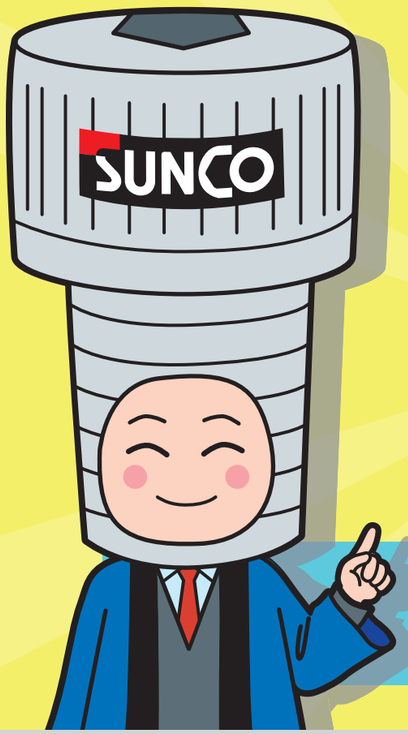
WANT TO READ THE ONLINE EDITION OF SOCKET BOY?



SCAN NOW!



NEED JIS (METRIC) SCREWS AND FASTENERS?

SCAN HERE!

SUNCO
Socket Boy

Website

Sunco Industries Co., Ltd.
Head office : 9-28, 1-Chome, Itachibori, Nishiku,
Osaka, Japan 550-0012 TEL☎ : +81-6-6539-3560
World Trade Section Email : export@sunco.co.jp

SOCKET BOY
Website



Socket Boy
Japan

Issue 010

Tracking the Origin of Fasteners – Tanegashima:
The Island Where Firearms First Arrived in Japan

NEJIDO
Nakashimada Engineering Works Ltd.
Asaiseisakusho.Co.Ltd.

Hello Socket Boys and Girls Around the World
Supporting the Future of Nuclear Technology
Nucleon Power Inc.
Connecting Taiwan to the Global Market
Fastener World Inc.

SUNCO's original magazine

SOCKET BOY

-Issued 4 times a year-
Recommended products
Culture and history of craftsmanship city, Higashiosaka
Customer & supplier interviews

We passionately deliver exciting content to the world! Circulating 10,000 copies every issue!

Whether you are an industry professional, manufacturing enthusiast, or simply someone with a curious mind, SOCKET BOY is a must-read!



Sign up here!

Sign up for free!
Get every new issue delivered free.
Receive releases and article updates.

SUNCO
Socket Boy

Website

Sunco Industries Co., Ltd.
Head office : 9-28, 1-Chome, Itachibori, Nishiku, Osaka, Japan 550-0012 TEL☎ : +81-6-6539-3560
World Trade Section Email : export@sunco.co.jp

SOCKET BOY Website

Easy Access with Just a Click

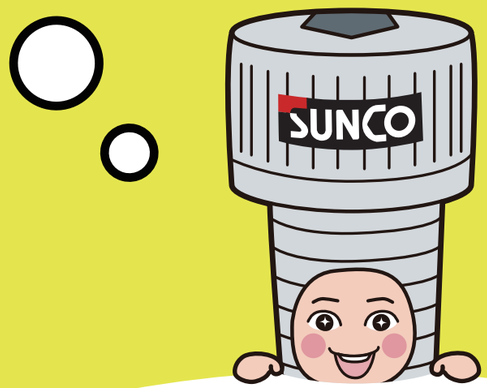
I want to visit the featured websites right away!

TEL:+81-6-6539-3560
Email:export@sunco.co.jp
https://www.jisscrew.com/

Click URLs!

No need to scan with your smartphone—just click!

Click QR codes!



The URLs and QR codes featured in this magazine are clickable. You can directly access the websites of featured companies and related articles.

The Only Magazine Dedicated to Japan's Fastener Industry

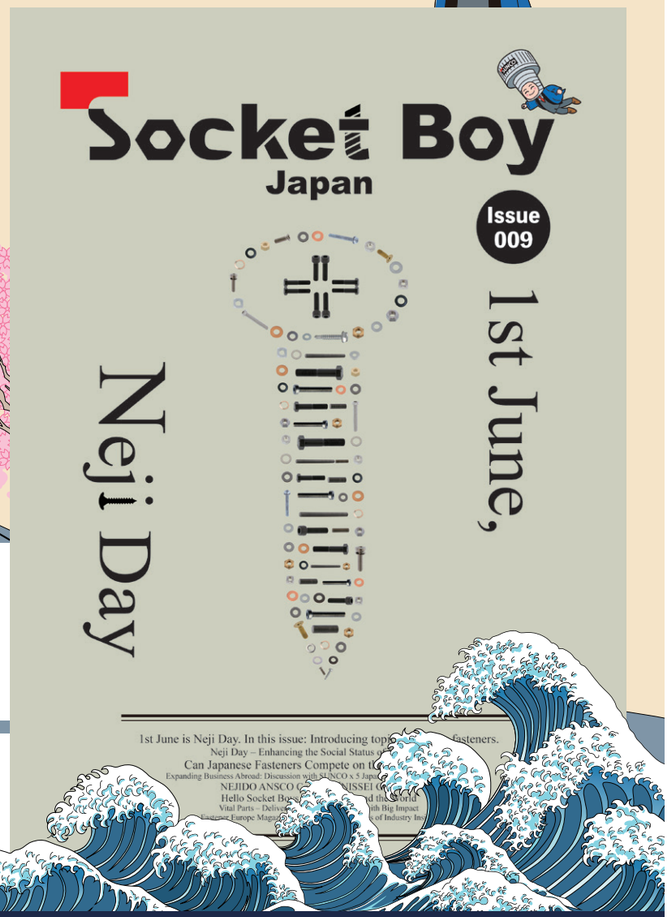
Published quarterly
10,000 copies circulated per issue!

Your source for insights into Japan's fastener industry!

We proudly bring recommended products, the culture and history of Higashiosaka's manufacturing community, and interviews with customers and suppliers to readers around the world!
Whether you are an industry professional, a manufacturing enthusiast or simply someone with a curious mind, SOCKET BOY is a must-read!







Free Registration

Receive every new issue of the magazine-completely free!
You'll also get notifications whenever a new issue is released or new articles are published on our website.

Register Now

SUNCO
Socket Boy

Website

Sunco Industries Co., Ltd.
Head office : 9-28, 1-Chome, Itachibori, Nishiku, Osaka, Japan 550-0012 TEL☎ : +81-6-6539-3560
World Trade Section Email : export@sunco.co.jp

SOCKET BOY Website

Features — 4-8

Tracking the Origin of Fasteners – Tanegashima: The Island Where Firearms First Arrived in Japan

- Nakatane Matchlock Preservation Society: Pass Down the History of Matchlock Guns and Fasteners with 'Learning through Play' Philosophy
- How Many Can You Get Right? A Matchlock Gun Quiz with Socket Boy!



