

What Are Square Nuts Used For?

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Nuts · DIN 557 · Application guide

Typical applications, the industries that specify square nuts, and how to choose the right size, material and finish for the joint.

Square Nuts are used for channel, strut and woodwork where a non-rotating, large-bearing nut is needed. They are manufactured to DIN 557, and the choice of size, property class and finish is driven by the load in the joint and the environment it sits in.

Primary duty

Channel, strut and woodwork where a non-rotating, large-bearing nut is needed

Governing standard

DIN 557

Thread size range

M5 to M20

Category

Nuts

Application notes are general engineering guidance. Verify the property class and any approval requirement against your own design calculation.



Square Nuts (DIN 557) are specified where the joint requires channel, strut and woodwork where a non-rotating, large-bearing nut is needed. The sections below cover the typical end-uses by industry, the size and material decisions for each, assembly practice, and the applications this fastener type is not suited to. Stocked across roughly M5 to M20, they cover general to heavy-duty work.

Typical Applications for Square Nuts

The most common settings where these are specified:

- **Fabrication & metalwork:** bench and on-site assembly of steel frames, enclosures and weldments.
- **Bolted joints:** the clamping counter-face on studs and bolts across every assembly type.
- **Vibration-prone equipment:** where a locking or flanged style resists loosening.
- **Frames & weldments:** captive or welded options for repeatable assembly.
- **Strut & channel systems:** sliding into channel where the flats stop rotation.

How to Specify Square Nuts for Your Application

- **Size:** Match the nominal size to the mating thread or hole. This product spans M5-M20; check the full table below for the exact dimensions of each size.

- **Locking & grade:** Match the strength grade to the bolt, and choose a locking style (nyloc, all-metal, serrated flange) if the joint sees vibration.
- **Environment:** For damp, coastal or chemical exposure prefer A4/316 stainless or a suitable coating; indoors, plated steel or A2 is usually sufficient.
- **Standard:** This product is supplied to DIN 557. Quoting the standard on your order guarantees interchangeable dimensions between suppliers.

Installation & Assembly Practice

- Run the nut down by hand before applying the wrench to catch cross-threading early.
- Tighten the nut rather than the bolt head where access allows — the torque-to-preload relation is more consistent.
- For locking styles, note that nyloc inserts are single-use in critical joints and lose grip above roughly 120 °C.

Common Selection Mistakes with Square Nuts

- Pairing a high-class bolt with a lower-class nut — the nut strips before the bolt reaches proof load; the nut class must meet or exceed the bolt class.
- Using a plain nut with a spring washer in severe vibration instead of a prevailing-torque locking nut.
- Re-using nyloc nuts in critical joints.

Where Square Nuts Are Not the Right Choice

Not on their own — they need a matching bolt or stud — and a plain nut is not a substitute for a locking type under heavy vibration.

Technical Drawing

Customize the parameters below — every spec field is editable, and the drawing redraws to match the values you choose. Changing the size will snap the other fields to that size's standard values; you can then override any individual value.

Sends the selected values to the quote form below.

Request a Quote

The form below follows the current technical drawing configuration. Change the drawing values above and the request details update automatically.

Dimensions & Specifications (DIN 557)

Size	Pitch (mm)	Width across flats (mm)	Width across corners e min (mm)	Nut height m (mm)	Reference standard	Notes
M5	0.8	8.0	11.1	4.0	DIN 557 / DIN 562	Square nut, general / channel use
M6	1.0	10.0	13.9	5.0	DIN 557 / DIN 562	Square nut, general / channel use
M8	1.25	13.0	18.0	6.5	DIN 557 / DIN 562	Square nut, general / channel use
M10	1.5	17.0	23.6	8.0	DIN 557 / DIN 562	Square nut, general / channel use
M12	1.75	19.0	26.5	10.0	DIN 557 / DIN 562	Square nut, general / channel use
M16	2.0	24.0	33.5	13.0	DIN 557 / DIN 562	Square nut, general / channel use
M20	2.5	30.0	42.0	16.0	DIN 557 / DIN 562	Square nut, general / channel use

Video: What Are Square Nuts Used For? in use



► Watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVA0HloDysE>

Third-party video, selected automatically for this topic. It is not produced by Engineering Hardware and is not a specification source — use the tables on this page for dimensional data.

Inside the plant

Manufactured in our own plant

This part is cold-formed, threaded, heat-treated and finished in-house. The stages below are where its class and finish are actually decided.

1.



01

Cold heading

Wire rod is drawn to size and cold-formed into blanks. Forming rather than cutting keeps the grain flow continuous around the head, which is where a bolt is most likely to fail.

Head dimensions and under-head radius checked at set-up and per shift.



2.

02

Thread rolling

Threads are rolled between hardened dies rather than cut. Rolled threads are stronger in fatigue than cut threads and hold pitch and flank angle far more consistently across a batch.

Go / no-go ring gauges to ISO 965 tolerance class 6g.

3.



03

Heat treatment

Quench-and-temper brings carbon and alloy steel to the property class ordered — 8.8, 10.9 or 12.9 — with the furnace charge tracked so a finished lot can be traced back to it.

Core hardness and tensile tested per lot to ISO 898-1.

4.



04

Surface treatment

Zinc, zinc-nickel, hot-dip galvanizing, black oxide, phosphate and Dacromet, selected against the service environment rather than against the price list.

Coating thickness and neutral salt spray hours to ISO 9227.

Frequently Asked Questions

What material should Square Nuts be for outdoor use?

For damp, coastal or chemical environments specify A4 (316) stainless or a suitably coated steel. For indoor or dry use, A2 (304) stainless or zinc-plated steel is normally adequate.

Are Square Nuts made to a recognized standard?

Yes — they are manufactured to DIN 557, so dimensions are interchangeable between suppliers when you quote the standard on your order.

What are Square Nuts used for?

Channel, strut and woodwork where a non-rotating, large-bearing nut is needed. They are supplied to DIN 557.

Which industries use Square Nuts?

They are commonly specified in vibration-prone equipment, frames & weldments and strut & channel systems, among other sectors.

Can I get a quote for Square Nuts in the size and material I need?

Yes. Use the technical drawing and quote form on this page to set the size and options, then send the exact configuration to our team for pricing and lead time.

Related Pages

Product page: [Square Nuts — specifications & sizes](#)

Square Nuts Specification Guides

- [M5 Square Nuts size guide](#)
- [A4 stainless Square Nuts](#)

Related Fastener Applications

- [All-Metal Lock Nuts applications](#)
- [All-Metal Prevailing Torque Hex Lock Nut \(Type 1\) — GB/T 6184 / ISO 7042 \(Series 047\) applications](#)
- [Cap \(Acorn\) Nuts applications](#)
- [Castellated Hex Nut — GB/T 6180 / ISO 7036 \(Series 048\) applications](#)
- [Custom Slotted Round Nut — GB/T 812 \(Series 070\) applications](#)
- [Hex Flange Nuts applications](#)