain and surface pressure, the thread lock in the TEPRO® K’ in K’ screw fixing is a result of radial relaxation in the parent material to coalesce with the thread profile of the mating screw.

Thread connection with fine adjustment
The thread locking feature is particularly advantageous when adjusting the height along the axis. In each stepless position (irrespective of the direction of screw rotation) thread locking is maintained by subsequent relaxation of the host plastic, preventing any screw detachment under dynamic load.

Examples of applications:
- Headlight height adjustment
- Rear light fastening of backlights with adjustment of the gap size
- Block buffer for service cover flaps

Manufacturing and selection of material

The threaded fastener has to have material properties and characteristics which differ from those of the parent plastic. For this purpose selected thread materials are high performance engineering plastics featuring increased temperature resistance and a high degree of rigidity and strength. All of these properties must differ significantly from the host material, in order to maintain the required stability of profile and geometry, when tapping or forming the thread.

Preferred basic materials are:
- PA GF  high-quality glass filled Polyamide 66
- PPA GF  Polyphtalamide glass filled
- PEI GF  Polyeitherimide glass filled
- PPS GF  Polyphenylensulfide glass filled
- PEEK GF  Polyetheretherketone glass filled

The K’ in K’ screws and inserts are formed from a.m. materials and manufactured according to the material requirements of the injection moulding process.

Total accuracy of temperature control within the injection moulding machine and the specially designed tooling is a precondition for achieving premium quality levels throughout the high volume production process.
As previously featured, the development principle of plastic (K’ in K’) thread fastenings provides for coordinated solutions for de-mountable and permanent fixings. Here we differentiate three K’ in K’ options:

- Screws
- Inserts and
- Systems.

The screws

The following criteria are integral to final development of a self-forming, self-cutting fastener:

- Head shape and drive
- Support and power transmission
- Thread cutting geometry
- Thread chamfer

The operating sphere of K’ in K’ screw

**Head design**

Different styles are available, including

- DIN EN ISO 7045  slotted pan head screw
- DIN 34812  slotted pan head plastic screw
- DIN 34812  recessed plastic pan head screw

The multi-functional head design can be manufactured,

- With external hex drive and
- For the internal drive either a cross slot, socket or inner serration.

**Support and transmission of force**

The underside of the head provides a bearing area when the screw is driven into position. The transition to the thread plays an important role in enabling the necessary tapping and reforming work.

The dynamic load is absorbed in this zone. In order to spread this dynamic load in a larger area, a conical transition is designed.

The ribs beneath the head centres the K’ in K’ screw within the hole of component to be fastened. During the screwing process they support the fastening at a low cross-load.

**Tapping geometry**

This area forms and cuts the K’ in K’ thread into the plastic host component. Details q.v. “forming and tapping process”.

**Chamfer**

A lead-in chamfer is formed at the base of the thread of a K’ in K’ screw. This facilitates centring within the pilot hole and relieves the pressure as it begins rotation to form a thread.
Repeatable threaded connection

Reversible thread connection of K’ in K’ screws enables repeated assembly and disassembly without deterioration of the thread, thread locking or overall performance.

Mounting hole

The diameter of any pilot hole has to be such that the central diameter of the K’ in K’ screw is clear of any deformation of the host material. To relieve the setting load, surface countersinking appropriate for the screw size and to a depth of one thread pitch is required. The countersinking aids with the location of the K’ in K’ screw and eases the introduction of the lead-in chamfer.

The outer diameter of the countersink is recommended as:

\[ \text{Surface diameter} = \text{size of K’ in K’ screw thread} + 4 \text{mm}. \]

This dimensional recommendation relates to injection moulded components produced in optimum processing conditions.

Factors such as finish, size of chamfer, formation of joint lines in dome wall, as well as the relationship of dome design and load characteristics should be considered when determining the outer diameter.

Parts first produced from the mould should be subjected to load testing.

Inserts

In these TEPRO® K’ in K’ versions we differentiate between two types of insert.

