

Whitepaper: The Versatile New Range of Collated Fasteners

A quiet revolution has been going on in an essential category of construction materials that is often overlooked - the simple fastener. The implication of product and process improvement in this category is tremendous when you consider the sheer number and range of construction applications that require fasteners as mundane as the ordinary nail or screw.

The process of fastening today has never been faster or more cost-effective, led by collated fasteners now capable of being driven in with a pneumatic tool at speeds up to two times that of collated screws and eight times the speed of manually-installed bulk screws.

Pneumatic tools and collated fasteners are now saving time and reducing costs on jobsites every day. Collated screws are used when specified for a stronger hold over nails, but installation is much slower than using nails installed with traditional nailers.

This has spurred an entirely new hybrid category of collated nail screw fasteners has emerged, featuring innovations that add incredible versatility to this once stagnant product category.

These improvements couldn't have come at a better time, dramatically reducing time and labor cost for contractors hungry for ways to shore up sagging profitability.

Specifically, the market's gradual transition to new hybrid nail screw fasteners is fueled by their superior characteristics of greater holding power vs. nails, and faster driving speed vs. ordinary collated or bulk screws, helping to create a higher-quality end product and increasing profits for builders and contractors. This is occurring across an ever-increasing range of applications; virtually everywhere ordinary fasteners are used throughout a typical construction project and in many specialty applications:

- **Drywall:** A large problem with drywall installation is that fasteners can loosen with the naturally occurring swelling of wood studs. A collated fastener that is driven pneumatically drives farther into the wood, reducing the possibility of it becoming loose.
- **Framing:** The strength of the frame within any building is essential to its stability. It is vital that there are no missing fasteners, or screws that are insufficiently sunk into studs and joists. Collated fasteners powered by a pneumatic tool help ensure the frame is sturdy and stable, and the nail screw hybrids will have even better holding power than collated nails, yet also allow for easy adjustment or removal.

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- **Steps:** Most steps and stairs are built using nails and will begin to creak as they are used. A nail screw hybrid sunk into the wood can not only be adjusted to prevent creaking, but will also provide a cleaner surface once wood filler has been applied.
- **Subflooring:** In the past, most subflooring was applied with nails. As with steps, this eventually leads to squeaking. By using collated nail screw fasteners, squeaks are reduced significantly. The broad variety of fastener lengths available is valuable when installing flooring over inconsistent materials, such as radiant heat panels.
- **Decking and Fencing:** The construction of a deck can be back-breaking and time consuming, whether using a hidden clip system or screws inserted into joists from the top of each board. New nail screw fasteners dramatically reduce installation time, and are adaptable to all manner of deck boards - grooved, non-grooved, composite, or exotic hardwood for example. Fencing projects can also benefit with securely set nail screw fasteners in much less time than using traditional fasteners.
- **Light Gauge Steel Construction:** This construction method is an efficient way to build strong, yet light weight, structures, but fastening drywall, wood, or deck boards to steel can be problematic. Displacement of the steel material can tear into the gypsum, tearing the exterior paper. A new generation of nail screw fasteners has addressed this problem, even increasing holding power and creating a stronger structure.
- **Furniture:** When you build something that is intended to support weight, you want the screws set as firmly and as deeply into the wood as possible. Using nail screw fasteners creates sturdier furniture, increasing load capacity due to greater holding power.

More innovations and new developments become available as contractors increasingly realize the vast improvement in profitability that can be attained by switching to new and innovative products - right down to the fasteners they are using.

As far back as 1998 the market saw the beginnings of innovation with a nail screw hybrid fastener that emerged from the BECK Fastener Group®, a leader in technological advances in pneumatic tools and a broad range of fasteners with over 100 years of experience. This flagship product was called Scrail®, an assortment of collated nail screw fasteners that offered a dramatic increase in holding power compared to nails with easy adjustment and removal. The market took notice that Scrail® could be utilized for almost any need where ordinary screws are used, and switching costs were low since they could be used with most pneumatic nailers they already owned.

Brett McCutcheon, National Sales and Marketing Manager for Fasco America, the US Master Distributor for The BECK Fastener Group®, explains that they are "a company who believes in setting industry trends instead of simply following them. Their research and development work is a real driving force in producing innovative fastener products that generate demand based upon the time and cost savings they deliver to contractors, in an economy that is in serious need of both."

