



SUPPORTING HEROES EVERYWHERE

THE THIEL® WEDGE COUPLER: A TIME SAVING ALTERNATIVE!

Since its introduction over two decades ago, the THIEL® wedged scaffold coupler has achieved a dominant position in the Netherlands market. The discerning Dutch recognise that this coupler, despite its higher purchase price, outperforms any bolted alternative both in safety, ease of operation and cost.

The function of the THIEL® wedge coupler is largely the same as that of a bolt coupler, but with some distinctive properties:

- The THIEL® wedge coupler is fixed to the scaffold tubes by striking a wedge instead of screwing a nut to a bolt.
- The THIEL® wedge coupler is designed such that all parts are inextricably connected.
- The THIEL® wedge coupler is constructed of strong 12mm special steel wire elements.

This different design gives the THIEL® wedge coupler its superb properties compared to bolt couplers:

Safety:

- EN 74-1

The THIEL® wedge Coupler is “over dimensioned” and as such achieves excellent scores in the testing to the EN 74-1 specifications.

Certification to this standard however is based on type approval. In case an individual product would have only minimal deviations in e.g. the bend of the coupler this may cause significant deviations from the standard quality of the product.

Therefore van Thiel United has invested in the full automation of the production of this coupler which has reduced the manufacturing cost of the product and more importantly lead to a consistent high quality. Not only does the design of the THIEL® wedge coupler have excellent scores to the EN 74-1 testing but every individual THIEL® wedge coupler reaches this score. As we have noticed that the THIEL® wedge coupler is being copied, including CE markings, van Thiel United provides genuine CE certificates together when ordering.

- Safe operation

The THIEL® wedge coupler is fixed with a modest hammer strike which is a much faster operation than screwing a nut.

When calculating safety and production, the dismantling of the scaffold should also be taken into account.

Here the difference may be significant as being in an open environment nuts and bolts will become subject to rust and dirt which could cause problems when trying to unscrew the nut and may require a grinding power tool to remove the bolt.

The THIEL® wedge coupler is always easy to remove by a simple hammer strike.

- Fixed is fixed

When the wedge is hammered into its housing the THIEL® wedge coupler is fixed and many years of operation have demonstrated how the THIEL® wedge coupler is not sensitive to loosening through vibration.

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- Strong fixing

Due to its design the fixing by a THIEL® wedge coupler will achieve very high friction and very low slippage over the tube.

- Tolerant to the constructor

When a stamped or dye-casted coupler housing is fixed to the scaffold tube this will have the tendency to slide down along this tube until it is strongly fixed by the nut and bolt. The wired housing of the THIEL® wedge coupler does not slip on a vertical standard even when the coupler is only very loosely fixed by the wedge. As the THIEL® wedge coupler consists of a system to which all parts are inextricably together, there is no chance of nuts or bolts or even larger parts falling loose from the coupler.

Cost:

- Construction time saving.

The THIEL® wedge coupler is easier and faster in operation than a traditional bolt coupler. Have a look at this demonstration movie showing a comparison test. Based on new bolt couplers (no dirt or rust) and under ideal weather conditions this test showed that the time advantage in building a model scaffold with the van THIEL® wedged coupler shortened the time the same construction required with traditional bolt couplers and under more difficult circumstances this advantage would be much greater. In combination with the usage of our Tube-Lock system the time saving advantage grows even more.



- Durable

Its rugged design combined with the quality of the materials and a high quality hot dip galvanization process result in a very long life of the THIEL® wedge coupler. This coupler was introduced into the market decades ago and very few have reached the end of their functional life.

- Maintenance

The THIEL® wedge coupler requires no maintenance. Neither will it require, during its long lifetime, any new parts. The wedge will last forever and does not require any nuts or bolts.

Ease of operation:

- Easy erection and dismantling of scaffolds.

The THIEL® wedge coupler is easy to connect. Despite the fact that experienced scaffolders can be very fast in screwing nuts to the coupler bolt, this connection is faster to achieve. This speed advantage is even greater when dismantling the scaffold when often dirt and rust have had their influence.

- Cold

As the THIEL® wedge coupler has no small parts and all parts are connected to each other, the coupler can be placed and dismantled even while wearing thick gloves. As such work may take place under cold temperatures.

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