NEJIDO — Interviews with Japanese Fastener Manufactures — 10-13

vol.8 Nakashimada Engineering works Ltd.
Employees Support Global Business Success and CEO Sets His Sight on Space

vol.9 Asaiseisakusho.co.ltd.
From Supporting Overseas Customers to Selling Accessories A Fastener Manufacturer Run Single-Handedly by its President



Hello Socket Boys and Girls Around the World — 14-15

There are still many fastener companies around the world that we don't know about.

Nucleon Power Inc.
Supporting the Future of Nuclear Technology

Fastener World Inc.
Connecting Taiwan to the Global Market



Manufacturing City: Higashiosaka — 16-19

How Japanese People Enjoy Tsukimi (Moon Viewing)

Wagashi Shiraho — The Secrets Behind the Popularity of its "An-Doughnuts"

Rugby Scrum Brothers — A Factory to Admire, Metalwork to Captivate Takumi Kogei Co. Ltd.

Hiraoka Shrine — A Place Where Myth and History Begin



Article Exchange — 20-21

American Fastener Journal
Strength in Diversity: The Importance of Diversification and Stability for U.S. Buyers

Torque Magazine
Torque-Expo 2026: The Best Torque-Expo to date



It's a screw world! — 22

Explains what many people have never thought about – how fasteners are made and the many interesting ways of using them! This article introduces how great and varied fasteners are.

Episode 1: Fasteners That Build Houses
- Yamakawa Byoura Seisakusho Co. Ltd.

Episode 2: The World of Stainless Steel Fasteners
- Okitsurasen Co. Ltd.

Socket Boy Japan
10th issue



Published by:
Sunco Industries Co. Ltd.

[Head Office]
1-9-28, Itachibori, Nishiku, Osaka, 550-0012, Japan
Email: export@sunco.co.jp

Planning and Design
Sunco Industries Co. Ltd.

Socket Boy Website:
Scan the QR code below to stay updated on new issues and the latest articles!
Don't miss our web-exclusive content!

September 2026 Issue

Tracking the Origin of Fasteners

Tanegashima: The Island Where Firearms Were First Introduced to Japan

Tanegashima, an island located in the Pacific Ocean south of Kagoshima Prefecture, is widely known as the place where firearms were first introduced to Japan, nearly 500 years ago. The arrival of firearms had a profound impact on Japanese history, making Tanegashima famous nationwide as the birthplace of Japanese firearms technology. However, few people are aware that fasteners were also introduced to Japan along with these firearms.



The beautiful beach and sky of Tanegashima





(Photo 1) A breech plug fastener fitted to the rear of a matchlock gun barrel



▶ *Teppou Yuri* (gun lily), known in English as the Easter lily, is the official flower of Nishiomote City on Tanegashima. Its Japanese name originates from the flower's resemblance to the muzzle of a firearm.

Fasteners arrived in Japan together with firearms

According to historical records, a Chinese ship carrying Portuguese traders was blown off course and came ashore at Maenohama on Tanagashima in 1543. The Portuguese brought matchlock firearms; this was the first arrival of guns in Japan. The local leader at the time, Tokitaka Tanegashima, purchased two matchlock guns and ordered local blacksmiths to reproduce them. Although the craftsmen eventually succeeded, after extensive trial and error, in manufacturing the gun barrels, they had great difficulty in reproducing the threaded fastener used for the breech plug, which seals the rear end of the barrel (Photo 1). The following year, the Portuguese returned to the island and taught the blacksmiths the techniques required to manufacture the breech plug. With the successful development of this fastening technology, Japan-made firearms were finally created.

The breech plug serves as a lid that withstands the enormous pressure generated when a firearm is discharged. As such, it is a critical component for ensuring its safe operation. In December 2025, a monument replicating a breech plug was installed on the beach where the Portuguese are believed to have landed in 1544. The monument commemorates the history of the arrival of fasteners in Japan, introduced to Japan alongside matchlock firearms, and it helps preserve this important story for future generations.

Tanegashima where history and the future meet

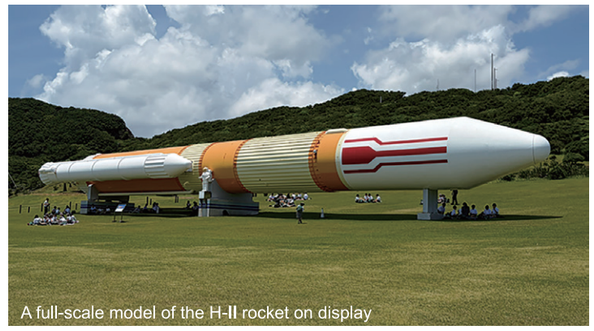
While Tanegashima is known as the birthplace of firearms and fastener technology in Japan, it is also home to the cutting-edge technology that supports the nation's space development efforts. The Tanegashima Space Center, located in Minamitane Town, serves as one of Japan's most important facilities for launching and assembling rockets. While the center plays a vital role in the country's space exploration programs and it is also a popular tourist destination. At the JAXA Space Science and Technology Museum, located within the space center grounds, visitors can learn about rockets, satellites and space exploration. Tanegashima is a unique place where the past and the future coexist. The island continues to play a remarkable role in the advancement of technology.



▶ A rocket monument welcomes visitors to JAXA's Space Science and Technology Museum.



Matchlock firearms



A full-scale model of the H-II rocket on display

Tanegashima

Location: Kumage District, Kagoshima Prefecture (Osumi Islands)
Size: Approximately 445 square kilometers
Access: About 40 minutes by air from Kagoshima Airport. About 1 hour and 40 minutes by high-speed ferry or about 3.5 hours by regular ferry from Kagoshima Port
Climate and features: Tanegashima enjoys a mild maritime climate with relatively warm temperatures throughout the year. The island is well known for its sugarcane and Anno sweet potato production. Its beautiful coastlines, crystal-clear waters and abundant natural scenery make it a popular tourist destination.



‘Learning through Play’ Philosophy Passing Down the History of the Matchlock and Fastener

“I want people to learn about the history and technology of matchlock guns through fun.” These are the words of Kazuyuki Fukada, Chairman of the Nakatane Matchlock Preservation Society. Born on Tanegashima Island in Kagoshima Prefecture in 1959, Fukada spend his childhood living on the island, but on graduation from high school, he moved to Osaka to work for the security company SECOM. Later he moved to Tokyo, joining the Metropolitan Police Department as a police officer. After a 30-year career in law enforcement, he returned to his hometown of Tanegashima and established the Nakatane Matchlock Preservation Society with the aim to preserve and pass on the history of how matchlock firearms were first introduced to Japan.

The creation of a local artillery group

Founded primarily through Fukuda’s efforts in 2014, the Nakatane Matchlock Preservation Society is dedicated to preserving local culture and history. The organization currently has 15 members, including volunteers who perform matchlock firing demonstrations as part of the Tanegashima Artillery Group. The society participates in events organized by local government and visits elementary and junior high schools to teach students about the history of firearms and fasteners in Japan. Through these activities, the group plays an important role in preserving and promoting Tanegashima’s firearm heritage.