**TEPRO® K’ in K’ for ultrasonic welding** and **TEPRO® K’ in K’ to mechanical turning in**

Insert for ultrasonic welding

On setting, the TEPRO® K’ in K’ plastic insert is surrounded by a heat field generated by USS (ultrasonic welding). USS is a technology developed for joining thermoplastic synthetics. The interface of insert and parent material is subject to friction as it absorbs the sonic vibration and the resultant heat plasticises the assembly. In a very short amount of time a positive and homogeneous joint is formed. The required energy is produced in the ultrasonic generator as AC voltage, converted into mechanical vibrations and introduced by the sonotrode. Using this plastic insert in glass filled materials produces even higher resistance threads. When recycling at the end of product life, there is no need for costly and time consuming material separation, as there is with metal inserts.

The insert is placed in a conical pilot hole within the parent material and welded ultrasonically. The insert is installed after the component has been moulded.

The ultrasonic welding procedure requires the use of identical material classification for both insert and host material. In this way a positive and homogeneous is assured.
For the best results, the ultrasound vibration unit should be supplied by recognised manufacturers of ultrasonic welding equipment. Currently metric threads are available in M3, M4, M5, M6 and M8. American/British threads can be supplied.

**Mechanical components**

Plastic inserts can be screwed in by mechanical means to introduce a higher faster thread into plastic components. The external geometry of the thread is identical to the K’ in K’ screw (quod vide forming and tapping process). The precise diameter of the parallel-walled mounting hole is dependent on the material characteristics of insert and host component and differs accordingly.

**Installation tool**

During final installation of the insert it is first spun on to the spindle of the driver tool and then screwed into the component. The setting cycle stops when the installation tool makes contact with the parent carrier part.

Metric female threads in sizes of M3, M4, M5 and M10 can be manufactured. Currently available are sizes of M6 and M8. American/British threads can be manufactured.

**The systems**

**Body-bound rivet**

With this fastening system the rivet section forms a base for the screw.

Body-bound rivets are perfect fastening solutions for many types of application, principally where access is restricted to one side of the component. Varying thicknesses of material can be joined and the fastening is particularly effective in thin-walled blow moulded parts.

**Function**

The rivet element is pressed into a close tolerance hole within the principal component. A secondary component is then screwed into position by a K’ in K’ screw. As the self-tapping screw is driven into the spread nut form, the square section is forced to expand and four external wedges undercut the component to secure a tight fit.
Screw-in blind rivet

The screw-in blind rivet has been developed for fixing through round holes. To prevent rotation on setting, the surface of the rivet element has an integral flange to lip over the component edge. Other applications are made possible by an underside hexagonal form to the rivet body.

Function

The screw-in blind rivet is plugged into a hole in the bottom component. ① Lateral ribs prevent the rivet from falling out prior to setting. A mating K' in K' screw is located through a hole in the top component to engage with the internal bore or the rivet and form a thread. ②

Different riveting thicknesses are no problem for this fastening system, as the screw blind rivet clutches the underside of the bottom component, balancing tolerances along its axis as it does so. As the rivet section is drawn up under thread engagement, it is compressed at the neck and expands to form a blind side fastening. ③

The advantages

**TEPRO® K' in K' screws**

- A screw fastening with high reverse-lock
- Balancing of tolerances by adjustability
- No corrosion
- Chemical resistance
- Electromagnetic compatibility
- Minor conductivity of heat/isolator
- All-plastic fastening solution reduces component weight
- Capability of recycling – no expensive separating of component parts
- Any colour

**TEPRO® K' in K' inserts for ultrasonic welding**

- Tension free assembly, especially suitable for brittle materials
- Higher thread fastness in comparison to spindled thread components
- High pull-out strength
- Short times of welding (approx. 0.3 seconds)
- Very low noise development in welding compared to metal inserts
- Homogeneous connection between insert and component
- Capability of recycling – no expensive separating of component parts
- Minor conductivity of heat/isolator
- All-plastic fastening solution reduces component weight
- No corrosion
- Any colour

**TEPRO® K' in K' inserts for mechanical turning in**

- A screw fastening with high reverse-lock
- Balancing of tolerances by adjustability
- No corrosion
- Chemical resistance
- Electromagnetic compatibility
- Minor conductivity of heat/isolator
- All-plastic fastening solution reduces component weight
- Capability of recycling – no expensive separating of component parts
- Any colour
Fastening the air outlet cover

An air outlet cover made from HD-PE is fastened into a thin walled section by means of a K in K’ screw and body-bound rivet.

