



Technical Topics

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TOPICS: Attaching Detonators
Detonator Uses

ATTACHING DETS

Now that you have received your RISI detonators, the problem remains on how to attach the detonator to the next assembly. Fortunately RISI has thought up a number of different ways to solve this problem. These include:

Attaching to Det Cord - The plastic adaptor pictured on the RP-80 data sheet in the RISI catalog, is the easiest way to hook up to det cord. It was designed specifically for use with the RP-80 detonator since the RP-80 is an end-lighting detonator. Notice the heavy brass sleeve inside the detonator, it directs the major part of the detonation out the end of the detonator with very little blast to the sides. If you tape an RP-80 det parallel to detcord - there is a very good chance you will have a failure. The RP-80 needs to be perpendicular to the det cord for proper initiation. Cord adaptors are priced very reasonably - they are "FREE" - when you order RP-80's just ask for the free cord adaptors. These same plastic adaptors will also fit the RP-83, RP-85 or the RP-501 detonators but for these dets you don't need them. Just tape the det to the det cord and fire away - no heavy brass sleeve to direct the blast so it lights in all directions. However if it makes you feel better, go ahead and use the adaptors - it won't hurt anything. Just be sure to request them when you purchase your detonators. Same price - Free.

Adaptor nuts - Pictured in the back of our catalog are four different "Adaptor Nuts". These nuts can be used to attach a detonator through a case into an explosive inner assembly. Very cleverly, all four adaptor nuts use the same external thread so with one set of tapped holes you can use any of the fine RISI detonators. Three of the adaptor nuts are plastic while the RP-1 nut is aluminum. The plastic nuts are deliberately made of a dielectric material since the nuts "cup" the detonator i.e. the nuts cradle the detonator very close to where the electrical leads exit the header. An area where flexing could stress the insulation and expose the copper conductors. Definitely an area where metals should be avoided. The RP-1 adaptor nut grabs the detonator at it's waist so metals are acceptable.

Other - We must have seen just about every imaginable way of attaching detonators to next assemblies. Adhesives are a common method - personally we don't like epoxies since most of them are exothermic and an improper mix can generate surprisingly high temperatures. Silicone rubbers are frequently used. Tape is always good. One of our favorite customers likes PlayDough - the kid's clay like material. He just puts a gob of it on his next assembly, punches a hole with his finger, and inserts the detonator.

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DETONATOR USES

We are always interested in the various uses our detonators are put to. Explosive hardening and explosive welding are common but the unusual ones are more fun. Some of the more interesting ones we've run across include:

Initiating many raps of detcord around a treetop to simulate a lightning strike (this was to fool ospreys into thinking the tree was hit by lightning thus making an ideal nesting site).

Initiating many wraps of detcord around an unwanted tree to simulate a lightning strike (this was to fool hikers into thinking they were miles away from chain saws thus making an ideal nesting site).

Initiating carefully placed charges in the swollen, bloated bellies of frozen range cattle which had been trapped for the winter at high elevations (this was to clear campgrounds of smelly carcasses and provide bite size chunks for scavengers).

Any others?

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Telephone (925) 866-0650
Fax (925) 866-0564
e-mail: rvarosh@risi-usa.com



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