Tanegashima Island, known as the place where firearms were first introduced to Japan, is divided into three municipalities: Nishiomote City, Nakatane Town, Minamitane Town. Before Fukada founded the Nakatane Artillery Group, the other two local municipalities already had their own preservation organizations, but Nakatane Town did not. After returning to his hometown, Fukuda was disappointed to learn that there was no local organization dedicated to preserving the history and technology of matchlock firearms. Determined to change this, he set out to establish one himself.



An enthusiastic Fukada explains about the matchlock firearm

A key figure in making this vision a reality was Taira Sawada, a matchlock researcher and the leader of the Sakai Matchlock Society in Sakai City, Osaka. Through an introduction from the head of the Minamitane Town Matchlock Society, Fukada met Sawada, who encouraged him saying, “If you are serious about establishing a preservation society, come to learn.” Inspired by those words, Fukada spent his summer vacation learning about matchlock firing demonstrations under Sawada’s guidance. Sawada also advised him to attend the National Matchlock Gun Summit held in Ashikita Town, Kumamoto Prefecture, at the end of September. Taking this advice to heart, Fukada worked with the local town council to create recruitment materials and gather supporters. His efforts paid off and the Nakatane Matchlock Preservation Society, along with its artillery group, was officially established in September 2014 and today has a dedicated membership, with both male and female members.



© TREK Photography



The Mononofu Festival held in June 2026 (top two photos)

Every June, the society organizes the Mononofu Festival* in Nakatane Town. At the festival, visitors can learn about the history of how matchlock guns were introduced to Japan and gain an understanding of their construction and mechanisms. Interactive activities include trying on traditional armor and firing a mock matchlock gun equipped with a percussion-cap mechanism. Visitors can also enjoy dramatic live matchlock firing demonstrations. The festival’s greatest attraction is its ability to combine education and entertainment, allowing people of all ages to learn about history while having fun.

*Mononofu: A warrior skilled in martial arts who served and fought for his lord.

The place where firearms arrived is also the place where fasteners arrived

In December 2025, a fastener monument was installed at the Nature Recreation Village beach in Nakatane Town. According to Fukada, while Tanegashima is widely known as the place where firearms first entered Japan, few people realize that it is also considered the place where fasteners were first introduced to the country. As well as establishing the artillery group, Fukada also hoped to raise awareness of this lesser-known part of Tanegashima’s history and his long-term goal was to create a monument commemorating the introduction of fasteners to Japan.

However, financial challenges delayed the project for many years. Fukuda presented the idea to representative of industry organizations during a visit to Tanegashima approximately ten years ago, but the monument did not become a reality until 2018 when Fukuda successfully utilized a Nakatane Town’s grand program to install a sign explaining the history of fasteners on the island. Continued efforts by Fukada and other society members eventually led to the realization of their dream and the fastener monument was finally installed last year. Smiling as he reflected on the achievement, Fukada said: “I was delighted to see a dream that I had pursued for more than a decade finally come true.”



The fastener monument installed in the Nature Recreation Village

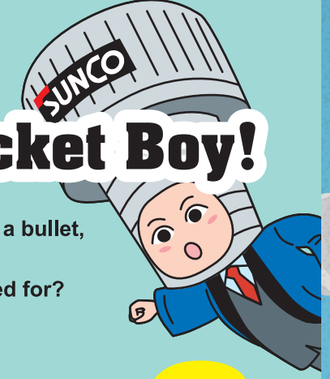
Keeping the flame of tradition alive

Looking to the future, Fukada believes the Preservation Society’s most important challenge is securing the next generation of leaders and members. As current members grow older, his goal is to increase total membership from 15 to 20 while maintaining at least 15 active participants. He notes that some people have joined out of curiosity but eventually left before fully committing to the organization’s mission. For this reason, he hopes to attract individuals who truly understand the importance of cultural preservation. “I want to find people who share our vision, understand the purpose of our activities and are committed to continuing them long term.” Guide by the philosophy “Learning through Play,” the Nakatane Matchlock Preservation Society continues to share the history of firearms and fasteners with new generations. Through educational programs, demonstrations and community events, the group remains dedicated to preserving and passing down the unique history and culture of Tanegashima.

Article by Ikumi Shinomiya

How Many Can You Get Right?

A Matchlock Gun Quiz with Socket Boy!



What is a matchlock gun? A matchlock gun is a type of firearm that fires a lead ball, like a bullet, by using a match cord to ignite gunpowder.
Below are pictures of tools used with matchlock guns. Can you guess what they are used for? See how many you can guess correctly!

1



This might be easy to guess!

2



3



The one on the right looks like a bird beak!

4



Hint:
This is strapped to a gunman's waist so it could be accessed quickly whenever needed.

5



The tip looks sharp! I wonder if it's for turning something?

6



Answers



1. **Match cord**
   A specially treated cord used to fire a matchlock gun. It is designed to burn slowly and evenly.
2. **Gunpowder container**
   A container for carrying the ignition powder (muzzle charge), placed in the firing pan of a matchlock gun.
3. **'Bullet' pouch**
   A pouch used to store and carry the lead balls or bullets for firing and reloading a matchlock gun. The item shown on the right is the container that is fitted with a long tapered spout, called a *karasukuchi*, that allows bullets to be removed one at a time.
4. **Dohran (Cartridge box)**
   A container used to store and carry *hayago* – a set comprising the gunpowder and bullet required to fire a matchlock gun.
5. **Bullet mold**
   A tool used to manufacture bullets for matchlock guns. Molten lead was poured into the mold to produce lead balls of a uniform size.
6. **Breech plug wrench**
   A tool used to tighten or loosen the breech plug that seals the rear end of a matchlock gun barrel.

Complete sign up with just an email address!

Get the Japanese fastener industry's latest news for free!

Socket Boy Japan

Sign in | Sign Up

Sign up and get the printed magazine delivered to you!
If you'd like the magazine to be posted to you, be sure to sign up! We'll send you notification emails whenever a new issue is released!

Email

Sign Up

Scan the QR code to sign up for free!

SUNCO Socket Boy

Website

Sunco Industries Co., Ltd.
Head office : 9-28, 1-Chome, Itachibori, Nishiku, Osaka, Japan 550-0012 TEL☎ : +81-6-6539-3560
World Trade Section Email : export@sunco.co.jp

SOCKET BOY Website

NEJIDO

– The Road for Those Living in the Fastener Industry –

Celebrating its 115th anniversary this year, Nakashimada Engineering Works develops and manufactures cold heading machines (header and former) used to produce fasteners. One of the company's greatest strengths is its ability to manufacture all the vital components in-house with exceptionally high machining accuracy. Approximately 60% of the parts used in each machine are produced internally. In addition, the company archives the complete drawings of every machine it has ever manufactured, allowing them to reproduce replacement parts for any machine – from older models to the latest – whenever and whatever the customers require.