"The way we see it, delivering fasteners that are faster and do the job better is something that is a constant necessity in this industry, not just a trend."

"In 2008 before the economic slowdown we re-launched our basic Scrail[®] nail screw fastener lineup with a much stronger communication program geared toward informing an even broader audience about the product. When others were pulling back as times grew tough, BECK was creating new geometries and features to address more and more application requirements, continuing expansion of what was becoming an entire family of Scrail[®] fasteners."

McCutcheon continued, "The original premise was simple: Scrail[®] performs at a rate that is eight times faster than bulk screws and two times faster than collated screws, delivering the time and cost savings our customers needed. The new items that followed each offer unique application benefits such as SubLoc[®] Scrail[®] with a special adhesive to eliminate squeaks in subfloor applications, the InvisiDeck[®] Hidden Fastening System which utilizes Scrail[®] fasteners in hidden deck fastening for both wood and composite decks, and mini-Scrail[®] fasteners that are the perfect size for finish work."

"The latest and most exciting innovation is the recently introduced SteelThread Scrail[®] for applications that involve fastening wood or gypsum to steel studs. The unique and patent pending thread design allows protrusions in the steel to make an incredibly secure connection," said McCutcheon. "We've actually now combined this innovation with our InvisiDeck[®] Tool and the new InvisiGuide to deliver a great product that allows hidden deck fastening with steel joists by minimizing the steel stud deflection."

SCRAIL[®]

The Faster Fastener[®] Today's Amazing Range of Uses

Scrail[®] collated fasteners can be used virtually anywhere ordinary screws are used.

- They're the perfect job-site partner for contractors and manufacturers on projects such as:
 - Sub-flooring, decking, crating, fencing, sheathing, framing, or for manufactured housing.
- Industrial manufacturers use Scrail[®] fasteners for producing crates, pallets, wall panels, doors, and windows.
- The use of Scrail[®] collated fasteners saves time and labor costs; thereby bringing in high profits.
- They provide the bite for a strong hold which will reduce or eliminate squeaks and nail pops, reducing callbacks for contractors and reducing headaches for homeowners.



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- Scrail® fasteners are engineered to drive in fast and screw out easily, making them perfect for use when adjustments are necessary or for temporary applications, such as:
 - Scaffolding, concrete forms, or stage and movie sets;
 - Fine-tuning a fit before disassembling for painting.
- They are available in wire coil, plastic sheet coil, or plastic strip collation formats; a variety of thread types; square, phillips, star or pozidrive head types.
- The new Scrail® versadrive head type combines #2 phillips and #2 square heads.
- The new FasCoat™ finish was developed specifically for applications where superior deterioration resistance is essential, such as outdoor furniture or decking. Collated fasteners treated with FasCoat™ finish have been tested by accredited laboratories in both Europe and the U.S. and found to withstand more than 2,000 hours of direct salt spray before the first signs of rust.
- Scrail® fasteners are offered to match most [manufacturers' colors](#); with more than 2,000 colors available.
- Each fastener is precisely engineered to work with the large selection of common pneumatic staplers and nailers available in today's market.
- Bending yield strength complies with ASTM F1667-05 standards.
- Scrail® fasteners are available in an array of specialized configurations. The complete list of Scrail® collated fasteners is available [online](#).

SubLoc® Scrail® Fasteners:

- These new Scrail® collated fasteners are designed specifically for subfloor applications.
- Until now, it's always been a question of using nails vs. screws for subfloor installations. Nails are usually faster and less expensive, but screws are stronger and adjustable, and better at eliminating squeaks. SubLoc® Scrail® subfloor fasteners provide the best of both.
- As part of the Scrail® family of products, each SubLoc® fastener is actually a nail screw hybrid, combining the advantages of a nail and a screw into one fastener, increasing installation speed and flexibility.
- A coating of superior adhesive dramatically improves the holding power of these subfloor fasteners when compared with ring shank nails.
- SubLoc® can be used in Scrail® pneumatic nailers known as "Scrailers," or almost any conventional nailer to provide labor and cost savings.
- Fine threads allow superior hold for greatly reduce squeaks.
- SubLoc® Scrail® fasteners are available in electro-galvanized finish for interior applications or for exterior conditions with moderate corrosion possibilities, and in FasCoat™ finish for exterior uses. Electro-galvanized and FasCoat™ finishes are both available in a large selection of colors.
- Additional information concerning SubLoc® Scrail® Collated Fasteners, including technical data and packaging specifications, is available [online](#).

