Test Plugs for Engineering, Procurement & Construction
Curtiss-Wright EST Group

Since 1968, Curtiss-Wright EST Group has specialized in the development, and manufacture of tools and systems that greatly simplify maintenance of shell & tube and air-cooled heat exchangers, as well as test plug systems that expedite in-service inspection of pipe, pipelines, piping systems and pressure vessels. Our plugging and testing systems have saved customers millions of dollars in maintenance and downtime.

EST Group serves the power generation, upstream oil and gas, refining, petrochemical, fine chemical, pharmaceutical and shipbuilding industries worldwide.

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With a proud legacy spanning more than 85 years, Curtiss-Wright is a global innovative company that delivers highly engineered, critical function products and services to the commercial, industrial, defense and energy markets. Building on the heritage of Glenn Curtiss and the Wright brothers, we have a long tradition of providing reliable solutions through trusted customer relationships.
Sample Business Case

Challenge/Goal

In the ever demanding market of EPC deliverables, project schedules are becoming tighter and more efficient. Ultimately clients look for their projects to be delivered “on-time” and “on-budget” in order to “go to market” at the most opportune time for their stakeholders and shareholders.

Key objective of the EPC is to maintain the prime business interests for all partners involved in the realization of the capital projects. Proper allocation of materials and trade field personnel is critical in mitigating potential delays, costs and liquidating damages (LD’s). Welders are such a field trade that carries an expensive cost tag (per hour) particularly in modular fabrication.

Identifying technologies and implementing cost/time saving strategies to significantly speed up the construction process are critical to achieving this goal.

Solution

Curtiss-Wright EST Group offers the GripTight range of pressure test & isolation plugs which have been proven to save 90% of the time spent pressure testing pipe spools in modular build projects. Construction managers at module yards have reported over 500% increase in productivity and completed test packages per week.

Core products include:

- **GripTight® Test Plugs** – for high pressure hydrostatic testing of pipe, pipelines, and pressure vessels. Safe and effective at working pressures to 15000 PsiG (1034 BarG). Pipe OD and ID sealing solutions available

- **GripTight® Test & Isolation Plugs** – positively isolate pipe end hot work from potentially explosive upstream vapors; then weld and test the flange to pipe connection all with one tool

Benefits (Scenario)

**TEST PLUGS vs. WELDED END CAPS**

**Equipment required to install test plugs**

Scaffolding
1 - Crane (10” plugs and up)
1 - Forklift / bobcat
1 - Torque wrench
1 - Pipe fitter

**Equipment required to install test caps (welded)**

Scaffolding
1 - Crane (8” caps c/w 2’ pipe and up)
1 - Forklift / bobcat
1 - Clamshell (1 required for each pipe size)
1 - Welding fixture
1 - Welding equipment
1 - Welder (2 required on larger pipe sizes and wall thicknesses - 12” and up)
1 - Fitter / helper

*Hoarding and heat may be required based on ambient temp
## Typical Installation & Removal Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NPS (DN)</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>GripTight Test Plugs</th>
<th>Welded Caps</th>
<th>Labor Hours Saved per Pipe End (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Personnel Required</td>
<td>Installation Labor Hours</td>
<td>Removal Labor Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10” (DN250)</td>
<td>STD</td>
<td>1 fitter</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SCH 120</td>
<td>1 fitter</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20” (DN500)</td>
<td>STD</td>
<td>1 fitter</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SCH 120</td>
<td>1 fitter</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30” (DN750)</td>
<td>STD</td>
<td>1 fitter</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SCH 120</td>
<td>1 fitter</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 1. Man Hours savings shown does not include pre-heat, post-weld stress relieving, or erection of hording which is essential in inclement weather.

### Pros and Cons

#### PROS

- **CW - EST Plugs**
  - Fast – saves 90% time, frees up welders
  - Ease of installation
  - Ease of removal
  - Re-usable
  - No special prep required
  - Eliminates Welding
  - Eliminates Fixtures
  - Eliminates Pre-Heat & PWHT (HAZ)
  - Reduced Manpower

- **Welded Caps**
  - Cost of welded caps
  - Re-usable – Limited life cycle

#### CONS

- **CW - EST Plugs**
  - Requires special handling: Larger sizes

- **Welded Caps**
  - Requires special handling: Larger sizes
  - Cost of installation (welding, prepping, consumables)
  - Cost of removal (Clamshells)

### Conclusion

GripTight plugs pay for themselves quickly providing lowest cost per test.