A single remark that changed the attitude towards manufacturing

Masahiro Nakashimada, President & CEO of Nakashimada Engineering Works, has loved cars for as long as he can remember. As a young man, he dreamed of working for a car manufacturer. After graduating from high school, he studied Industrial Design at the University of Illinois and upon completing his studies, he joined one of Japan's largest car manufacturers, where he gained hands on design experience. At that point in his career, he had little direct experience in machine manufacturing, however, following the collapse of Japan's 'bubble economy' in the early 1990s, he joined Nakashimada Engineering Works - run at that time by his relatives – as part of the business restructuring effort.

Nakashimada recalls on joining the company, that a single comment from a veteran employee, Sakai, dramatically changed his perspective on manufacturing. It happened when he and Sakai were working together to complete the final polishing of a machine. Nakashimada went home before Sakai, thinking his work was completed however, the next morning, he noticed that the machine was far shinier than he had left it. Feeling he had done an inadequate job, he apologized to Sakai who simply responded by saying, "They are our products". Even today, Nakashimada says he has never forgotten those words and reflecting on this experience, he explains that, "Through that experience, I learned that every single process matters when creating an excellent product."

Taking on the world together with employees

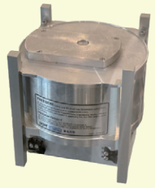
Nakashimada Engineering Works began expanding internationally in the 1970s, selling its products overseas through a trading company. According to Nakashimada, one of the company's greatest challenges came around 2000, when it ended its agreement with the trading company and began selling directly through local agents around the world. During this difficult transition, the company's employees became its greatest source of support. They handled everything themselves, from administration to customer communication on-site. Employees frequently left their families in Japan and traveled abroad to resolve customer issues. When mistakes occurred, they stood alongside Nakashimada and visited customers together to apologize in person. Looking back, he says, "I was able to overcome every challenge thanks to our employees. I can never thank them enough." Today, the company exports its products worldwide, particularly to Europe and the United States, supporting a wide range of manufacturing industries.

Unique Origami-Like Manufacturing Process Explored
A challenge to reduce space debris

Nakashimada Engineering Works' ambitions extend far beyond international business expansion. In 2010, the company began collaborating with Tohoku University on space-related technologies. One of the most pressing issues facing the space industry today is the increasing amount of debris generated by out of service satellites. To address this problem, the company developed DOM, a small device, attached to satellites that prevent them from turning into debris in space. Once a satellite has completed its mission, DOM, a membrane stored inside the satellite, is deployed. This membrane increases the air resistance that exists slightly in outer space and accelerates the satellite's decent toward Earth. As a result, the satellite eventually re-enters the Earth's atmosphere, rather than remaining redundant in space. In 2016, FREEDOM, a micro satellite equipped with the DOM, was launched, demonstrating the effectiveness of the technology in helping satellites return to Earth safely.



DOM1500, a deployable de-orbit device for satellites. A folded membrane measuring 1.5 meters by 1.5 meters is stored inside a compact cylindrical case approximately 10 cm in diameter and 10 cm in height.



The ultra-small satellite, FREEDOM

According to Nakashimada, the most challenging aspect of manufacturing DOM was the process of folding the membrane that would later be deployed in space. This process was carried out manually by a highly skilled employee. Working in a clean room every day, they repeatedly scored and folded the membrane before carefully stacking each layer, in perfect alignment. Completing the task took approximately one month. Nakashimada praised the employee's dedication, saying, "This work is truly the ultimate form of origami. Without him, this product would never have been completed."

Today, international guidelines and national regulations regarding space debris are gradually being established. However, comprehensive and unified regulations remain in their early stages. A true enthusiast for the future of space-related ventures, Nakashimada believes that demand for debris-mitigation technologies such as DOM will increase significantly as these regulations become more widely adopted in the future. By that time, he says," We would like to further strengthen our manufacturing capabilities, including advancing mechanization."

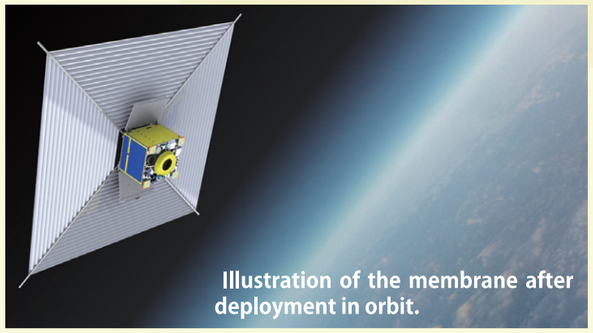


Illustration of the membrane after deployment in orbit.

Earning customer trust through product development

When discussing the future of the company, Nakashimada said "Rather than expanding our business and increasing sales, I want to continue earning the trust from the customers who have supported us for many years". As labor shortages become a growing concern, customers increasingly require labor-saving solutions and greater operational efficiency. Nakashimada Engineering Works aims to address these challenges through innovative machinery and technology. Working together with its employees, the company continues to develop products that meet customer needs, maintaining the trust it has built over generations. It will be exciting to see what challenges the company takes on next.

MF440 - High precision forming of micro components

Nakashimada Engineering Works recommends the MF440, a four-die, five-punch micro former, designed primarily for the production of micro-sized metal components and precision parts (photo below). The MF440 enables highly accurate forming of the tiny metal components used in products such as smartphones, automobiles and aircraft.

Article by Ikumi Shinomiya



MF440



President & CEO
Masahiro Nakashimada

vol.8 Nakashimada Engineering works, Ltd.

Employees Support Global Business Success and CEO Sets His Sights on Space

NEJIDO

– The Road for Those Living in the Fastener Industry –

Located in Soka City in Saitama, Asaiseisakusho Co. Ltd. is a small-diameter fastener manufacturer operated entirely by its President, Hideo Asai. From manufacturing and sales to customer support, Asai manages every aspect of the business himself. The company's flagship products are tapping screws, and it also specializes in custom-made fasteners – even accepting order for a single piece. Because all decisions are made by one person, a major strength of the company is its ability to respond quickly to customer inquiries and determine whether a product can be manufactured.

Asai has been working for Asaiseisakusho and producing fasteners for 40 years since graduating from high school. Founded in 1968, the company was once run by four family members - Asai's grandfather, father, cousin and Asai himself. However, since 2009, he has been in sole charge. Some of the machinery in the factory dates back to 1969 and lacks modern automatic shutdown functions that stop production when problems occur. Yet despite working with such equipment, Asai continues to produce high-quality fasteners. Reflecting on the experience he has gained over the years, he explains: "I can tell when something is wrong simply from the sound or smell of the machines".

Selling fasteners overseas and building international connections

Asaiseisakusho's products are sold not only in Japan but also overseas. At the end of last year, Asai received an inquiry from a customer in Canada who had spent seven years searching for a manufacturer capable of producing a specific fastener. The customer, an enthusiast of vintage computers, was looking for some bind machine screws with two small notches beside the cross recess, needed for computer restoration work. According to the customer: "We contacted several Japanese fastener manufacturers, but none of them gave us a satisfactory response." Hearing the story, Asai was determined to help. "Once the customer explained the situation, I couldn't resist taking on the challenge," he recalls. When the screws were finally completed, the customer sent a heartfelt message: "I'm truly delighted to finally obtain the product I've been searching for over the past seven years. Thank you very much."



