



# tech briefs

Westinghouse Savannah River Company

## Easy On/Off Fastener Cartridge

### at a glance

Facilitates maintenance tasks in radiological areas

Reduces personnel exposure time

Quickly stores, installs, and removes multiple fasteners

Handy tool for many every day uses

### for more information

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## Quickly installs and removes fasteners

A new tool enables the quick and handy installation and removal of fasteners. Fasteners, such as hexagonal nuts, are loaded into a convenient cartridge. Used with a ratchet handle, speed handle, or torque wrench, the cartridge presents each fastener for quick installation. Used in reverse, the cartridge collects removed fasteners for reuse.



### Background

This tool was originally conceived for use in radiological areas, including gloveboxes, where the use of protective gloves inhibits mechanics' dexterity. In these environments, simple maintenance procedures, such as removing or securing cabinet panels, can prove time consuming and present a radiation exposure hazard. Use of the new tool makes such procedures quick and easy and prevents the loss of fasteners.

### Versatile design

Different sized cartridges can carry different styles and sizes of fasteners. Prototype tools in use at the Savannah River Site carry eleven 1/2 in., 5/16 in., and 3/8 in. acorn nuts. The cartridges also may be fabricated from different materials depending on end use — for example, stainless steel for radiological use and plastic for every day use.

### Many uses

In addition to its use to expedite maintenance tasks in radiological areas, the easy on/off cartridge could be used to facilitate many ordinary tasks such as changing car tires, assembling swing sets, and constructing prefab metal buildings.

### Partnering opportunity

Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) is seeking companies interested in licensing the Easy On/Off Fastener cartridge for manufacture and sale as a commercial item.

### Technology transfer

WSRC is the managing contractor of the Savannah River Site for the U.S. Department of Energy. WSRC scientists and researchers develop technologies designed to improve environmental quality, support international nonproliferation, dispose of legacy wastes, and provide clean energy sources.

WSRC is responsible for transferring technologies to the private sector so that these technologies may have the collateral benefit of enhancing U.S. economic competitiveness.



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