Quick and process-reliable bonding of fastening elements with light-curing adhesives

A joint project between

BÖLLHOFF
DELO
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ONSERT® – An efficient joint

An ever increasing diversity of models and variants, new designs and materials as well as reduced development times and product cycles lead to new and versatile tasks when joining most different materials.

The typical tasks include:
- Superior design of design and visible surfaces (customer component)
- Determination of material requirements to be joined (material type and the condition of the joining part surface)
- Flexible fastening technology (platform technology, plastic mouldings, component modifications)
- Diverse process requirements

As a result, Böllhoff, as a specialist in mechanical joining technology, and DELO, as a specialist for intelligent bonding technology, have developed a new fastening system together.

The idea behind:
The advantages of bonding technology are combined with those of detachable screwed connections. Fastening elements made of transparent/translucent plastic with or without metallic thread reinforcements are fixed using light-curing adhesive. The most important aspects are reliable curing of adhesives with short cycle times as well as the geometric fastener design.

The result:
The ONSERT® technology – quick and process-reliable bonding of fasteners. The innovative joining process provides ideal conditions for versatile applications in most diverse industries.

ONSERT® – Advantages

ONSERT® basic
- Optimised design ensures distortion-free surfaces; ideal where close tolerance or visual requirements are important.
- Fastening elements do not become apparent on the visible side through heat input such as it happens during welding and heat curing
- Processing parameters independent of customer component
- Full mechanical load capacity immediately after irradiation (no post-crosslinking)
- Short curing times (< 5 sec)
- Connection of joint points also after surface treatment (e.g. cathodic dip coating)

ONSERT® plus
- Reduction/prevention of sink marks and scrap
- Reduced tool and process costs (shorter injection cycles, simplified tool concepts)
- Standardised elements
- Processing at every level of automation
- Full mechanical load capacity immediately after irradiation (no post-crosslinking)
- Short curing times (< 5 sec)
- Additional optional functions (positioning/fixing)
ONSERT® – The product range

Currently there are two principles:
ONSERT® basic – surface connection and ONSERT® plus – rib connection.

ONSERT® basic – surface connection
Principle and concept
Optics, haptics and lightweight construction also influence the design of thin-walled components. The use of materials with ever decreasing material thicknesses impedes the use of conventional mechanical or thermal joining processes.
For example, there is a particularly strong load on the joining part (joining forces/joining temperature). This can result in visual and/or mechanical damage to the customer component.
ONSERT® basic is the answer. A transparent plastic sheath is applied to fasteners such as screws, threaded bushes or snap connections. The geometry provides for sufficient bonding surface.

ONSERT® plus – rib connection
Principle and concept
The ONSERT® joining process is a real alternative, not only for particularly small but also for large wall thicknesses. If a housing with material accumulation is produced by injection moulding, there is often visible shrinkage (sink marks) after cooling down. This problem can be avoided with ONSERT® plus. ONSERT® plus allows quick, form-closed bonding to optimised ribs on the corresponding component.
As an alternative to bosses produced with the original mould, the system provides new design possibilities due to subsequent joining.

Fastening elements, such as well-proven AMTEC® thread inserts, are over moulded with transparent plastic (adhesive dome) and are then fitted using light-curing adhesive systems. Adhesive domes can be produced in various designs, e.g. with internal threads, bolt threads, ball studs or snap connections.

Generally, all geometries which can be produced by injection moulding are possible:

Screwed connections on plastic mouldings, detachable and non-detachable snap connections, adhesive SNAPLOC® fasteners, etc. can be applied to materials such as CFRP, FRP, glass, lacquer, cathodic dip coating, plastic or metal.
DELO – The ideal partner for a secure joint

DELO Industrial Adhesives is a globally successful company specialised in the field of bonding processes for technical applications of growth markets, such as optoelectronics and consumer electronics, RFID, automotive, photovoltaics and mechanical engineering. DELO as a supplier of bonding system solutions provides the development of adhesives to the equipment for dispensing and curing as well as individual consulting services during the development process.

Thanks to know-how and individual commitment, DELO customers have been able to rely on fast and reliable solutions for more than 50 years.

Which adhesive is suitable?

There are two product families in the DELO range of adhesive products that are suitable for ONSERT® adhesion. Both cure within seconds with the help of corresponding light. The coordination of DELO and BÖLLHOFF allows optimised processing with ONSERT® elements.

Characteristics of the two product families:

DELO-PHOTOBOND
- Light-curing acrylate
- Curing in less than 10 seconds
- Universal adhesion to various substrates
- Application specific mechanical properties (ultimate elongation, TG, Young's modulus)

DELO-KATIOBOND
- Light-curing epoxy resin
- Curing in 5–60 seconds
- For temperatures up to +150 °C
- Chemical-resistant

The ONSERT® process guarantees optimised adhesive curing since the transmissive elements transmit the light. Adhesives should be chosen individually for your substrate and field of application in consultation with DELO and BÖLLHOFF.

Material examples:
- Fibre-reinforced plastics: CFRP, GRP
- Glass, also coated and printed
- Plastics, such as PBT, ABS, blends, etc.
- Metals

DELO and BÖLLHOFF are pleased to assist you during the entire development process.
DELOLUX Curing lamps

Efficient bonding technology. DELO curing lamps and adhesives are matched to optimise joining processes. The especially developed lamps can be adapted to different surfaces and intensities (cycle times).