The bind machine screws that a Canadian customer was looking for years.

In May of this year, three American mechanical engineering students visited Asaiseisakusho's factory. Their visit was inspired by a YouTube video featuring the company. About three years ago, Asaiseisakusho was introduced on The approximately 1.8 million views. Using a translation app, Asai personally guided the students through the factory, explained their manufacturing process.

A fastener ring inspired by a gift

"I think I should ask you to make a ring with one of your fasteners!" This comment made by Asai's partner about 20 years ago was the origin of Asaiseisakusho's accessory business. Asai wanted to give her a ring a few years after they met and was inspired by her comment. So he and a fellow metalworking company collaborated to create a ring featuring threaded holes around its sides, into which miniature screws could be inserted. When he saw the finished ring, he immediately recognized its potential and decided to turn it into a commercial item. Around the same time, he heard about *Design Festa*, one of Japan's largest art and design events, featuring creators from Japan and abroad and decided to sell the new accessories there. Subsequently, he launched the brand, Nejikobo, and began exhibiting and selling products through a dedicated website.

The most popular item today is the stainless-steel ring type B, featuring a tapered outer edge. Asai explained that one of the ring's most distinctive features is that the screws are fully functional and removable. While screw-themed accessories are available from other manufacturers, many use decorative screws that are permanently welded in place. Asaiseisakusho's rings, however, allow customers to tighten and remove the screw themselves. Customers can also personalize their rings by choosing different colored screws and replacing Philios-head screws with flat-head screws. The company even offers free replacement of worn screws.



Stainless-steel Ring type B (Right)

As for future product development, Asai says he currently has no plans to significantly expand the accessory lineup, as it remains secondary to his main fastener business. Nevertheless, the rings have become increasingly popular. When first introduced, only a limited range of sizes were available. Today, customers can choose from ring sizes ranging from Size 7 to Size 21.

Looking toward the company's future

When discussing the future of the company, Asai speaks candidly: "I need to start thinking about how to gradually wind down the business in a smooth and responsible way." Since he runs the company on his own, any unexpected issue could create issues for his customers. The other issue is that some of the manufacturing equipment has been operating for more than 60 years and it is difficult to predict how much longer the machines can remain in service. For the foreseeable future, Asai plans to carefully manage his workload and continue to run the business for as long as possible, while considering both his age and the condition of his manufacturing equipment.

Able to create just a single custom-made fastener

Asaiseisakusho's recommended products are its custom-made fasteners. Asai's philosophy is simple: if a fastener can be manufactured using his existing equipment, he will produce it regardless of quantity – even if only a single piece is required. The company also manufactures slotted screws, which have become increasingly rare in modern production, and continues to receive numerous inquiries from customers seeking such products.

Article by Ikumi Shinomiya



Slotted screws manufactured by Asaiseisakusho

◀Scan here to watch the video featuring Asaiseisakusho!



President
Hideo Asai

vol.9 Asaiseisakusho.co.Ltd.

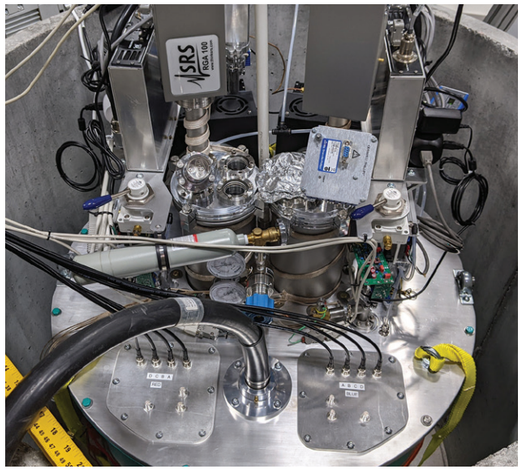
From Supporting Overseas Customers to Selling Accessories A Fastener Manufacturer Run Single-Handedly by its President

Hello Socket Boys and Girls Around the World!

There are still many fastener companies around the world that we don't know about. Let's say hello...

Nucleon Power, Inc.

Supporting the Future of Nuclear Technology





Based in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, one of the world's leading centers for nuclear research, Nucleon Power develops advanced technologies that help scientists and engineers better understand and measure nuclear processes. Guided by the belief that the challenges of tomorrow require practical solutions today, the company applies cutting-edge fusion science to create tools that support innovation across research, industry and clean-energy development.

Nucleon Powers' core expertise lies in neutron sources, radiation measurement systems and specialized nuclear instrumentation used in laboratories and testing facilities worldwide. Its flagship technology is Gemini, an in-house fusion neutron source designed to support advanced research and testing. In addition, Nucleon offers a range of high-performance instruments, including spectroscopy systems, radiation detectors and analytical tools that provide accurate and reliable measurements in demanding environments.

What sets Nucleon apart is its hands-on approach to innovation. Rather than simply manufacturing instruments, the company develops many of its technologies through its own fusion and nuclear research programs. This gives its team first-hand insight into the challenges faced by researchers, enabling them to deliver practical solutions and serve as a trusted technical partner for organizations at the forefront of nuclear science.

Nucleon understands that innovation depends on reliable components. Precision fasteners play an important role in maintaining the accuracy and performance of the company's research instruments and fusion technologies.

Looking ahead, Nucleon aims to accelerate the development of fusion energy and advanced nuclear technologies while making high-quality neutron and radiation measurement tools more accessible worldwide. By supporting scientific discovery and technological innovation, the company is helping build a cleaner, safer and more sustainable future.

Nucleon Power

Address:
78 Mitchell Rd., Oak Ridge, TN
37830, USA
TEL: +1 865 287 5297
Contact: Amanda Ison
Email: info@nucleonpower.com
www.nucleonpower.com

Fastener World Inc.

Connecting Taiwan to the Global Market

FASTENER WORLD
www.fastener-world.com



Founded in 1987 in Tainan, Taiwan, Fastener World has grown from a two-person operation into one of the industry's leading global media platforms. Located in the heart of Taiwan's fastener manufacturing hub - home to around 70% of the country's production capacity - the company is uniquely positioned to gather valuable industry insight and connect businesses worldwide.

Fastener World was established at a time when Taiwanese manufacturers were actively seeking ways to expand into international markets.

Recognizing this need, the company launched Taiwan's first dedicated fastener magazine, creating a vital bridge between local producers and global buyers. Over nearly four decades, it has played a significant role in promoting Taiwanese companies worldwide and supporting their entry into key markets such as the United States and Europe.



Today, Fastener World offers a comprehensive media and marketing platform, combining print publications, digital channels, B2B platforms and exhibition participation. Its portfolio includes several specialized magazines distributed to more than 200 countries, with over 10,000 copies per issue. The company is also highly active in global trade fairs, having participated in more than 500 exhibitions and attending over 20 each year.