Any time there is a tight schedule there is no question plugs are an asset.
Application Experience

EST Group’s Hydrostatic Test & Isolation Plugs provide products and services to facilitate pressure-testing open end pipe, piping systems, tubing and pressure vessels and their components.

EST Group strives to build a strong relationship with our customers by offering top quality workmanship, excellent customer service and competitive pricing.

Industries Served

Curtiss-Wright EST Group is dedicated to providing a complete range of lifecycle products and services for maintenance and repair of open end pipe, piping systems, tubing and pressure vessels for the following industries worldwide:

- Petrochemical & Refining
- Oil & Gas Production
- Power Generation
- Design & Build Projects
- Shipbuilding Industry

Customers Served

EST Group proudly serves both small and multinational companies such as:

- AG&P
- AMEC/Foster Wheeler
- Bay Ltd
- Bechtel
- Cianbro
- Cimtas
- COOEC-Fluor Heavy Industries
- Dragados Offshore
- Dynamic Industries
- Ersai-Saipem
- Fluor
- Hyundai Heavy Industries
- ICA-Fluor
- KBR
- Kiewit
- McDermott
- Performance Contractors
- Samsung Heavy Industries
- SNC-Lavalin
- TechnipFMC
- Turner Industries
- Wison
- Worley
- Zachry Group, and many more...

The usage of EST Group’s plugs was hugely beneficial compared to traditional hydro test end caps, as welding and NDT of the end caps was avoided thus resulting in reduced preparation time and loop readiness. Hydro test work using the supplied plugs was carried out with no incidents.

Joe D., Sr. Construction Manager - COOEC Fluor China Heavy Industries

Save up to 90% in testing time vs. welded-on end cap procedures
Engineering

Our Engineering team is devoted to providing innovative, precise, and cost-effective solutions to our customers. Extensive knowledge of applications and equipment within the industries we serve, allow our products and services to improve our customers’ project scope through reduction in time and cost, while maintaining consistent dependability, and a safer work environment.

Our team continuously utilizes new techniques and technology to improve the quality of our products and influence the industry in a positive way. Precision engineering and expert application support make EST Group the best choice for solving complex pipe testing and isolation challenges.

Our Commitment to Customers
1. Reliability & performance
2. Same day quote response
3. Field support for customer applications

Why Choose Us?

- **Design & Manufacturing** – Over 50 years of experience in tools and systems design and manufacturing that greatly simplify maintenance of shell & tube and air-cooled heat exchangers, as well as test plug systems that expedite in-service inspection of pipe, pipelines, piping systems, and pressure vessels.

- **New Product Development** – Our commitment to technology development is critical for maintaining and strengthening technological leadership in the marketplace.

- **Application Engineering & Custom Product Design** – When an application requires a solution beyond the capabilities of standard products, our Team of Application Engineers are ready to assist you. We will work to develop, design, and manufacture a custom solution to accomplish your goals.

- **State-of-the-Art Test Lab** – Equipped for 30,000 Psig (2070 Bar) pressure testing capabilities, temperature cycling, fatigue analysis, creep testing, and data analysis.

- **Quality** – Our quality program is integrated into each element of our operation – manufacturing, supply chain, engineering, and sales. Each process is audited and reviewed to ensure our products exceed the demand of our customers. Compliant with several QA Systems, including:
  - ISO 9001:2015
  - ASME, ANSI N45.2,NQA-1, 10 CFR 50 App. B
  - U.S. Navy Level I/SUBSAFE

- **Finite Element Analysis (FEA)** – Mechanical static and dynamic simulations, thermal and stress analysis, multiphysics and vibration.

  - Application analysis and concept development.
  - Conceptual and detail design: CAD 3D models, drawings, verifications.
  - Customer sales drawings.
**GripTight® Test & Isolation Plug Product Line**

**Safe, Effective Solutions for Rapid Pipe Testing and Repairs**

EST Group offers a complete line of Hydrostatic Pressure Test and Pipeline Isolation Plugs for pressure testing pipework, pipelines and pressure vessels. GripTight® Test Plugs - for high pressure hydrostatic testing of pipe, pipelines and pressure vessels. Safe and effective at working pressures to 15000 PsiG (1034 BarG). Pipe OD and ID sealing solutions available. GripTight® Isolation Plugs – positively isolate pipe end hot work from potentially explosive upstream vapors; then weld and test the flange to pipe connection all with one tool.

