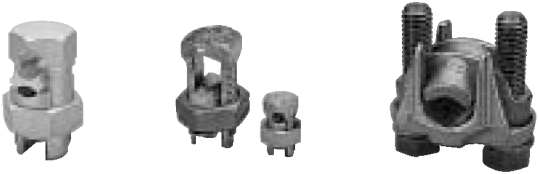
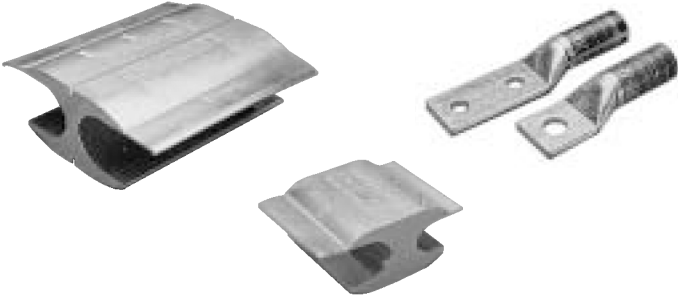


CONNECTOR COMPARISON CHART MECHANICAL VS. COMPRESSION

The variety of connectors available to the utility engineer can be broken down into 2 general categories – bolted and compressed. The pros and cons of these different methods of making electrical connections are often puzzling to engineers and consultants. The

following chart has been prepared in an effort to clarify thinking on this subject and to provide a yardstick for making a basic decision on connection methods.

	
Mechanical or Clamp Connectors	Crimp or Compression Connectors
Range taking and non-range taking. For pipe, cable, bar shapes, etc.	Range taking and non-range taking. For cable conductors only.
Many designs are “universal” for copper or aluminum.	Separate designs required for aluminum, or aluminum to copper.
Salvageable. Conductor can be removed and replaced if necessary. Wiring changes easily made.	Not salvageable. Conductor and connector must be cut-off and scrapped if change is necessary.
Short runs and specials easily handled by manufacturer with better delivery.	Non-standard designs and modifications may be difficult to supply.
Taping depends on design.	Easily taped.
Installed cost comparable on small jobs—higher on large volume jobs.	Installed cost generally lower, particularly where large quantities are involved.
No special tools to install. Can use screwdriver, pliers, wrench.	Special tools and dies required. If wrong tool or die is used, poor joint results.