With access available on one side only, the cover is applied to the spread nut and a size 7 L12 K’ in K’ screw is located and driven home to cut an internal thread. As the screw enters, it splays out the plastic rivet body and undercuts the material of the host component to achieve a tight fit.

Description of applications

Threaded connection assembly carrier “Touareg” (VW)

Self-tapping K’ in K’ screws have been used effectively to fasten a two-part assembly within the interior trim of the Touareg. Here the K’ in K’ plastic screw forms its own mating thread within a cylindrical pilot hole set in the base component. As the host material relaxes into the longitudinal slot of the screw, a reverse-lock is achieved. Clamp ribs on the underside of the screw head guarantee an automatic centring of the assembled parts.

Concealed window stop “SMART” (Daimler)

Development of an all-plastic window stop has achieved noise insulation within the side door window plates. The self-grooving K’ in K’ screw secures the stop, which in turn adjusts to rough tolerance holes in the glass by means of ribs. The stop is a press fit and a float-free fastening is achieved by the screw.

Fastening the air outlet cover

An air outlet cover made from HD-PE is fastened into a thin walled section by means of a K in K’ screw and body-bound rivet.

With access available on one side only, the cover is applied to the spread nut and a size 7 L12 K’ in K’ screw is located and driven home to cut an internal thread. As the screw enters, it splays out the plastic rivet body and undercuts the material of the host component to achieve a tight fit.

The advantages

**TEPRO® K’ in K’ systems – screw-in blind rivet**
- Fastening requires access from one side only
- No corrosion
- Electromagnetic compatibility
- All-plastic fastening solution reduces component weight
- Capability of recycling – no expensive separating of component parts
- Any colour

**TEPRO® K’ in K’ systems – body-bound rivet**
- Fastening requires access from one side only
- No corrosion
- Electromagnetic compatibility
- All-plastic fastening solution reduces component weight
- Capability of recycling – no expensive separating of component parts
- Thin-walled blow moulding parts
- Any colour

**TEPRO®**

- Thin-walled blow moulding parts
- Any colour
Examples for scopes of application

Böllhoff K‘ in K‘ screw fastening solutions have been applied in different spheres.

- Automotive industry:
  Fastening of instrument panel, threaded connection assembly carrier, fastening of headlights...

- Commercial vehicles (lorries, tractors...):
  Tank for water equalizing

- Electricity, electronics:
  Safety switch cabinets

- Office furniture:
  Chairs, desks

- HVAC

- Landscape technology, lawn chairs:
  Shield fasteners

Our Service

As a specialist service provider, we welcome enquiries for K‘ in K‘ threaded fasteners and recommend solutions dependent on the parent material. The conditions for the most effective threaded fastenings in plastic are many and varied. These include:
- Optimal length of screw insertion
- Required speed of insertion
- Tightening torque, overwinding torque, screw-in as well as loosening torque
- Threaded fastening in repeated assembly

The design and production criteria are assessed by assembling samples of original components. If these are not available at a development stage, test samples are prepared out of selected materials and used for evaluation.
Technical information – mechanical properties

**TEPRO® K’ in K’ systems – screw-in blind rivet**

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<thead>
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Rotational speed of screw insertion 350 min⁻¹

These indicative values have to be related to each specific application.
Technical information – dimensions

**TEPRO® K’ in K’ – screws**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part no.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Böllhoff K’ in K’ thread</th>
<th>Dimensions of thread</th>
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<td></td>
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**TEPRO® K’ in K’ – special parts**

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* On request. Please contact our specialist department.
** Material depends on carrier. Alternative materials quo vide page 4.
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<th>Type</th>
<th>Head version</th>
<th>Head height l2 mm</th>
<th>Internal drive</th>
<th>External drive (width across flats)</th>
<th>Material**</th>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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**Special head**

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<th>Type</th>
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<th>Head height l2 mm</th>
<th>Internal drive</th>
<th>External drive (width across flats)</th>
<th>Material**</th>
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**TEPRO® K’ in K’ – inserts for ultrasonic welding**

### Part no. Description Material** Colour Dimension female thread **Collar diameter d1** mm **Total length L** mm **Mounting hole D + 0.1 mm** mm **Minimum bore depth L1** mm **Thickness of carrier a min. mm** mm **Comment**

