

Issue 003

SOCKET BOY

JAPAN

Fasteners of the Month : Thermal refining bolts and nuts

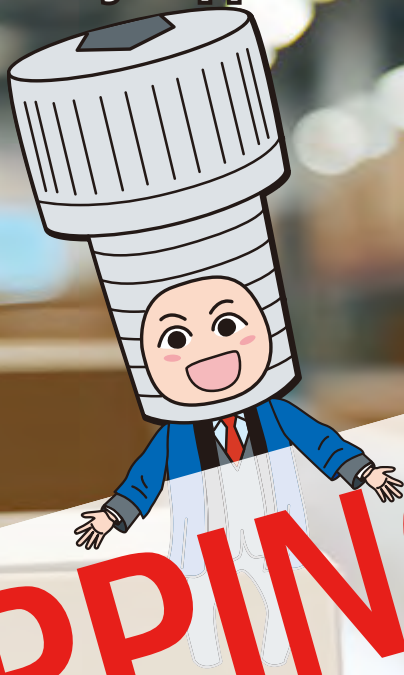
Wonderful Screws around the world

News: What is Sunco-kai?

Association formed by Sunco and its primary suppliers

The World of Screws:

Nippon Byora Industry, Ltd. & Nishi Seiko Co., Ltd.



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September - November 2024

SUNCO



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Fasteners of the month

Thermal refining bolts and nuts — 4

10.9 Hexagon bolt
Torshear bolt S10T
10T class Hexagon nut
10.9 Flange bolt



News

What is Sunco-kai?

An association formed by Sunco and its primary suppliers



Hello Socket Boys and Girls Around the World

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

High Performance Polymer The Super Sport Shed Fastener + Fixing Magazine

Engineering the Future

Family Gears:
The Super Sport Shed's Journey

The Magazine Shaping
the Fastener Industry

The World of Screws

Nippon Byora Industry, Ltd. Nishi Seiko Co., Ltd.

The Japanese TV programme 'The World of Screws' appears in the TV listings.
The programme focuses on Japanese fasteners manufacturers,
while also introducing company culture and trivia.



Manufacturing companies in Higashiosaka

Katsulon Co., Ltd.

Extrusion specialised manufacture with a DNA for challenges

Culture

A traditional Festival: Shugo-sai Festival

History

The local industry of Higashiosaka

The history of the origin of Higashiosaka city,
'city of skilled craftsmen.'



Sunco-kai reception (March 2024)

What is Sunco-kai?

Sunco-kai is an association formed as a cooperative venture between Sunco Industries and its primary suppliers. Its objective is to enhance the delivery of superior quality products while fostering camaraderie among its members.

Sunco-kai was established in 2006 and convenes thrice annually, with a general meeting in March, a quality seminar in July and a near year-end celebration in November. The membership primarily comprises of Japanese manufacturers specialising in fastener-related products. As of March 2024, the association boasts 176 member companies, a figure that is constantly increasing. Sunco-kai is dedicated to the daily enhancement of product quality, exemplified by hosting quality seminars and recognising companies for their year-long quality improvement initiatives.

At each Annual General Meeting (AGM), our President, Mr. Okuyama, delivers an insightful presentation on the year's economic trends and the future prospects of Japan's fastener industry. This year's AGM featured a discussion on our export strategies moving forward, with Mr. Yoshikazu Noda, the mayor of Higashiosaka, in attendance. He inspired us with a call to action: to globalize the fasteners crafted in Higashiosaka. Additionally, this year marked a milestone as Taiwan's Fastener World became the inaugural international fastener magazine to report on Sunco-kai. Looking ahead, Sunco-kai is poised to continue its significant progress alongside its members, delivering top-tier Japanese products to markets both at home and abroad.



General meeting

SUNCO Fasteners of the month

Thermal refining bolts and nuts

1. 10.9 Hexagon bolt

Item code: B0-00-F400、B0-00-F450

Feature: The high strength enables downsizing of the fastenings and the bolts themselves. It is also possible to reduce the number of bolts used. **Handling size: M6 to M30, Length 10 to 300** Usage: Construction machinery, machine tools, steel structures, etc.

2. Torshear bolt S10T

Item code: B0-00-31Y0

Feature: Axial forces can stay at a consistent level when a 12-point spline breaks and no further torque is applied. Improved working efficiency. The most used bolt for building structures in Japan. UNY torshear bolt is used in some of the world's most famous buildings and has recently been chosen for the Kobe Arena in Hyogo. **Handling size: M16 to M24, Length 65 to 130** Usage: Joints in high-rise buildings, bridges and other construction structures



1



2



3



4

3. Hexagon nut (10T guaranteed)

Item code: M0-00-N400

Feature: Strength class 10T Hexagon nuts with traceability, produced in JIS-certified plants. Surface treatment is Trivalent zinc cr+3 colour white and Black oxide. All from our stock. Can be shipped as many or few as you wish. Mainly used with 10.9 Hexagon bolts for guaranteeing strength. **Handling size: M8, M10, M12, M16, M20** Usage: Machinery, construction equipment, facilities, public works projects, etc. (Used in situations where strength and traceability are required).