- Curing of adhesives within seconds
- Fast and reliable serial processes
- Minimum heat generation at the component (cold light source)
- Achievable service life > 20,000 h (at typical operating conditions)
- Great process reliability due to monitored functions
- No hazardous radiation in UVB or UVC range – high occupational safety

DELOLUX 80
LED curing lamp, light exit area Ø 16.9 mm

DELOLUX 20
LED area lamp, light exit area 101 x 101 mm

DELOLUXcontrol

Even if the light source is constant, there are influencing variables which considerably affect curing. The decrease in light intensity resulting from dirt or a larger distance between adhesive and lamp (e.g. through misalignment) is often underestimated. For a reproducible curing process, the light intensity at the component should be regularly checked using the DELOLUXcontrol light intensity meter.

- Monitoring of radiation intensity for completely cured adhesive and reliable production processes
- Measuring heads adapted to lamp type
ONSERT® – Processing systems semi-automatic

- Optimised curing due to special LED lamp geometry
- Reliable due to active cooling and temperature monitoring
- Quick and reliable positioning
- Reduce operator fatigue
- Easy handling
- Flexibility
- Suitable for different element types
The production process is flexible and consists of only a few steps.

**ONSERT® basic – Surface connection**

1. **Dispensing**
   The one-component, UV- and light-curing DELO-PHOTOBOND acrylate adhesive is applied to the surface.
   The adhesive is dispensed with the DELO-XPRESS 951 pressure tank via up to four pinch valves from the one litre container. The DELOMAT control unit is used for control.

2. **Joining**
   The ONSERT® basic is joined onto the plastic plate.
   At least one joining partner – in this case the adhesive boss – must be translucent in the absorbing range of the adhesive.

3. **Curing**
   DELO-PHOTOBOND is irradiated for several seconds (e.g., < 10 s) – until final strength is reached.
   All DELOLUX curing lamps, such as the DELOLUX 80 LED lamp, are suitable.

**ONSERT® plus – Rib connection**

1. **Dispensing**
   The one-component, UV- and light-curing DELO-PHOTOBOND acrylate adhesive is applied to the bar.
   The adhesive is dispensed with the DELO-XPRESS 951 pressure tank via up to four pinch valves from the one litre container. The DELOMAT control unit is used for control.

2. **Joining**
   The adhesive boss is joined onto the plastic rib.
   At least one joining partner – in this case the adhesive boss – must be translucent in the absorbing range of the adhesive.

3. **Curing**
   DELO-PHOTOBOND is irradiated for several seconds (e.g., < 10 s) – until final strength is reached.
   All DELOLUX curing lamps, such as the DELOLUX 80 LED lamp, are suitable.
ONSERT® – Technical data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen</th>
<th>$F_A$ [kN]</th>
<th>$M_L$ [Nm]</th>
<th>Deviation $F_A$ [kN]</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>8.60</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>7.90</td>
<td>0.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>8.20</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>9.20</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>average</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>8.48</td>
<td>0.73</td>
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Mechanical properties with ONSERT® basic $F_A$ [kN]

Break-away torques with ONSERT® basic $M_L$ [Nm]

Test set-up

ONSERT® thread bolts T 5; substrate: steel; component surface: cathodic dip coating; adhesive: DELO-PHOTOBOND AD494; thickness of adhesive layer: 0.2 mm; light source: DELOLUX 80; irradiation time: 5 sec; lamp distance: 32 mm

Ageing

VDA climate change test: Joint stability remains constant after a four-week storage period. After 1,000 hours of storage in Skydrol (hydraulic fluid used in aviation technology), the joint stability is not significantly reduced.

The data given are typical average values or specific values that have been determined once under laboratory conditions. Therefore, the data and information provided are no guarantee or assurance of certain product characteristics. They do not indicate the suitability of the product for a certain purpose.
**ONSERT® – Technical data**

### Mechanical properties with ONSERT® plus $F_A$ [kN]

![Bar chart showing mechanical properties](chart.png)

* The adhesive is a development product that is bound to a minimum order quantity.

### Break-away torques with ONSERT® plus $M_L$ [Nm]

![Bar chart showing break-away torques](chart.png)

* The adhesive is a development product that is bound to a minimum order quantity.

### Test set-up

ONSERT® adhesive domes made of PC with adjusted draft angles have been tested (inclination of ribs is equal to inclination of dome). The basic substrate is an unfilled ABS.

The bonding surfaces of the ONSERT® have been treated with low-pressure plasma. An atmospheric pressure plasma treatment has been conducted for the ribs.

The data given are typical average values or specific values that have been determined once under laboratory conditions. Therefore, the data and information provided are no guarantee or assurance of certain product characteristics. They do not indicate the suitability of the product for a certain purpose.
ONSERT® – Fields of application

White goods
- Glass panels, plastic linings for displays, surface-coated coverings for electrical household appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, electric cookers, washing machines, dishwashers, hoovers and laundry dryers

Aerospace
- Connection of joint points on lightweight structures (sandwich materials, CFRP, aluminium)
- Easy handling due to optimised and flexible processing devices
- Easily controllable/reproducible process

Automotive industry
- Bodyshell, car structures
- Mounting of coverings
- Connection of fixing points after cathodic dip coating
- Alternative to welding elements on materials which are not suitable for thermal joining and very thin-walled components
- Independent from previous processes and flexible in use
- Easy repair solutions
**Böllhoff International with companies in:**

- Argentina
- Austria
- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- Czech Republic
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- India
- Italy
- Japan
- Mexico
- Poland
- Romania
- Russia
- Slovakia
- Spain
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- USA

Apart from these 21 countries, Böllhoff supports its international customers in other important industrial markets in close partnership with agents and dealers.