

Automated Assembly for Axial Retaining Rings



Automated Assembly is used in the manufacturing process as a cost reduction tool that additionally achieves increased production rate and added quality through repeatability.

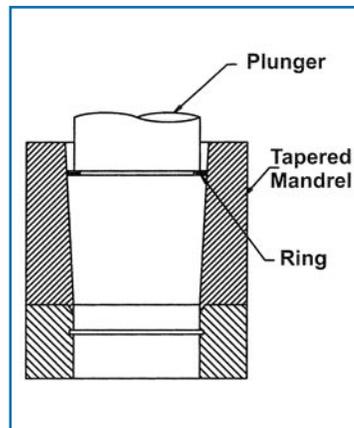
The same holds true for automated assembly of retaining rings. Parts can be assembled fast, reducing costs without sacrificing quality. Properly designed installation equipment shuttles the ring into the groove without disruption and guards against permanent set (overstretching/over compressing of ring) to ensure a tight fit.

Design Considerations

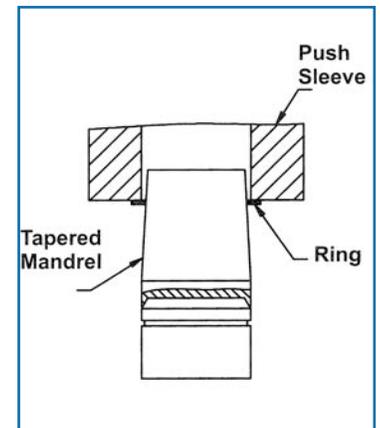
Feed equipment should be designed to work with rings meeting standard specifications. Most critical is to design equipment that can accommodate the helix and pitch limitations for the type of ring you are using. If the equipment is sensitive to any of these factors, it will require special processing that will add to your costs.

Design guidelines include:

1. Consider use of a tapered mandrel for external retaining rings and a tapered housing for internal retaining rings (see below). It is not recommended to pick up and transfer rings by the lug holes.



Internal - Use tapered housing to compress ring and install in groove in housing. (Note: angle of inclination of taper should be 3-5 degrees)



External - Use tapered mandrel to expand ring and install in groove on shaft. (Note: angle of inclination of taper should be 3-5 degrees)

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2. Feed parts onto the tapered mandrel or into the tapered housing using a “feed finger” mechanism. Make sure the rings are fed in the proper direction and in the proper manner as depicted below to avoid sensitivity to ring pitch.

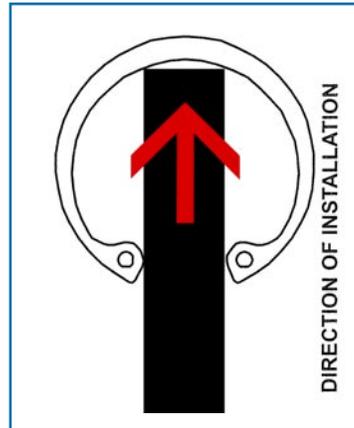


Figure A - This is the preferred way to transfer feed an internal ring into a tapered housing by inserting the mechanism between the lugs. (Note: Finger thickness should be 80% of the minimum ring thickness)

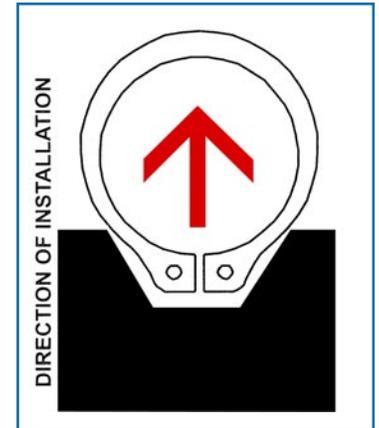


Figure B - This is the preferred way to transfer feed an external ring onto a tapered mandrel by using a slide with a complimentary cut out for the lugs. (Note: Finger thickness should be 80% of the minimum ring thickness)

3. Feed finger thickness should be sized per ring: .80% of the ring minimum thickness. (For example: If ring thickness is .025” +/- .002, feed finger should be .018” thick-- .023 x 80%).

4. Limit shuttle distance to a minimum from feed mandrel to installation on assembly.

5. Do not incorporate extension sleeves to tapered mandrel/tapered housing. This may exceed the expansion/compression limits of the ring causing it to fail. (Note: extension sleeves are typically used to guard against scratching/marring the finish of the shaft or housing. If this is a concern, please consult Daemar® Technical Sales).

6. Incorporate complementary chamfers to the assembly and installation mandrels.

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