4. 10.9 Flange bolt

Item code: C0-00-1900, C0-00-1901, C0-00-1904

Feature: This is distinguished by a feature known as a flange, which provides a broad mating surface. This design helps prevent the connected material's mating surface from collapsing and guards against loosening. It's particularly useful in applications where aesthetics is important or when there's a need to save time and effort that would otherwise be spent on adding washers to hexagon bolts. **Handling size: M5 to M16, two surface treatment: Trivalent zinc cr+3 colour white and Trivalent zinc cr+3 colour black** Usage: Agricultural equipment, construction equipment, cars and motorbikes, etc. (10.9 flange bolts are made of SCM435. Therefore, they can be used where strength is required.)



Airing every 1st and 3rd Thursday night
from 10:58 to 11:06 on TV Osaka!

Comedy duo "Nakagawa-ke" perform a skit playing the factory manager and an employee in a screw factory. Appearing as well is the president of Sunco Industries, Yoshihide Okuyama, as "the man who loved and was loved by screws" who also shares interesting facts about screws.



Working diligently behind the scenes / Nippon Byora Industry, Ltd.

Nippon Byora Industry, Ltd. is a bolt manufacturer that produces 300 million bolts annually for various sectors; including industrial machinery, residential construction and precision equipment. They manufacture the fasteners for the front skirt of the leading engine of the Tohoku Shinkansen's E5 Series. Housing state-of-art equipment and an extensive product range, the company plays a crucial, often unseen, background role in supporting global industries.



They produce the fasteners for the leading engine's front skirt section of the E5 Series Tohoku Shinkansen.



Working diligently behind the scenes. Nippon Byora Industry, Ltd.

By the Way...

The Shinkansen, known internationally as the bullet train, is central to Japan's railway network. The Tohoku Shinkansen is renowned for its impressive top speed of 320 km/h!



President Norifumi Nishikawa

Address: 4-4-32, Yoshida, Higashiosaka city, Osaka TEL: +81-72-962-0761



Nishi Seiko Masters fine parts.

By the Way...

Visitors to the company can find themselves being entertained with performances by the talented staff of the company - including performances of the traditional Japanese comedy storytelling, 'rakugo', or someone making art out of balloons - bringing a delighted smile to the faces of the visitors.



President Yasuhiro Nishi

Address: 240-3, Daihoji, Donarichodonari, Awa city, Tokushima (Donari first factory)
TEL: +81-88-695-4303

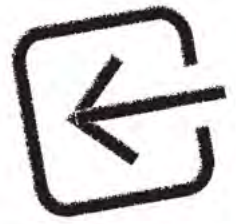
Mastering fine parts / Nishi Seiko Co., Ltd.

Nishi Seiko Co., Ltd. specialises in the manufacture and sales of small nuts, ranging from 1 mm to 16 mm in size. The company is dedicated to delivering precise, high-quality 'fine parts' globally; catering to industries ranging from residential and home appliances to construction machinery and gaming consoles. With a vision to become the world's cleanest factory, Nishi Seiko itself is a safe and immaculate environment, key to the exceptional quality of its products.



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...



High Performance Polymer

Engineering the Future



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Representative:
Matthew Hartley-James



High Performance Polymer (HPP) was founded on the necessity for performance polymer components across various scientific and engineering industries throughout the EU.

High Performance Polymer's flagship products, PEEK components, are a testament to the company's commitment to quality and innovation. These components are not just parts; they are the lifeblood of high-stakes sectors such as Motorsport, Aerospace, and the Oil and Gas industries. The resilience and versatility of PEEK make it an indispensable ally in environments where failure is not an option.

But HPP's story isn't just about products; it's about a philosophy. Embracing the Japanese concept of Kaizen, or continuous improvement, HPP has cultivated an agile and dynamic approach to its operations. This philosophy is woven into the fabric of their culture, ensuring that every process and productivity measure is under constant evaluation for enhancement.

At the core of HPP's ethos is a customer-centric focus. The company prides itself on its extensive support network, providing unparalleled assistance to its clients. This dedication to service ensures that every interaction with HPP is more than a transaction; it's a partnership.

The applications of HPP's products are as diverse as they are groundbreaking. From the intricate workings of prosthetics that restore mobility and hope, to the enigmatic research into dark matter, HPP's components are at the forefront of innovation.