What sets Fastener World apart is its strong global network, extensive market intelligence and ability to deliver targeted exposure for suppliers and buyers alike. By aligning editorial content with industry trends and major exhibitions, the company continues to provide timely, relevant insights.

Looking ahead, Fastener World aims to expand its international presence further, strengthen its role as a global marketing platform and continue its mission of connecting Taiwan's fastener industry with the world.

Address:
No. 469, Yuping Rd., Anping Dist., Tainan City
708014, Taiwan
TEL: +886 6 2954000
Contact:Sales (Overseas) Department
Email: foreign@fastener-world.com.tw
www.fastener-world.com

Who's the next Socket Boy or Girl?
SEE YOU NEXT TIME...



Tsukimi (Moon Viewing) - A Fall Traditional Event in Japan
How Japanese People Enjoy Tsukimi Today

Picture: 1 Kushikatsu Chitose Kosakaten, 2 Yakitori chiyo, 3 Chuka soba Kyubee They all have "*Tsukimi* menus", using eggs to represent a full moon.

Since ancient times, Japanese life has been closely connected to rice cultivation. People observed seasonal changes by monitoring the water levels in rice paddies and the growth of seedling while marking the passage of time through seasonal festivals and celebrations. Among these seasonal traditions, *Tsukimi* – or moon viewing - has developed into a unique and much-loved custom centered on the harvest season.

Tsukimi origins are in China's Tang Dynasty *Mid-Fall Festival*, arriving in Japan during the Heian period (8th to 12th century). Initially, it was an elegant pastime enjoyed by aristocrats, who composed poetry in a style called '*waka*', while admiring the moon. Over time, the festival came to be enjoyed by all Japanese citizens. It is traditionally held in the evening of the 15th day, of the 8th month in the lunar calendar. People would gaze at the full moon while giving thanks for the harvest, as the rice fields ripened to a golden color.

With the modern Gregorian calendar, the date varies each year, typically falling between mid-September and early October. In 2026, *Tsukimi* will be celebrated on September 25.

Traditionally in Japan, especially in the Kansai region, to mark the festival, families display Japanese pampas grass outside their homes and offer *tsukimi dango*, rice dumplings accompanied by a sweet red bean paste.

The round shape of the *dango* symbolizes the full moon, while the glossy red bean paste represents the night sky. The neatly stacked dumplings, arranged without skewers, are sometimes said to resemble a treasure ship celebrating the harvest. Interestingly, the appearance of *dango* varies by region: in eastern Japan, they tend to be oval, while in Nagoya, they are usually stacked in a three-tier pyramid.

Even in homes where families no longer gather to admire the moon, the sweet aroma of rice flour and red bean paste drifting from the kitchen signals the arrival of Fall.

Today, however, urbanization and city lights often obscure the night sky, especially in densely populated areas like Higashiosaka, with a population of nearly 500,000. As a result, traditional moon viewing has become less common and the focus has gradually shifted from the sky to the dining table.

In modern Japan, *Tsukimi* is often celebrated through seasonal foods. One famous example is the "*Tsukimi* burger," often found on major fast-food chains' seasonal menus, featuring a fried egg to represent the full moon – the yolk, the moon, and the white, clouds. In the same vein, cafes and restaurants now offer a wide range of *Tsukimi* - themed items; from puddings and crepes to beef bowls topped with raw egg yolk. September has effectively become the peak season for *Tsukimi*-themed promotions in the restaurant industry. Recently, even more creative interpretations have appeared, such as using pineapple slices to represent the full moon – a trend that has gained popularity on social media. Rather than gazing up at the night sky, people now often celebrate by enjoying these symbolic "moons" on their plates. Although the way *Tsukimi* is enjoyed has evolved over time, its essence remains unchanged: a moment to appreciate the seasons and give thanks for the harvest. Each year brings new and imaginative ways to represent the full moon, and the tradition continues to thrive in two realms – the sky above and the dining table below.

Gourmet

Wagashi Shiraho
The Secrets Behind the Popularity of its "An-Doughnuts"



An-doughnuts – Doughnuts Filled with Smooth Red Bean Paste

Established in 1981, Wagashi Shiraho is a traditional Japanese confectionery shop located in Wakae Honmachi. Today, the business is run by second-generation owner, Takayuki Shinzawa. The shop's signature products include "Wakae castle monaka," inspired by a local ancient castle, and "Shiraho-Yaki", a baked sweet named after the shop itself. Seasonal specialties are also popular. "Strawberry Daifuku" is popular in Spring whereas "Kudzu ice cream" is popular in Summer. However, the most popular of all of Shiraho's products is the An-Doughnut, a creation developed by Shinzawa himself. Approximately 1,500 An-Doughnuts are made every day, but on a busy day they will all be sold out by noon. During long holiday periods such as Obon (in August) and the New Year season, long lines of customers can regularly be seen outside the shop.

The secret behind the An-Doughnut's popularity lies in the careful selection of ingredients for the dough. Sugar cane from Hateruma Island in Okinawa is used for the dough while the red bean paste is made from Hokkaido-grown azuki beans and beet-derived crystal sugar.

"To be honest, I could use less expensive sugar with stronger preservative properties," says Shinzawa. "However, using too much would be overpowering. Beet sugar provides a similar shelf life while creating a fresher and more natural flavor."

The dough delivers the rich sweetness of sugar cane while the bean paste offers a more delicate sweetness as a result of using the beet sugar. The combination of these two distinct types of sweetness creates a perfectly balanced flavor.

Shinzawa has also launched AN●D, Japan's first specialty wagashi shop dedicated exclusively to An-Doughnuts. The brand has expanded from Higashiosaka to Okinawa, the source of the sugar cane used in its products. Perhaps in the near future, Shiraho's An-Doughnuts will be enjoyed not only throughout Japan but around the world.



Wagashi Shiraho's main shop with an eat-in space inside.



"Wakae castle monaka". Monaka is a traditional Japanese sweet. Red bean paste is sandwiched by thin skins made of glutenous rice.

Main shop address:1-4-21, Wakae Honmachi, Higashiosaka City
Opening hours: 9:00am to 5:30pm



Takumi Kogei Co. Ltd.

Rugby Scrum Brothers – A Factory to Admire, Metalwork to Captivate

Based in Kizuri Town in Higashiosaka, Takumi Kogei is a metalworking company specializing in bespoke manufacturing. What sets the company apart is its fully custom-made approach. Instead of mass-producing identical products, Takumi Kogei designs, manufactures and installs products tailored to each client's request. In recent years, inquiries related to office interiors have increased alongside projects from the service and event industries. As a result, the company's work now extends far beyond the traditional framework of "metalworking." Takumi Kogei handles construction projects all across Japan – from Hokkaido to Okinawa – serving shops, department stores and retail chains.