BeckDeck[®] Double Thread Fastener:

- Designed for face-nailing low density composites and featuring double threads to reduce the unwanted bulge of cratering, or mushrooming.
 - BeckDeck[®] double thread deck fasteners will greatly reduce the unattractive mound of material that can occur when a fastener is driven into a composite decking material. The BeckDeck[®] fastener will automatically pull this material downward, creating a flush surface.
- BeckDeck[®] fasteners are easily adjusted and/or removed to allow precise fitting of railings or trim that can be taken apart for painting, then reassembled.
- Complete information regarding BeckDeck[®] double thread deck fasteners is available [online](#).

InvisiDeck[®] Hidden Scrail[®] Deck Fastener System:

- The InvisiDeck[®] System was developed for grooved and non-grooved board applications.
- The system consists of Scrail[®] collated fasteners, InvisiDeck[®] I-CLP Clips, and the InvisiDeck[®] Tool.
- The InvisiDeck[®] system ensures consistent spacing and secure holding power.
- All work is done from the top of the decking boards, saving labor costs when compared with many hidden fastener installation methods.
- This system can be used on most composite, lumber or PVC materials.
- It creates smooth deck surfaces with less time and labor, delivering a clean surface without visible screw heads, letting just the beauty of the deck material shine through.
- InvisiDeck[®] collated deck fasteners are available in either the FasCoat[™] finish or in stainless steel for extreme salinity conditions. They are 33°strip collated fasteners with fine threads and a phillips head, and are compatible with the available InvisiDeck[®] Installation Tool.
- The InvisiDeck[®] Tool is an installation gun that attaches the clips by driving a fastener into each joist in the same manner as driving a nail, but can remove the fastener in the manner of a traditional screw. The InvisiDeck[®] Tool has a patent-pending nose designed to securely hold InvisiDeck[®] I-CLP Clips for ease of application. More information on the The InvisiDeck[®] Tool can be found [online](#).
- The InvisiDeck[®] Hidden Scrail[®] Fastener System was named [Best Products Winner for 2010](#) by Builder News Magazine.
- Complete details on the InvisiDeck[®] Hidden Scrail[®] Fastener System are available [online](#). Step-by-step installation instructions can be reviewed through this [downloadable file](#).

InvisiDeck[®] I-CLP and B-CLP Clips:

- InvisiDeck[®] I-CLP Clips are made of heavy gauge stainless steel and are designed for use with one-inch or thicker pre-grooved decking material.