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<th>Part no.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Material**</th>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Dimension female thread</th>
<th><strong>Collar diameter d1</strong> mm</th>
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<th><strong>Mounting hole D + 0.1 mm</strong> mm</th>
<th><strong>Minimum bore depth L1</strong> mm</th>
<th><strong>Thickness of carrier a min. mm</strong></th>
<th><strong>Comment</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1631 303 0075</td>
<td>Type 163</td>
<td>PA GF (Blend)</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>M 3</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1631 304 0009</td>
<td>Type 163</td>
<td>PA GF (Blend)</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>M 4</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1639 004 0002</td>
<td>Type 163</td>
<td>PEI natural</td>
<td>natural</td>
<td>M 4</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<td>1639 304 0001</td>
<td>Type 163</td>
<td>PSU natural</td>
<td>natural</td>
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<td>7.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>1631 305 0010</td>
<td>Type 163</td>
<td>PA GF (Blend)</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>M 5</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>2.8</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1631 306 0012</td>
<td>Type 163</td>
<td>PA GF (Blend)</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>M 6</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1631 308 0015</td>
<td>Type 163</td>
<td>PA GF (Blend)</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>M 8</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* On request. Please contact our specialist department.
** Selection of material depends on carrier.

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**TEPRO® K’ in K’ – inserts for ultrasonic welding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part no.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Material**</th>
<th>Dimension female thread</th>
<th><strong>D1</strong> mm</th>
<th><strong>Total length L</strong> mm</th>
<th><strong>Mounting hole D + 0.1 mm</strong> mm</th>
<th><strong>Minimum bore depth L1</strong> mm</th>
<th><strong>Thickness of carrier a min. mm</strong></th>
<th><strong>Comment</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0404 0030 XXX</td>
<td>Insert for thermal installation</td>
<td>PPA GF M 3</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>0404 0040 XXX</td>
<td>Insert for thermal installation</td>
<td>PPA GF M 4</td>
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<td>0404 0050 XXX</td>
<td>Insert for thermal installation</td>
<td>PPA GF M 5</td>
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<td>2.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>0404 0060 XXX</td>
<td>Insert for thermal installation</td>
<td>PPA GF M 6</td>
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<td>13.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>0404 0080 XXX</td>
<td>Insert for thermal installation</td>
<td>PPA GF M 8</td>
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<td>4.0</td>
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## TEPRO® K' in K' – inserts for screw driving installation

### K' in K' Type 173

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part no.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Material**</th>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Dimension female thread M</th>
<th>Collar diameter D1 mm</th>
<th>Total length L mm</th>
<th>Mounting hole D + 0.1 mm</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1731 303 0006</td>
<td>Type 173</td>
<td>PA GF</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>M 3</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>4.7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1731 304 0008</td>
<td>Type 173</td>
<td>PA GF</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>M 4</td>
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<td>8.0</td>
<td>5.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1731 305 0010</td>
<td>Type 173</td>
<td>PA GF</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>M 5</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>6.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>1731 306 0014</td>
<td>Type 173</td>
<td>PA GF</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>M 6</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>7.6/8.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1731 308 0015</td>
<td>Type 173</td>
<td>PA GF</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>M 8</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>10.3/10.5</td>
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<td>1731 310 0018</td>
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<td>PA GF</td>
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<td>M 10</td>
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<td>18.0</td>
<td>11.8/12.5</td>
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</table>

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## TEPRO® K’ in K’ – inserts for screw driving installation

### K’ in K’ Type 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part no.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Böllhoff K’ in K’ thread</th>
<th>Thread size</th>
<th>Dimension female thread M</th>
<th>Total length L mm</th>
<th>Collar diameter D1 mm</th>
<th>Collar height mm l1</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0402 003 XXXX</td>
<td>Insert K’ in K’</td>
<td>regular thread</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>6.8</td>
<td>0.6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0402 004 XXXX</td>
<td>Insert K’ in K’</td>
<td>regular thread</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>M 4</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>0.6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0402 005 XXXX</td>
<td>Insert K’ in K’</td>
<td>regular thread</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>M 5</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0402 006 0003</td>
<td>Insert K’ in K’</td>
<td>regular thread</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>M 6</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>0402 008 0004</td>
<td>Insert K’ in K’</td>
<td>regular thread</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>M 8</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Selection of material depends on carrier.
Apart from these 23 countries, Böllhoff supports its international customers in other important industrial markets in close partnership with agents and dealers.