

Nut Types & When to Use Them

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A nut is a nut... until the joint vibrates loose or you need it to stay put. Here's what each style is built for.

Whatever the style, a nut has to **match the bolt's size and thread** first — a fine nut won't run onto a coarse bolt. Past that, the shape is about the job: hold under vibration, lock in a position, join two rods, or just hand-tighten. Every nut below is drawn from the side.

Everyday



Hex nut

The standard six-sided nut. The default for general bolting with a wrench or socket.



Flange nut

A hex nut with a built-in washer flange — spreads load and (when serrated) helps **grip against loosening**. Saves adding a separate washer.



wider & taller

Heavy hex nut

Thicker and wider than a standard hex nut, for **structural and high-strength** bolting (pairs with A325 / A490). More thread engagement, more load.



dashed = standard

Jam nut

A **thin** hex nut. Run it against a second nut to lock the pair ("double-nutting"), or use where a standard nut is too tall to fit.

Locking



blue = nylon ring

Nylon-insert lock (nylock)

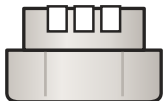
A nylon collar grips the bolt threads to **resist loosening**. Great for vibration; reusable a few times. Heat-limited — not for high temperatures (the nylon gives up).



squeezed top

All-metal lock

A prevailing-torque nut (distorted thread or top) that locks **without nylon** — so it handles **heat** where a nylock can't. For hot or demanding spots.



cotter-pin slots

Castle (slotted) nut

Slots across the top take a **cotter pin** through a hole in the bolt — a positive mechanical lock that can't back off. Axles, shafts, and safety-critical pivots.



built-on star washer

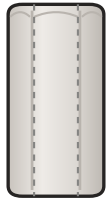
K-lock / keps nut

A hex nut with a **captive star washer** built on — the washer can't fall off and bites for light anti-loosening. Handy on assembly lines.



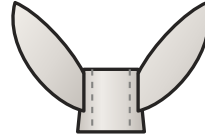
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Special purpose



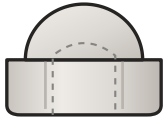
Coupling nut

A long nut that **joins two threaded rods** or extends a bolt — the workhorse for all-thread runs and turnbuckle-style assemblies.



Wing nut

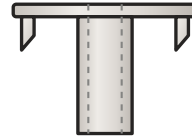
Two wings for **hand-tightening** — no tool needed. For covers, guards, and anything you take on and off often.



dome covers bolt end

Cap (acorn) nut

A domed nut that **covers the bolt end** — protects the threads and gives a clean, finished look. Railings, furniture, exposed bolts.



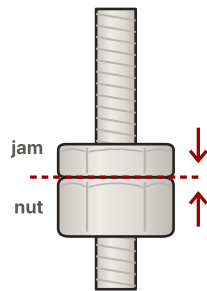
prongs bite wood

Tee & other inserts

Press- and drive-in nuts (tee nuts, rivet nuts) that **add threads to wood, sheet, or tube** where you can't reach a normal nut. Ask us for the style that fits your material.

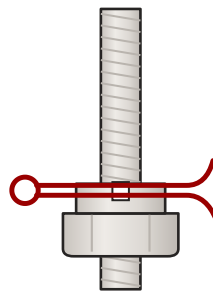
How three of them are used

DOUBLE-NUTTING



tightened against each other, the pair locks

CASTLE NUT



cotter pin through a slot and the bolt — can't back off

COUPLING NUT



rods meet

✓ Torque it properly

A lock nut still benefits from being **torqued properly** — it's insurance, not a substitute for tightening.

⚠ Mind the heat limit

Near an engine, exhaust, or anything hot, a nylon-insert nut gives up — step up to an **all-metal lock nut** instead.



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