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- Composite materials for use with I-CLP Clips include ChoiceDek and Moisture Shield (A.E.R.T.), Brasilia, Escapes, Transcend, Contours, Origins and Accents (Trex non-grooved), Tropics, Horizon, Premium Grain and Professional (Fiberon), Latitudes and Veranda (Universal Forest Products), Earthwood, ReliaBoard and TwinFinish (TimberTech non-grooved), Evergrain and Elements (Tamko).
- Decking lumber for I-CLP Clips includes Brazilian Redwood, Ipe, Iron Wood, Mahogany, Teak, Cambara, Meranti and Port Orford Cedar.
- PVC materials include XLM (TimberTech), EnvisionsPVC (Tamko), WeatherReady (Gossen), Prestige (Monarch), Azek Deck (Azek), Novation & Brock Deck (Royal Group), EverNew LT (CertainTeed), Outdoor Flooring (Fiberon), and Truemarc PVC (Truemarc).
- I-CLP Clips may also be used on non-grooved boards that have been modified with the InvisiDeck[®] Groove Cutter.
- By utilizing the InvisiDeck[®] Tool, it is possible to install I-CLP Clips at increased speeds of three to five times over conventional installation.
- For non-grooved boards or manual installations where an air compressor is not an option, the B-CLP is available. These clips do not require the angled InvisiDeck[®] Tool.
- Not only do these new B-CLP Clips accelerate project completion time and improve the beauty of the deck, they also preserve its appearance and value by eliminating splitting, splintering, cupping and rotting.
- B-CLP Clips come in three varieties:
 - The B-CLP1 Softwood Deck Clip is ideally crafted for soft and low density wood including Cedar, Western Red Cedar, Eastern White Cedar, Yellow Cedar, Port Orford Cedar, Coast Fir, Douglas Fir, Eastern Spruce, Southern Yellow Pine, Western Redwood and Pressure Treated Lumber. It is made of heavy gauge steel with corrosion protection and a black top coat.
 - The B-CLP2 Softwood Deck Clip is for use with materials listed above and Atlantic White Cedar. It is made of heavy gauge stainless steel and has a black oxide coating, making it suitable for use in coastal or other harsh environments.
 - B-CLP3 Composite/Mahogany/PVC Clip was developed for use with synthetic or composite decking materials and for medium density hardwood varieties. The B-CLP3 clip works with ChoiceDek, Geo Deck, Moisture Shield, Trex Accents, Trex Escapes, Tuf-Deck, Ultra Deck Hollow, Veka, Weather Ready (Gossen). Also for lumber decking including Cambara, Meranti and other medium-density Mahogany. It is made of heavy gauge stainless steel with black oxide coating.
- The InvisiDeck[®] I-CLP and B-CLP Clip systems provide a hidden deck fastening system for virtually any decking application need. This [downloadable file](#) outlines safety tips for using InvisiDeck[®] clips.

SteelThread Scrail[®] Fasteners:

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- These new collated fasteners were designed for use wherever metal support joists are used.
- SteelThread Scrail® fasteners work for dry wall installation, light gauge steel construction, or deck installation.
- Avoid the difficulty typically involved when using screws to attach materials such as wood or gypsum to steel.
- SteelThread Scrail® fasteners are applied with a pneumatic gun in the same manner as a collated nail.
- These collated fasteners feature a patent-pending thread which provides exceptional holding power in steel studs or joists ranging between 25 to 16 gauge. They are also easily removed or adjusted with no damage to the material.
- Specifications and additional details regarding SteelThread Scrail® collated fasteners are available [online](#).

Mini-Scrail® Fasteners:

- One of the newer varieties of Scrail® fasteners, Mini-Scrail® fasteners are especially practical and useful for furniture manufacturing applications.
- These smaller sized fasteners are easy to handle and can be utilized anywhere ordinary single screws are used. They come in plastic sheet coils and work with the MiniScrailer pneumatic tool.
- The available pan head design of the Mini-Scrail® fastener is also a decorative element; which can enhance the overall the look of cabinetry projects and finished fine furniture. This can be a valuable benefit where appearance is as important as function. These collated fasteners are also available in a countersunk head style.
- Mini-Scrail® fasteners are also perfect for arts and craft projects, wooden lattice, bed railings, and fence pickets.
- Additional details regarding Mini-Scrail® collated fasteners, including specifications, can be found [online](#).

Videos featuring Scrail® fasteners are available for viewing on [YouTube](#). The Fasco America catalog featuring Scrail® collated fasteners and Scrail® fastener systems is available [online](#), and includes the full range of fastener and tool products of the BECK Fastener Group®.

Even the design of the Scrail® carton is innovative. Retailers will appreciate the bright full color packaging, designed to be the “stand out” item on the shelf, with clean graphics, and crisp photography of various usage occasions. Bold product benefit callouts make the package itself a valuable sales tool with all the information that the customer may need clearly presented in both English and Spanish.

Fasco America is an active member of ISANTA (International Staple, Nail and Tool Association), STAFDA (Specialty Tools and Fasteners Distributors Association) and NADRA (North American

Master Distributor



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Deck and Railing Association) trade associations.

Fasco America, Inc. is located in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, with an experienced staff of strategically located [regional sales managers](#) around North America. These individuals are ready to answer any questions concerning the Scrail® family of products.

The Beck Group is proud of its 107 year history of consistent quality, and innovative thinking focused on satisfying every customer's unique needs.

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