



FAQ – BOLT STAR®

Q: How many reuses will I get from the product?

A: Like any construction tool, the answer depends on how well you take care of it. Some contractors spray the tool with a bio-degradable release agent or non-stick spray before the pour, let it dry, then wash the tool down after every pour. These contractors report getting a dozen or more reuses from BOLT STAR. Avoid using release agents or concrete dissolving agents that are acid-based or contain other toxic chemicals.

Q: Is BOLT STAR strong enough for the rigors of concrete construction?

A: YES. The average person perceives steel or wood to be stronger than BOLT STAR's high strength ABS. This is a misperception. In extreme stress testing designed to simulate the downward forces on BOLT STAR during a cast-in-place pour, product engineers hung a whopping 1,000-lbs off a 7-foot rebar cage wired to the cage tie slots at the end of BOLT STAR's arms. This is so much weight that the rim of the forming tube collapsed at 800-lbs, not BOLT STAR! In further testing, the tool was driven over by a 6,000-lb SUV and it popped back up without damage. Check out the videos at: www.bolt-star.com

Q: How many BOLT STAR templates do I need?

A: This is the game-changer question when using Bolt Star, since the answer depends on how many bases you wish to pour each day. Unlike wood templates, you do not need one template for every base since BOLT STAR is reusable. Contractors who have a large parking lot full of bases will typically pour 8 to 10 pole bases a day – roughly the amount of concrete that is delivered in a 10-yard ready-mix truck. For example, if a project had 24 light pole bases to build and you desired to complete the job in 3 days, you would need only 8 BOLT STAR to setup, pour, wash down and move to the next 8 bases each day until all light poles were completed.

Q: Is BOLT STAR adjustable?

A: YES, as to paper template specifications for varying bolt sizes and bolt circle diameters. The bolt slots in BOLT STAR's arms accept 5/8" to 1" diameter bolts and adjust to a range of bolt circle diameters or patterns, from 7" to 14". This is huge, even though the arms themselves do not slide in or out to fit smaller or larger forming tubes. Our product engineers optimized BOLT STAR for maximum strength and reusability, which ruled out a sliding arm. An adjustable sliding arm exposed to the rigors of cast-in-place concrete also has increased risk of jamming after a few pours. Still, one big advantage BOLT STAR has over wood templates is not having to build a wood template for every time the paper template specification calls for a different bolt size or bolt circle diameter.

Q: Can I fit two 2” conduits through the center opening?

A: The center opening of BOLT STAR is 4 1/8” ID and each 2” conduit is approximately 2 3/8” in outside diameter. Thus, two 2” conduits will not fit through the center opening.

Suggested work around: there is a minimum 1 ½” vertical space from top of form to bottom of the BOLT STAR template, so it is possible to cut the conduits about ½” below the bottom of the template. Next, tape the conduit openings. Conduits should still project at least 1” above the top of finished base.

Q: Our field crew cuts the forming tube onsite. Will Bolt Star still work if the rim of the tube is uneven, i.e., not a clean and level cut?

A: We recommend always setting forming tube in the hole with the machine cut edge up. Cutting forming tube in the field is asking for problems. No need to increase the risk of bolts found out of alignment and/or the top of base being finished on a slant. Use Bolt Star’s bubble levels to ensure straight bolts and level bases. However, if the rim of the tube is cut at a slant, all bets are off – and that applies to the old wood template method as well!

Q: It seems expensive compared to the old fashioned method of making bolt templates out of wood?

A: Actually, the tool typically pays for itself on the first job and keeps paying dividends thereafter. Do the math. The amount of labor and materials expended in building a wood template for each pole base can vary from \$50 to \$100 or more depending on labor rates. BOLT STAR cuts the labor portion in half, and no additional materials are required to build future bolt templates since BOLT STAR is reusable. Factor in a 57% more efficient process, consistent quality and a lower risk of bolts shifting during finishing and BOLT STAR’s value proposition far outweighs the conventional method. The cost to fix 3 or 4 problem bases can run into the thousands of dollars. With BOLT STAR get it right the first time, every time!

Q: Will BOLT STAR fit on the outer diameter of nested round concrete forming tubes?

A: Yes, using the Xtender™ adaptor accessory. Manufacturers of round concrete forming tubes in some regions ship a nominal or larger outer diameter tube that is “nested” or slipped over the outside of standard-sized tubes to save on freight and storage costs. For example, larger outer tube diameters are as follows for 18”, 24” and 30” respectively: from 19” to 19.4” when slipped over the standard 18” tube; between 25.2” to 25.5” when slipped over the standard 24” tube; and between 31.6” to 31.8” when slipped over the standard 30” tube. The Xtender snaps on to the end of each BOLT STAR arm and extends it to fit these larger outer diameter nested tubes. Xtender is interchangeable between the 18”, 24” and 30” BOLT STAR and is available as an accessory item from authorized distributors.

Q: Does Construction Innovations make a 14”, 16” or 20” BOLT STAR?

A: No, these are not very common sizes. For the 14” or 16” round concrete form, some contractors have upsized the foundation to the 18” BOLT STAR. For the 20” spec., consider upsizing to a 24” BOLT STAR. The savings in time and reusability more than offset the added incremental cost of concrete in the hole.

Q: Do you make a 30" or 36" BOLT STAR?

A: A 30" street and parking lot version was released in July 2016. Heavier duty Roadway and Traffic Signal 30" & 36" versions are in the design stage. No official release date yet.

Q: What assembly is required?

A: Very minor. Assembly involves inserting a small bolt through each of BOLT STAR's four arms and threading a nut on the other end. The bolts come with every BOLT STAR and keep the arms secured to the hub. Assembly instructions in English, Spanish and French are provided. The Xtender adaptor slips up and snaps on to the end of each arm with no fasteners required.

Q: What type of warranty comes with the product?

A: 90-day warranty from date of purchase on defects only that are not due to ordinary wear and tear.

Q: Where is BOLT STAR made?

A: **In the USA!** BOLT STAR and the Xtender accessory product are manufactured and assembled in the Sacramento, CA area.

Q: What is the BOLT STAR story?

A: BOLT STAR was invented by two electricians and an engineer who refined the idea for this innovative product over a ten-year period, all the time knowing that "there had to be a better way." The product underwent an intensive two-year period of development and testing through a collaborative effort with Rex Moore Electrical Contractors & Engineers, a Top 50 electrical contractor.

Q: Who is the manufacturer of BOLT STAR?

A: Bolt Star LLC with headquarters in Sacramento, California.

- Founded in 2012 by former construction company owners and industry professionals
- Bolt Star LLC designs, manufactures and distributes tools for the construction industry. We are dedicated to improving the construction industry through the creation of innovative tools that deliver real value and make life easier for contractors.
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