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INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

R-TRACK

⚠ WARNING:

Cancer and Reproductive Harm | www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

ZT | zippertubing®

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R-Track User Guide

ABOUT ZIPPERTUBING®

Since 1957, Zippertubing® has been solving every type of cable bundling, heat-shielding, EMI-shielding, specialized heat shrink and marine fairing component challenge. From under the sea to outer space, we have prototyped, manufactured, and shipped custom-engineered solutions for every type of industry. We specialize in creating unique custom solutions in-house from beginning to end, so you feel confident you will receive the perfect product every time.

No matter the size, shape, standards, or specifications, Zippertubing® will abide by any requirements to create a custom solution. If the project has material restrictions or weight limitations, we will create a solution to fit your unique application needs, rather than make your application fit the product. We will draw up, prototype, and refine to ensure the solution is exceeding your expectations.



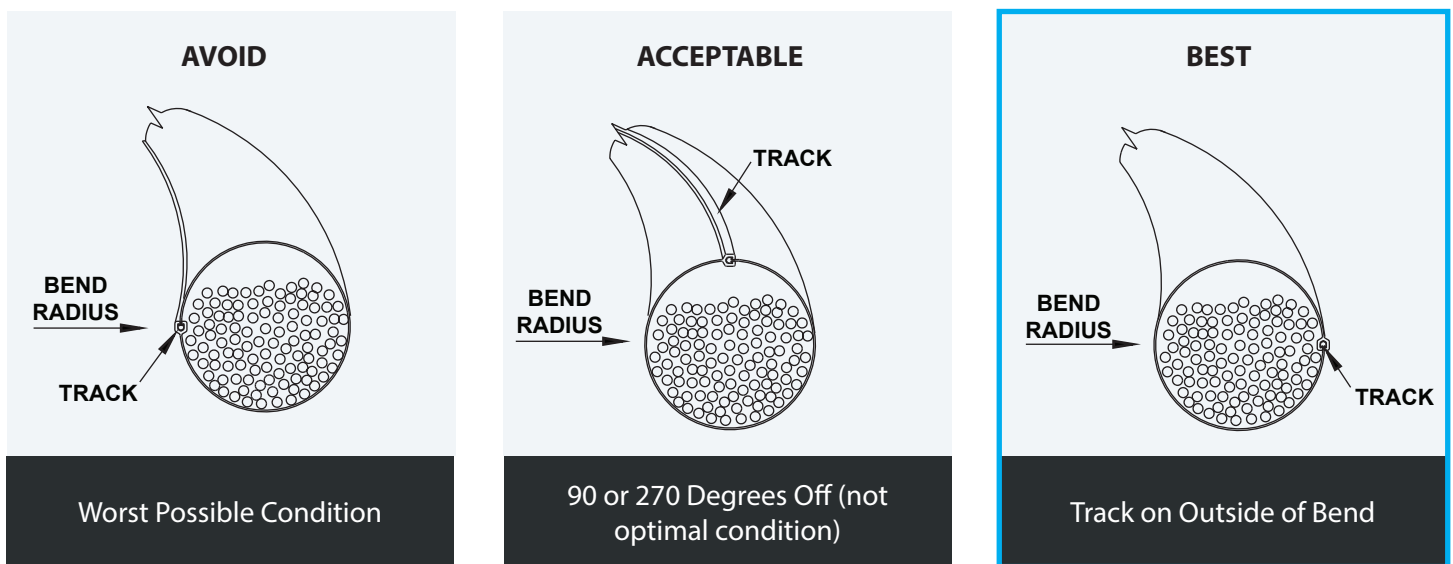
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INTRODUCTION

The R-Track closure is a small PVC based “Zip-Lock” style closure that is approximately 0.150” wide which can be utilized with all PVC based jacket materials. The interlock has an approximate hoop strength of 10 lbs/linear-inch and is flame-retardant. R-Track can be closed using thumb pressure alone or with the aid of the “SLR” slider tool. It is best suited for flat or rectangular cable applications in sizes up to 1-1/2 inches wide.