The company, Takumi Kogei, is run by two brothers, both former rugby players. The President is Yu Imura, and the Executive Managing Director is his younger brother, Ryo Imura. Together, they form a strong "scrum" that drives the company forward. It was founded by their father, Takumi Imura, in 1978 and incorporated in 1983. Although the business originally operated mainly as an industrial broker, the company gradually established its own plating, sheet metal and welding departments, successfully transforming itself into an in-house manufacturer. In 2022, the Kizuri factory was relocated and reborn. With its stylish exterior, the facility looks nothing like a conventional factory. Inside, the high ceilings and specious layout create an open and modern atmosphere. The head office also features a showroom where visitors can learn more about the company and its work.

The company's philosophy is the same as the national rugby team: "One for All, All for One". In particular, they emphasize the message, 'Try One's Best', to boost staff morale. Their office even includes a rugby-themed area decorated with rugby goal posts and locker-room inspired spaces. Whenever an important rugby match takes place, the showroom is transformed into a public viewing venue where everyone can gather to watch together. Takumi Kogei is also active within the local community. The company joined the project, "Koba e ikou!", an open factories event held in Higashiosaka. They create an environment where people can easily visit. President Imura says "Our father built the foundation and we brothers are working to make it even stronger. We would like to continue expanding our networks further." Through collaboration with other industries and their enduring passion for rugby, Takumi Kogei continues to create new possibilities. This is Takumi Kogei - an ambitious local company.







—The Origin of Kasuga Shrine; A Sacred Site Where Laughter is Enjoyed—

Hiraoka Shrine : Myth and History Begin



The main Shrine, Where the Shrine's deities are enshrined

Located at the foot of Mount Ikoma in Higashiosaka City in Osaka, the Hiraoka Shrine is said to have been founded in 657BC, three years before the legendary Emperor Jinmu ascended the throne. In ancient times, this area was the center of Kawachi Province and the Hiraoka Shrine was revered as the highest-ranking shrine in the province – known in Japanese as the *Ichinomiya*.

During the Meiji period, the Hiraoka Shrine was granted the prestigious rank of *Kanpei Taisha*, one of the highest classifications in the State Shinto system. Today, it continues to attract worshippers from across Japan and is designated as a *Beppyo Shrine*, a status reserved for particularly important shrines. The Shrine is also known as "Moto-Kasuga" (the Original Kasuga Shrine) because in Shinto religion, it is said that the deities now enshrined at Kasuga Taisha in Nara were originally enshrined in the Hiraoka Shrine. For this reason, it is often referred to as the birthplace of Kasuga Grand Shrine.

The Hiraoka Shrine is surrounded by the lush forests of Mount Ikoma. Passing through the *torii* gate and climbing the gently sloping stone steps, visitors are welcomed by a peaceful atmosphere. The beauty of the shrine changes with the seasons, from plentiful plum blossom in Spring to vibrant Fall foliage.

A variety of traditional ceremonies and festivals are held at the Hiraoka Shrine throughout the year. One of the highlights of Fall is the Shugosai Festival, during which magnificent taiko-drum floats and elaborately decorated *danjiri* floats (portable festival shrines) are paraded around the Shrine's grounds by local parishioners. In December, the Shrine holds a unique event – based on laughter. Rare even in Japan, the ceremony invites participants to laugh aloud together for around twenty minutes. Inspired by the saying, "Good fortune comes to those who laugh", the ritual is an iconic event for the Hiraoka Shrine. Although the event is held in a solemn religious setting, it is also filled with warmth and joy, bringing the year to a cheerful close. This unusual ceremony has attracted interest from both Japanese and international media.

The true appeal of the Hiraoka Shrine lies in its authenticity. While it possesses a history comparable to many of Japan's most famous shrines in Kyoto and Nara, it has not been overwhelmed by mass tourism. Here, visitors can experience the essence of Shinto spirituality – a deep respect for nature and a connection to the beliefs that have shaped Japanese culture for centuries. Laughing, praying and enjoying nature in this 'home of the gods' - that is precisely why the Hiraoka Shrine is celebrated worldwide as the 'sacred site of Higashiosaka'.



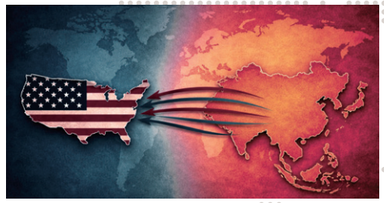
Danjiri floats entering the Shrine's grounds during the Shugosai Festival



Traditional ceremonies and festivals are held throughout the year

Address: 7-16, Izumoicho, Higashiosaka City, Osaka

Strength in Diversity:
Importance of Diversification & Stability for U.S. Buyers



Anna Hasman
Global Business Manager
anna@fastenerjournal.com
www.fastenerjournal.com

Diversification has become a defining characteristic of resilient supply chains. For U.S. fastener distributors and procurement professionals, the past decade has demonstrated that dependence on a single country or region introduces unnecessary exposure to geopolitical, economic, and logistical volatility. The global environment in which fasteners are produced, transported, and consumed has shifted rapidly, and the companies best positioned for long-term stability are those that have embraced multiregional sourcing strategies.

Political turbulence, tariff fluctuations, and evolving trade policies have reshaped the calculus of supplier selection. At the same time, disruptions in global logistics, from port congestion to pandemic-era shutdowns, have underscored the importance of supplier redundancy and manufacturing flexibility.

The New Operating Environment

Tariffs imposed under Section 232 on steel, aluminum, and certain fastener categories significantly increased landed costs for U.S. distributors. Further tariffs under Section 301 (impacting China, Vietnam, and Brazil specifically) have created an opening in the market for Japanese suppliers to showcase their reliability and availability. These measures forced companies to reevaluate sourcing strategies, renegotiate supplier relationships, and adjust pricing structures to maintain competitiveness.

Tariff expansions in 2025 and 2026 affected metals, building materials, and industrial components, prompting major distributors to report margin compression and heightened cost volatility. These developments reinforced a central lesson: reliance on a single country creates operational risk that can cascade through the supply chain. U.S. distributors have repeatedly emphasized that the trade disruptions of the U.S.–China tariff cycle revealed the vulnerabilities inherent in concentrated sourcing. Their conclusion was unequivocal: diversification is no longer optional.

Japan's Role

Japan has long been recognized for its precision manufacturing, rigorous quality systems, and consistent production standards. Japanese fastener manufacturers operate within one of the world's most stable industrial environments. Their disciplined production methodologies, strong logistics infrastructure, and commitment to quality make them attractive partners.

SUNCO Industries exemplifies the strengths that Japanese manufacturers bring to the global fastener market. Known for its extensive product catalog, precision-engineered components, and consistent export performance, SUNCO has established itself as a dependable supplier.

Looking Ahead

The future of the U.S. fastener industry will be defined by a more balanced and diversified sourcing landscape. U.S. distributors are increasingly supplementing Chinese supply with manufacturing from Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, India, Vietnam, and Mexico. The objective is not to replace one dominant region with another, but to build a resilient network capable of withstanding political, economic, and logistical disruptions.

Diversification has emerged as the cornerstone of supply chain resilience. Partnerships with Japanese manufacturers and distributors, including SUNCO Industries, illustrate the growing emphasis on stability and long-term assurance. Ultimately, while competitive pricing remains important, the defining value in today's market is reliability.

