

SOCKET SOURCE, Specialized Source of US Quality Socket Products

by Dean Tseng, *Fastener World*

Socket Products and Dowel Pins in Stock

Socket Source, a 35-year master distributor of socket products decided 10 years ago to also begin manufacturing its own product line. The process began by manufacturing dowel pins for existing contract customers and then expanding the offering in sizes and materials to the entire industrial fastener distributor network. In 2017, the company further displayed its commitment to world class quality by becoming certified to AS9100D & ISO 9001, and investing in the people and tools necessary to ensure the products meet and exceed customer and industry requirements. This growth allowed Socket Source to begin offering products to Military and Aerospace distribution companies which has contributed to double-digit growth year over year.

Three years ago, the company began manufacturing its own Socket Product Line, including Socket Head Cap, Button Head Socket Cap, Flat Socket Cap, and Flange Button Socket Cap screws. Today, **Socket Source provides Dowel Pins (1/32 – 5/8 diameter up to 6" length; M1 – M14 diameter up to 150mm) and Threaded Fasteners (4-40 through 5/8 diameter up to 5"; M3-M14 up to 125mm) available in steel, alloy, stainless (18-8, 316, 410, 416), Inconel, A286, etc.** It stocks a full line of hydrogen embrittlement tested, zinc plated socket products and provides finishes including black oxide, phosphate, nickel, zinc nickel, silver, electropolish and more.



Capital investments in new equipment are made each year to either expand the product range or ensure maintaining desirable lead times. Socket Source also operates a complete secondary operation department with drilling for vented fasteners, head drilled parts for security wire applications and altering of products, length and point styles, etc. "We maintain multiple sets of ring gages, calipers, micrometers, tri roll gages, microscopes, plug gages, snap gages, comparators, and the latest inspection equipment with the addition of a Keyence Instant Image Dimension Measurement System. Any testing required that is not performed in house is done with NADCAP and ISO/IEC 17025:2017 certified 3rd party labs."

To Globalized Distribution Capabilities

In a time when the world stands on the crossroad of restructuring manufacturing and reshoring, Socket Source supports international trade. It has been happening for centuries and it will continue to evolve. It will ebb and flow but will never stop. "Is it important for the US to maintain a manufacturing base? Absolutely. American manufacturers make some of the world's highest quality products but ensuring best practices and continual improvement are critical to growing and maintaining our global competitiveness." While the majority of customers are in the US, Socket Source's customer base also extends to Canada, Mexico, South Africa, Europe and Asia, etc.

Socket Source will continue its growth with strategic investments and key partnerships throughout the supply chain that enable them to deliver high quality products and favorable lead times to their global distribution network. "As **the only stocking manufacturer and distributor focused on Socket Products and Dowel pins, including plated sockets and pre-applied nylon thread locking**, we believe that we can be competitive in this global market."



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