TRACK CLOSURE VS BEND LOCATION



Installation Notes

1. Always size the jacket at least 1/8 inch larger than the maximum cable diameter. If severe cable bending is anticipated, increasing jacket diameter beyond the 1/8 inch requirement is advisable.
2. Always install jackets so that the track faces the outside of the bend radius. Failure to position the jacket in this manner may result in the track “popping open” due to track distortion.
3. If the design does not call for re-opening the jacket periodically, it may be desirable to seal the track closed using ZT-Tape® (see “SEALING EXTRUDED TRACKS” on page 5).
4. The most common causes of tracks “popping open” are:
 - Improperly closed track
 - Incorrectly sized jacket, less than 1/8 inch oversize
 - Track located other than on the outside of the bend radius

INSTALLATION TOOLS

The **SLR tool** is an inexpensive metal ring slider tool designed for closing Zippertubing® R-Track products. It is ideal for both production line and field installations. The R-Track closure mechanism can be closed manually using thumb pressure in most flat ribbon cable applications. However the SLR tool makes closing long cable runs easier, eliminates operator fatigue and sore fingers. The SLR tool is best suited for closing R-Track jackets around round wire and cable. Round cables do not provide the operator with the same solid surface to apply thumb pressure like flat cables do. Track closure is achieved by inserting the upper and lower halves of the R-Track interlock into the tool and then sliding the SLR tool down the cable run. The tool will pull the track halves together and create a continuous tube as it slides along the cable run. Use the SLR tool installation sequence below as a guide to close any Zippertubing® product that utilizes the R-Track closure.



INSTALLATION

STEP 01

Examine the “SLR” slider tool. The larger back end of the tool resembles the letter “S”. The large end is where you insert the two R-Track halves. The opposite end of the tool has a small slot and is the wedge where the track will be driven together and exit the tool.



STEP 02

Wrap the Zippertubing® jacket around the cable. Hold the tool with the large end facing the track ends to be closed. Insert the track half with the grooves that are facing up into the bottom cavity of the tool and the half with the grooves facing down into the top cavity.

Note: The slider will only fit on one end of the jacket. If the slider will not accept the track as described, start closing the jacket at the opposite end.



STEP 03

Push the two track halves into the wedge area of the tool. Ensure that the legs of the two track halves align correctly and inter-lock together.



STEP
04

Once the tool is installed and both track halves have been interlocked for approximately one half inch, grasp the mated end of the track and pull the tool along the cable length using your index finger in the pull ring. Close the remaining track around the cable assembly until the tool slides off the end.



Installation Notes:

1. It is desirable to have an assistant pre-form the jacket around the cable ahead of you as you close the jacket. This will reduce the load on the tool and eases the pull force required to zip the jacket into a tube. If working alone, you can wrap a cable-tie loosely around the Zippertubing® jacket and cable assembly to pre-form jacket and bring the edges of the jacket close together. Slide the tie-wrap along ahead of you as you close the jacket.
2. On long assembly lengths lubricating the tool and track surface with a few drops of isopropyl alcohol (IPA) will reduce the tool friction and ease the closure process. Follow safety and process procedures for solvents.



CAUTION

Do not use oil or silicone based lubricants that will remain on the jacket/track surface since these may reduce the mechanical closure strength and contaminate the finished assembly.

SEALING EXTRUDED TRACKS

All Zippertubing® products that utilize extruded closure tracks (except type FEP & TPU) can be permanently sealed after closure using the following method. Under normal circumstances a properly closed Zippertubing® track does not require post closure sealing. However, in some applications where an environmental or tamper proof seal is desired or extreme abuse is anticipated, the post sealing process can ensure that the track does not re-open inadvertently.

ZT-Tape®

This method involves placing a 1-inch wide strip of Zippertubing's ZT-Tape® down the center of the inter-locking track split line after the track has been closed. The ZT-Tape® is a UL-510 recognized, fire retardant, polyurethane film tape with an acrylic adhesive backing. The adhesive is compatible with both PVC and PFR track materials and is easily applied. The tape sealing method provides additional closure strength, improves environmental tightness and is an environmentally friendly process.



CAUTION


The ZT-Tape® is highly elastic and must be applied to the track in a relaxed condition. Stretching the tape during installation can result in debonding of the film from the adhesive if the assembly is stored or shipped in a coiled or tightly bent condition.



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