Why Diversification Matters

- Protection Against Tariffs and Trade Shifts: Multicountry sourcing allows distributors to adjust quickly when tariff classifications change or when trade agreements are renegotiated
- Reduced Lead Times and Greater Flexibility: Suppliers with manufacturing footprints across multiple countries can relocate production to meet demand, reducing lead times and mitigating the risk of stockouts
- Pricing Stability: Diversified sourcing helps smooth price fluctuations caused by freight surcharges, raw-material shortages, or region-specific cost spikes.
- Guaranteed Product Lines: When one region faces disruptions suppliers with alternative facilities can maintain continuity of supply.
- Stronger Long-Term Partnerships: Buyers increasingly value suppliers who invest in resilience.

TORQUE-EXPO 2026: THE BEST TORQUE-EXPO TO DATE

Following its highly anticipated return to the Telford International Centre, Torque-Expo 2026 once again proved why it is the definitive calendar event for the UK's fastener, tool, and distribution industries. The intensive, one-day B2B showcase brought together senior decision-makers, wholesalers, and independent distributors under one roof to talk strategy, explore supply chain solutions, and discover next-generation products...

Torque-Expo 2026 returned in May with increased exhibitor participation and higher visitor numbers, reinforcing its role as a major networking and business event for the UK fastener, fixing and industrial tooling sectors. Hosted once again at the Telford International Centre, the latest edition brought together a wider mix of exhibitors compared with the 2024 event, alongside an expanded seminar programme focused on market developments, technical expertise and business strategy. The exhibition also featured the Torque-Expo Awards, celebrating innovation and achievements across the industry.

Organisers reported strong pre-event registration figures, with visitor attendance also exceeding the previous edition. While the exhibition continues to primarily serve the UK market, the 2026 show also attracted a growing number of overseas attendees.

The exhibition floor featured established fastener distributors, fixing specialists, tooling suppliers and industrial manufacturers, as well as newer businesses looking to expand within the sector. Several recognised brands from the professional tools market were also present throughout the venue.

Torque-Expo 2026 maintained its established one-day exhibition and evening networking format, which organisers said continued to appeal to companies seeking efficient networking opportunities without extended time away from daily operations. Attendees also responded positively to the event's continued presence in Telford, a region closely associated with the UK fastener industry.

The seminar programme combined technical product discussions with broader analysis of economic conditions, sourcing trends, coatings technology, digitalisation and operational challenges affecting the sector. Presentations were delivered by senior representatives including Justin Parker, VP Strategic Sourcing at Optimas International; Mark Dorrington, Product Director at Galleon Fixings / Harrison & Clough; Sabrina Hilbt, Strategic Sales Manager at Dörken Coatings GmbH; Ethan Godden, Senior Manager at Crowe UK; and Kelly Stafford from Aptean.

The event concluded with the evening networking session, sponsored by Optimas International, which included the Torque-Expo Awards presentation, entertainment, food and drinks in a relaxed environment designed to encourage further industry interaction.

"It was great to see the industry come together again for Torque-Expo 2026," said Jerry Ramsdale, Show Director of Torque-Expo. "The continued increase in exhibitor participation and visitor engagement demonstrates the importance of face-to-face events for the sector. We would like to thank everyone involved in supporting this year's exhibition and helping make it another successful event."

As part of its ongoing exhibitor support initiative, Torque Magazine will continue offering editorial opportunities to participating companies following the event. Exhibitors can contact Editor Jonathon Harker or Deputy Editor Simon Yuen for further information.

Following the success of the 2026 exhibition, planning has already begun for the next Torque-Expo event. For more information, please contact Claire Warman on claire@torque-expo.com.









中川家と博士の ねじねじの世界

it's a screw world!

What is the TV program 'It's a screw world'?

It explains how fasteners are made - something most people don't know - and interesting ways of using them. It's a small TV show that focuses on how interesting and great fasteners are!

Broadcaster: Kansai Television Co. Ltd.
11:09-11:25 PM on every Sunday



Episode 1

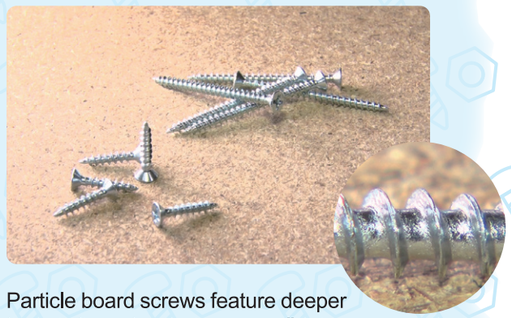
Fasteners That Build Houses



Fasteners play an essential role at construction sites! However, some materials can make fastening difficult. For example, fasteners are more prone to becoming loose over time when used with engineered wood products made from compressed wood chips or small wood pieces.

At Yamakawa Byoura Seisakusho Co. Ltd...

Secure fastening with particle board screws



Particle board screws feature deeper threads than standard screws, allowing them to grip wooden boards more securely.

Yamakawa Byoura Seisakusho Co. Ltd.
Address: 3-12-16, Shinikeshima, Higashiosaka City, Osaka

Episode 2

The World of Stainless Steel Fasteners

Carbon steel fasteners can easily rust. For this reason, stainless steel fasteners are more commonly used in areas of high moisture, such as sinks, bathrooms, hallways and window frames. However, this does not mean stainless steel fasteners are suitable for every application.



One of Japan's leading stainless steel fastener manufacturers

Okitsurasen explains why!



Stainless steel fasteners are expensive

Stainless steel costs three times more than carbon steel. Additionally, stainless steel is a harder material, causing cutting tools and molds to wear out more quickly during manufacturing. Fasteners are selected based on their intended use, material, efficiency and cost.

Okitsurasen Co. Ltd.
Address: 1424, Okitsunakacho, Shimizu-ward, Shizuoka City, Shizuoka



In April 2025, Sunco launched a YouTube channel, "SUNCO Quality Quest".

SUNCO Quality Quest takes you behind-the-scenes of how everyday products are made. It invites viewers into the fascinating world of craftsmanship – where passion, precision and dedication come together to create the items we often take for granted.

In the first video, the spotlight is on the renowned British shoemaker, Tricker's. Founded in 1829 and holding a Royal Warrant, Tricker's is a symbol of tradition and excellence. From a single piece of leather to a finished shoe, each step in process reflects the skill and devotion of master artisans.

This channel will continue to deliver rare and captivating videos that are usually hard to come by. If you are curious about the stories and skills behind the products you use every day, this is the place to be. Don't forget to subscribe and give us a like!



Must-See Highlights:



Seamless Stitching by Skilled Hands (4:50 & 15:00)

Watch in awe as artisans sew freehand with astonishing accuracy, allowing no room for even a 1mm error.



Cork Filling the Sole (12:30)

Experience the oddly satisfying process of filling the shole with cork, as soothing as spreading jam on warm bread.

Sharing the Passion and Precision of Craftsmanship with the World

Please Check it out!