As HPP continues to push the boundaries of what's possible, one thing remains clear: the future is moulded by High Performance Polymer, and it is extraordinarily promising.

The Super Sport Shed

Family Gears: The Super Sport Shed's Journey

The Super Sport Shed is a beacon for classic Honda Super Sport bike enthusiasts. This small business was founded by Cary who has now been joined by his family members, Leo and Pip. Over the past five years the business has gone from being based in an actual shed to a new, expansive business unit. In particular they specialise in reviving the Honda CBX1000 and DOHC series and their online shop offers a comprehensive parts catalogue, including unique components manufactured in-house - thanks to Cary's engineering prowess and partners all over the world to provide parts which were no longer available. As they prepare for their June 2024 relocation,



they're expanding their offering to include more. Based in Dorset's idyllic countryside, The Super Sport Shed is more than a business—it's a bridge to the past and a gateway to the world, with a love for classic motorbikes.



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Representative: Cary Knapton



**FASTENER
+ FIXING
MAGAZINE**

Fastener + Fixing Magazine, has been a flagship publication since 1998 and is the industry's definitive voice, reaching over 50,000 key decision-makers globally. Owned by Fastener Fair Global, it leads with unmatched industry recognition and has a robust digital footprint; including a website with 275,000 yearly visitors and 14,600 followers across all social media platforms that outstrips rivals by over 10,000 followers.

Embracing the evolving B2B communication landscape, the magazine has expanded its reach with the Fastener Talk podcast, complementing its comprehensive coverage. As it enters its third decade, Fastener + Fixing Magazine remains dedicated to delivering insightful content and fostering business growth, solidifying its position as the premier industry platform for worldwide opportunities and partnerships.



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Representative:
Mac Rahman

Fastener + Fixing Magazine

The Magazine Shaping the Fastener Industry

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





Katsulon Co., Ltd.

Extrusion specialised manufacture with a DNA for challenges



1-6-6, Takaidanaka,
Higashiosaka city, Osaka
TEL : +81-6-6784-3784

Founded in 1949, Katsulon Co., Ltd specialises in plastic extrusion. The company's journey began with chocolate extrusion and evolved through the production of hula hoops and water hoses to its current specialisation in plastics. Their innovative process involves pouring resin into meticulously designed moulds to create a range of diverse products. Katsulon's products have a wide impact, spanning the construction and automotive industries, railways, fashion, healthcare and even cutting-edge agricultural technology. Among their acclaimed innovations is 'Turf Parking', a solution that safeguards grassy parking areas, gaining popularity amidst rising environmental awareness. Advanced precision technology is at the

heart of extrusion; a field where Katsulon leads by example. With an impressive arsenal of 5,000 moulds, they produce a staggering 500 tonnes of products monthly. Their growth trajectory includes strategic acquisitions and mergers, notably with the acquisition of a competitor in 2022 and strengthening their business in 2023. The company's head office factory in Higashiosaka city is a hub of activity, with specialised machine tools capable of performing unique tasks. Many of the products have such complex shapes that, on first sight, you would never realise they were made by extrusion. The smile on Katsulon's President Akikazu Ishikawa's face reflects his pride in the company's high level of technical

skills. He enjoys showing the finished products and asking, "do you know how this was made?" He is taking the company, created by his grandfather and nurtured by his father, to the next stage. He says, "We relish every challenge, embracing difficulties in a spirit of trial and error. We call this 'Katsulon's DNA'." The fact that they are willing to disclose failed development projects is probably another reason why they are trusted. For Katsulon, failure is not a setback but a sign of their relentless pursuit of innovation and curiosity. Embodying the spirit of perpetual challenge, Katsulon remains committed to exploring new frontiers every day.



A traditional festival: Shugo-sai Festival



Shugo-sai Festival is a two-day event celebrated every autumn at the Hirao-ka Shrine in Higashiosaka City, Osaka. It is a heartfelt expression of the local community's gratitude for the autumn harvest. The festival is renowned for its display of so called, 'futon daiko'; large, portable ceremonial floats containing a traditional drum. Twenty or more of these elaborately decorated, impressive floats are gathered to the entrance of the shrine for the event. Shugo-sai Festival takes place annually on the 14th and 15th October and in 2023, it attracted approximately about 100,000 visitors.

Hirao-ka Shrine is considered as the most prestigious shrine in the area. Legend has it that Emperor Jinmu, who in Japanese mythology is regarded as the founder of Japan and its first emperor, came from the Osaka Bay Area, built a fort at the western foothills of Mount Ikoma and conquered Yamato (present-day Nara). This fort is the original location of the Hirao-ka Shrine.