- Test Open End Pipes, Pipelines, Tubes and Pressure Vessels
- Perform Flange-To-Pipe Weld Testing
- Isolate and Test Pipe Connections

![GripTight® Test Plug](image1)
![GripTight MAX® Test Plug](image2)
![GripTight® Elbow Plug](image3)

![GripTight® Isolation Plug](image4)
![Socket Weld SQS Test Plug](image5)
Pressure Test & Isolation Plugs

GripTight®
A standard in the industry, the GripTight High Pressure Test Plug uses test pressure to grip and seal more securely against the pipe's inner diameter. The greater the pressure, the greater the grip! The result is quicker installation, improved sealing, and all around safer testing. GripTight Test Plugs eliminate the time consuming practice of welding on/cutting off end caps/pups. GripTight Test Plugs are reusable and compatible with hydrostatic testing.
Operating pressures up to 14000 PsiG (960 BarG), depending on plug size. Sizes from 1” to 48” (DN25-DN1200), for smaller sizes, see GripTight MAX Test Plugs. Larger sizes available.

GripTight MAX®
Significantly increase the range of pipe materials that can be tested at higher pressures.
Highly effective for testing high pressure steam systems, high alloy hardened pipe materials, and down hole/ well-head piping. Also effective for testing non-metallic materials including Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) and Glass Reinforced Epoxy (GRP).

Features & Benefits
• Safe and reliable testing at higher pressures
• Saves up to 90% in testing time vs. welded-on end cap testing procedures
• Patented dual-serrated gripper design provides more gripping points on inside pipe surfaces
• Test pressures to 15000 PsiG (1034 BarG)
• Sizes from 3/8” to 48” (DN10-DN1200). Larger sizes available
• Facilitates testing in accordance with ASME PCC-2 and ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Codes

GripTight® Elbow
Designed for testing long radius elbows. Our patented dual-serrated GripTight MAX grippers give this unique plug design pressure holding capabilities to 3350 PsiG (231 BarG) - providing a safe and effective solution for pipe spools and piping systems terminating in long radius elbows.

Features & Benefits
• Orientation Free Installation - no need to align with elbow - easier operation
• Patented dual-serrated gripper design
• Test pressures to 3350 PsiG (231 BarG)
• Sizes for NPS ranging from 2” to 24” (DN50-DN600). Larger sizes available
• Fits all long radius elbows (45°, 90°, 180°)
• Saves up to 90% in testing time vs. welded-on end cap/pup testing procedures
Pressure Test & Isolation Plugs

GripTight® Isolation Plug
GripTight Isolation Plugs integrate a Double Block and Bleed Test Plug with GripTight grippers. The upstream port allows operators to positively isolate and monitor potentially explosive vapors during hot work. The dual port design allows water to be introduced to the section between the seals through the fill port while air is simultaneously evacuated through the vent port - creating a positive pressure barrier between the hotwork and residual upstream gases. After hotwork is complete, the plug can be repositioned to hydrotest the new weld connection.

GripTight grippers improve the operational safety minimizing the risk of accidental plug blowout/ expulsion due to improper use or unexpected upstream pressure in the line. GripTight Isolation Plugs are capable of withstanding test pressures to 2250 PsiG (155.1BarG) between the seals, and upstream pressures up to 1500 PsiG (103 BarG). As upstream pressure increases, GripTight grippers use the pressure to grip and seal more securely against the pipe’s I.D. Sizes from 3/4” to 48” NPS (DN20 - DN1200). Larger sizes available.

Socket Weld SQS Test Plug
Designed to fit standard 3000 LB class socket weld fittings in sizes from 1/2” to 2” NPS (DN15 to DN50). Gripping element fits within the socket bore and seal fits within the through hole allowing the root weld of the fitting to be pressure tested. Installs in minutes, eliminate welding on and cutting off test caps.

