

POWERPOLE®CONNECTOR GENERAL INSTALLATION TIPS

Assemble the red and black plastic housings together correctly on the first try, they fit snugly and can be difficult to get apart. See the picture below for ARES /RACES standard orientation that the RIRunner uses. Note that you can assemble the red and black insulated housings in other ways for special applications.

Put the connector housings together before putting the connector pins in, this is easier, especially when using heavy paired wire.

Before soldering or crimping the contacts on to heavy paired wire, orient the contacts so that they are both facing the correct direction so that they go in the housings without twisting the wire.

The plastic housings are held together with dovetail joints. Always slide these joints together! They will be damaged if you try to snap them together or apart. They ONLY slide together in one direction. This should be obvious by looking at them carefully.

Do not use roll pins on Powerpoles? Some people supply roll pins with Powerpoles? Do not use them, they can and will fall out, and knowing Murphy, right in to your new radio causing smoke! Anderson does not supply or recommend roll pins, they supply not roll pins but much more expensive spiral pins, which are better. We have tested both, even the proper spiral pins will fall out. If the pair of heavy wires are squeezed together near the back of the connector, like you might do when you pull the connector out, it will spread the bodies apart slightly and out falls the pin.

We spoke to Anderson about this concern and they said that they recommend using a cyanocrylic glue, Crazy Glue, hold the connector bodies permanently together. They do not recommend their spiral pins for critical applications. Normally the dovetail joints in the housings hold well. If you find it necessary, glue them, don't use pins. Make sure you have them assembled correctly BEFORE you glue, they will be permanently bonded together with a cyanocrylic. All it takes is a very small drop of cyanocrylic glue in the seam between the red and black bodies.

N9EF suggests a bit of silicon glue injected in to the hole between the red and black housings. He says it holds them together quite well but they can be separated if needed.

The contacts go in the housings in only one way. Insert the contacts with their sharp edge down against the flat spring that is in the housing. They should slide in and click. If you do not hear a click or they are not fully seated, fix them. When they are inserted fully you should notice that the contact and it's wire "floats" slightly inside it's housing. If it feels tight it may not be snapped in fully or you have made the contact wider than it originally was during crimping or soldering.



CORRECT!

The contacts are in proper alignment and ready to push in. Listen for a click on each one to make sure they are fully inserted.



Cutaway view of a Powerpole connector.

Note that the contact must fit through the gap between the housing and the spring and that the contact is snapped over the end of the spring.