Hirao-ka Shrine is one of the most important of the ancient shrines of the Kawachi Province and is mentioned in the *Engishiki*, an ancient Japanese text listing deities. It is believed to have been founded three years prior to Emperor Jinmu's enthronement. The shrine is also known as 'Moto-Kasuga', referring to its role in founding the Kasuga Taisha Shrine in Nara. According to historical accounts, the main shrine was originally commissioned by Hideyori Toyotomi, a feudal lord, around 1600. However, the present main shrine was reconstructed in 1826. The festival is characterised by a vibrant parade featuring 'danjiri', large wooden carts that resemble shrines, accompanied by 'futon daikos' and a fair. Higashiosaka's history is deeply rooted in agriculture, and the festival embodies the community's tradition of giving thanks to the deities for a plentiful harvest. Mirroring the cadence of rural life, the festival unfolds in a bustling yet

leisurely manner, establishing a cyclical pattern of seasons, year after year. The Shugo-sai Festival is a flamboyant, yet elegant celebration with a history spanning thousands of years. Sadly, like in many Japanese cities, there has been a decline in support for traditional local festivities. In the past, it was common for residents to take the 14th and 15th of October off work to participate in festival's activities and rituals. Recently, securing enough volunteers to run the festival has become challenging. There are ongoing discussions about adapting to contemporary societal need, such as possibly rescheduling the festival to a weekend. Yet, this raises the poignant question: "would it still be the Shugo-sai Festival?" Amidst these modern challenges, the Shugo-sai Festival continues to evolve, striving to maintain its historical significance while adapting to the rhythms of modern life.



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On all international deliveries
September 1st - November 30th 2024

If you order products through our online shopping site, 3Qnet during this period, you can get some special gifts. For more details, please contact us through <https://www.jisscrew.com/>

Don't miss out on this opportunity!



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World Trade Section Email : export@sunco.co.jp



The local industry of a city known for its skilled craftsmen: Higashiosaka city

Higashiosaka city has the most factories per square kilometre in the country. Here is the history of the origin of Higashiosaka city – famous for its skilled craftsmen.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

Picture 1, 2 Kawachi cotton is still made to the present day. Cotton is spun by hand.

Picture 3 The unique 'Inada peach' has been actively cultivated in the Inada area. This special variety continues to be preserved and cultivated in small quantities.

During the early modern period, Higashiosaka saw the development of new rice paddies and the creation of extensive flatlands. Subsequently, in the modern era, the city evolved into an industrial hub. The industries in Higashiosaka are varied, with about 90% of local companies being independent, having no financial ties to major corporations.

The city's industrial journey began in the 18th century. The soil in the newly created rice paddies was found to be unsuitable for farming, leading to the emergence of peach cultivation along the paths at the edges of the paddy fields, as the primary industry.

However, the peach growing industry eventually gave way to the more lucrative cotton industry. Cotton cultivation, powered by water mills, thrived on the slopes of the Ikoma Mountains, east of Higashiosaka. The

cotton, known as Kawachi cotton, is characterised by its robust and superior fabric quality.

By the late 19th century, facing stiff competition from imports, Kawachi cotton growers shifted to other industries where they could apply their expertise more effectively. Notable among these new ventures were toothbrush manufacturing and the core wire industry that exist to this day.

Following Japan's defeat in World War II, the nation's primary industries transitioned to automobile and home appliance production. Higashiosaka benefited from this shift, with many new enterprises emerging due to the city's burgeoning population and functional industrial technology. Today, Higashiosaka stands as a manufacturing city that supplies a range of production goods nationwide, including screws, metalwork and plastic products.

The birth of manufacturing was an unexpected consequence of the rerouting of the Yamato river!



During the Edo period, Higashiosaka emerged from the shadows of earlier power struggles, paving the way for the growth of local industries.

Until the 18th century, the Yamato River, flowing through Osaka to Osaka Bay, frequently flooded, claiming many lives. For over 50 years, a local man named Jinbei Naka persistently petitioned the Edo government for permission to reroute the Yamato River to prevent further flooding. His efforts bore fruit in 1704 when the river's course was successfully altered. This monumental engineering feat reclaimed vast tracts of land previously occupied by the Yamato River. On this reclaimed land, cotton cultivation thrived, laying the groundwork for what would become known as the 'manufacturing town.' The historical tapestry of Higashiosaka's local industries is rich and varied, encompassing the cotton, wire drawing, wire mesh, foundry, work tool, and rivet industries. Several of these industries commanded a substantial portion of the national market during their heyday. While some of these local industries have since vanished, the legacy of their diverse contributions continues to underpin the present-day 'city of skilled craftsmen.'

SUNCO's

**new English website
is now available!**



you can...

- find the products you want!
- check our recommended items!
- send inquiries through the inquiry form!
- read our original magazine "SOCKET BOY"



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