O.D. GripTight® (Testing & Flushing Plug)
Uses patented self-gripping, self-sealing design and reliable dual seal mechanism to provide unparalleled speed and safety in hydro-testing. The GripTight design grips and seals along the pipe O.D. Since pipe O.D.’s are constant, one O.D. plug often replaces several different sizes of I.D. sealing plugs providing an economic advantage and lower inventory. Operating pressures to 5000 PsiG (343 BarG). 1/4” to 4” ANSI pipe sizes (DN8 - DN100) and 1/2” to 3½” (12.7 to 88.9 mm) O.D. tube sizes. Large port facilitates flushing lines during Commissioning and Start-Up.
Pressure Test & Isolation Plug Accessories / Safety Devices

**Test Plug Lifting Arm**

Designed to maneuver large test plugs securely with cranes, forklifts, or other lifting mechanisms. Provides greater stability and operator safety during installations. Three models available for plug sizes ranging from 10”-48” (DN250 - DN1200).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size Range</th>
<th>Max. Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10”- 24” (DN250-DN600)</td>
<td>1,500lbs. (680.4kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26”- 36” (DN650-DN900)</td>
<td>3,500lbs. (1,587.6kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38”- 48” (DN950-DN1200)</td>
<td>6,500lbs. (2,948.4kg)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GripTight® Vent Assembly**

Safely fill and drain pipes during hydrostatic testing. Vents are installed with tubes at high and low points in the area being tested in order to fill with test medium and displace air/gases in the pipe being tested.

**Plug Safety Gags**

Designed to prevent damage which may occur due to incorrectly installed plugs ejecting from the pipe during pressurization.

Gags are designed to quickly fasten to pipe OD and plug inlet. Sizes from 1/4” NPS (DN8) to 48” (DN1200).
Safe and Reliable Hydrostatic Testing Solution for EPC Projects

Save Time & Money - Eliminate Costly Pre-Heat & Post-Weld Heat Treatment

Conventional methodology for pressure testing plain/bevel end pipe spools requires welding on end caps, performing the pressure test, then cutting off the end cap and re-beveling the pipe. Employing test plugs in lieu of welding end caps eliminates this time consuming cycle, as well as pre-heat, post-weld stress, and the heat affected zone (HAZ) at the spool’s end.

GripTight MAX® Features

Significantly improve project schedules and increase the range of pipe materials and pressures for testing.

- Safely complete testing in one-tenth of the time vs. welded-on end cap procedures
- Test pressures up to 15000 PsiG (1034 BarG)
- Standard sizes ranging from 3/8” to 48” NPS (DN10-DN1200) - additional sizes available upon request
- Patented dual-serrated self-gripping design uses test pressure to increase holding capabilities
- Ideal for use in Carbon Steel, Stainless or High Alloy applications such as, Chromoly, Duplex, Hastelloy, Inconel & Clad
- Easy Installation - no welding or hot work required
- Test open-end pipe and tube up to HRC 32
- Facilitates testing in accordance to ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Codes
- Hardened shaft, grippers, and cone for increased durability
- Positioning washer prevents plug loss in pipe end
- Laser-marked top washer clearly identifies part number, size range, pressure rating, and document number for operating instructions

GripTight® Elbow Features

Safely test pipe spools and piping systems terminating in long radius elbows.

- Orientation independent installation - no need to align with elbow
- Eliminates welding and time consuming pre-heat and post-weld heat treatment (PWHT)
- Test pressures up to 3350 PsiG (231 BarG) - higher pressures available upon request
- Standard sizes for NPS ranging from 2” thru 24” (DN50-DN600) - additional sizes available upon request
- Patented dual-serrated GripTight MAX gripper design
- Patented floating, self-aligning grippers & seal
- Designed to accommodate a large range of pipe materials including: Carbon Steel, Stainless Steel, Duplex, Inconel, Incoloy, Hastelloy, Chromoly, Clad, and Hardened Material
- Easy Installation - no welding or hot work required
- Self gripping design uses test pressure to increase holding capability
- Saves up to 90% in test time vs. welded-on end cap/test procedures
- Laser-marked top washer clearly identifies part number, size range, pressure rating, and document number for operating instructions
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Product animations, instructions, and detailed technical information are available on our website: www.cw-estgroup.com