

TECHNICAL REFERENCE · PRINT & KEEP

Types of Stem Casters: Threaded, Grip Ring, Expanding

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Quick answer. Stem casters use four non-interchangeable stem types. Threaded stems, commonly 3/8-16 or 1/2-13 UNC, screw into a tapped socket, grip-ring stems snap into round tube sockets on medical and office equipment, expanding adapters clamp inside open tube legs, and round plain stems pin into a bored socket. Using the wrong type causes loosening and failure under load.

Pick the stem type in one paragraph

Stem type	Frame interface	Hold method	Typical application
Threaded	Threaded socket or nut	Fully torqued threads	Office chairs, medical, shop carts
Grip-ring	Plain round bore	Sprung grip ring in bore groove	Medical, office, light industrial
Expanding adapter	Hollow tube ID	Rubber collar expands to grip ID	Retail fixtures, displays, racks
Round plain	Clamp or set-screw collar	External clamp on frame	Custom frames with dedicated clamp

Expanding adapter stem casters

Tube ID	Adapter callout	Typical tube OD
7/8"	#7 adapter	1" round
15/16"	#7.5 adapter	1-1/16" round
1"	#8 adapter	1-1/4" round
1-1/16"	#8.5 adapter	1-1/4" round (thin wall)
1-1/8"	#9 adapter	1-1/4" round (thick wall)
1-1/4"	#10 adapter	1-1/2" round



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