



TEST #030494B

Effect of Number of Rivets Upon Beam Connection Strength

An independent engineering laboratory tested SK2000 racking for the purpose of quantifying several of the design advantages inherent in SK2000 pallet rack. The results of one such test is outlined below.

Steel King SK2000 series boltless pallet racks feature beam connectors with 3 rivets per end connector. Some brands of pallet rack have only two rivets per connector (**Figure 1**). Both designs were tested, to quantify the actual advantage realized by users of SK2000 pallet rack.

To eliminate any other influences upon the test (differing connector plate thickness, different rivet types, different welding patterns, etc.), identical connectors were tested, with the exception of the center (third) rivet, which was removed to create a comparable 2-rivet design.

A uniaxial compressive load was applied to the center of the beam, which in turn was connected to two fixed columns (**Figure 2**). The load beam was short in length, and heavily constructed, to insure that the connection, not the beam, would fail first. Increasing force was applied, until yielding was detected by the testing machine. The load weight required to achieve yielding (failure) was recorded. The identical procedure was implemented for beams with both two (2) 2-rivet and two (2) 3-rivet end connector designs.

The 2-rivet system failed at 16,100# of load weight. At this weight, the rivets were pulled through the end connector plates. The 3-rivet design was unaffected at this same load weight, and continued to perform, until reaching its yield weight of 20,300# (**Figure 3**).

CONCLUSION: The standard beam connection employed in Steel King SK2000 series pallet racks provide **26% greater strength** and safety, solely on the basis of the third rivet. Further gains are possible, based upon SK2000 connector thickness, the high strength steel used for SK2000 rivets, and the full vertical welding of the connection, as compared to other rack designs, and with the 4-rivet connectors that are standard on SK2000 6" high beams. This is only one feature of the SK2000 system that gives users more value for their investment.

Figure 1

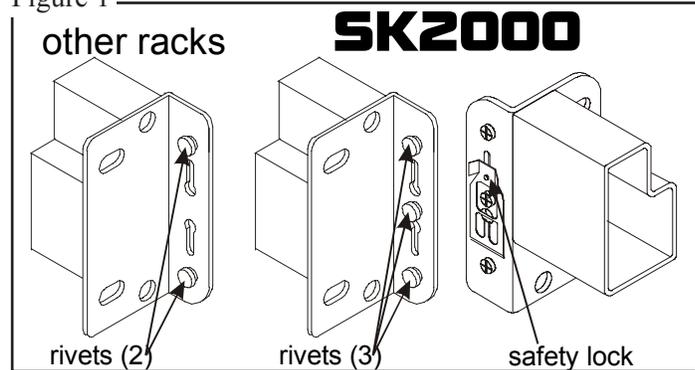


Figure 2

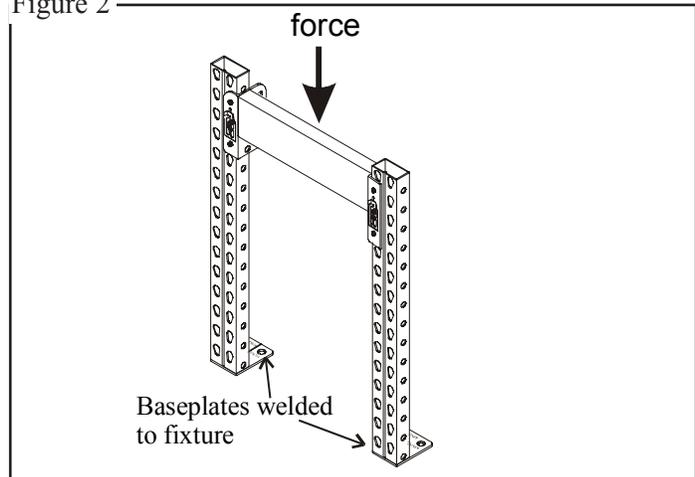
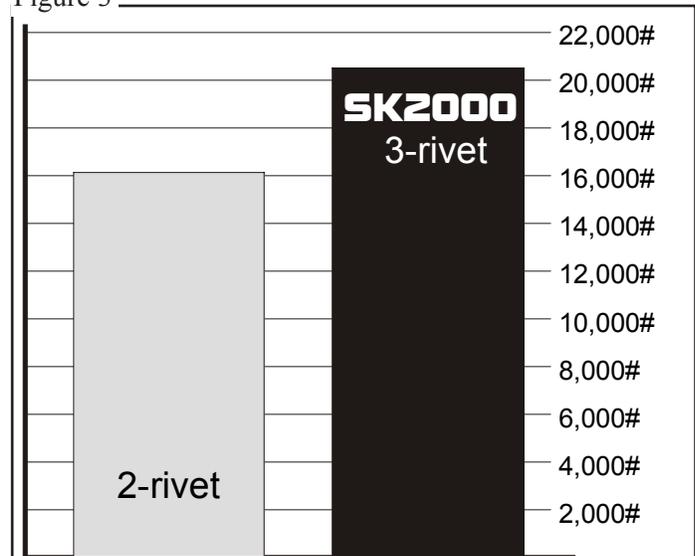


Figure 3



Force, applied in pounds, to reach yield (failure) of beam connections.