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# Taper-Lok Tapered-Shank Bolts: Identification, Hole and Inspection

Identification · the tapered hole · the sleeve bolt alternative · do not substitute

## Taper-Lok against Hi-Lok and sleeve bolt

| Feature | Taper-Lok | Hi-Lok | Sleeve bolt |
|---|---|---|---|
| Shank | Tapered, conical | Straight | Tapered bolt in an expandable sleeve |
| Hole | Precision tapered hole, reamed | Straight hole, clearance or interference | Standard-tolerance straight hole |
| Head of the threaded end | No hex recess | Hex recess | – |
| Washer | Captive on the collar | Separate when needed | – |
| Who installs | Trained personnel | Any qualified mechanic | Easier to install than the tapered bolt |

## Key points

- **Round head, threaded shank,** no screwdriver slot or wrench flats.
- **Looks like a Hi-Lok** installed, but no hex recess in the threaded end.
- **Precision-reamed tapered hole,** controlled interference fit.
- **Collar has a captive washer;** no extra washers.
- **Never substitute** a tapered bolt for another fastener, or the other way round.

## Step by step

1. Trained personnel only for new installation or rework of the hole.
2. Ream the tapered hole to the maker's data.
3. Fit the bolt: it wedges and does not turn under torque.
4. Torque the collar; no extra washers.

**SOURCES** · FAA-H-8083-31B, Aviation Maintenance Technician Handbook, Airframe, chapter 4

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Educational reference only, not approved data. Always consult the applicable SRM, AMM, or AC 43.13-1B and your certifying authority.