

## A new clip for securing the handle-bars on Beam-mounted (BM) units

If you know our BM models, you'll remember that the steel handle-bar which you use to pull the unit out runs across the whole width of the unit. You may not have noticed that it's held in place by two steel spring pins which stop it from sliding out of the side frames. These have to be hammered into place during manufacture with the aid of a centre punch.



The old solution

This method of securing the bar is cheap and strong, but it creates a lot of noise in our assembly shop, it can lead to accidents and it's not easily reversible. So, we have improved it!



New solution - before and after it is mounted

The new solution was developed by our Design Engineer Tristan Whitford, who used to work for one of the local boatbuilders here on the island of Orust where our factory is situated. Sailing yachts have a fitting called a turnbuckle or rigging screw which is used to tighten the rigging, and these also need some kind of locking arrangement to prevent the component bolts sliding apart. One well-tried solution is a spring clip with a central pin which goes through the body of the rigging screw. Simple to fit, and quick to remove when you want to tighten the rigging.

Inspired by the yachtie's turnbuckle clip, Tristan designed a composite clip with a steel pin which goes through the holes in the bar and a circlet of hard sprung plastic which snaps snugly into place around the bar. It looks better, it's quicker and safer to assemble, it's just as strong as the old method and it's easy to remove, for example if the bar gets damaged and needs to be replaced. Although the new clips cost more than the spring pins, assembly is quicker, so in total it's a cost-neutral solution. The working environment for our staff is improved without all the hammering, the danger of injuries to fingers and hands is reduced and we can offer a better service to our customers, as it's now so easy to replace damaged handle-bars.

A clip is a small thing. But it's the attention we pay to such details which makes Smart Storing products so good, and it's our drive to constantly improve them which keeps us ahead of the pack.

