

FASTUPDATES

Aerodynamic latch fastens body to winning racer



The Loaded Gunn TS11 was the runaway winner of the 2010 Sports 2000 Duratec Championship

The Loaded Gunn TS11 enjoyed an all-conquering season last year in the Sports 2000 Duratec Championship for sports prototype racers winning seven out of the eight British rounds. On its way to this success, the car dominated the championship by collecting six pole positions, six fastest laps and a lap record at Cadwell Park to boot.

Loaded Gunn Racing is a collaboration between Sports 2000 stalwart Jonathan Loader and engineer Gary Gun. The team does not run on massively high technical budgets but uses engineering skills gained over many years in motorsport and the ingenuity of good old British engineering.

Designer Gunn starts off with a wire frame model of the chassis to which real loads are applied to see what parts bend and to high-

light any weaknesses. Once the shape has been refined, the project moves to a series of full-scale drawings.

Gunn has his own production methods which avoid the costs of computer aided design. The basic body shape is made by bending and welding thin sheets of metal into a 'suit of armour' which can then be smoothed down to achieve the desired curves. The template is then layered with glass fibre to make a mould and when the steel is removed, you have the desired shape.

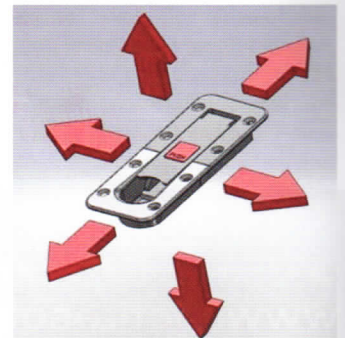
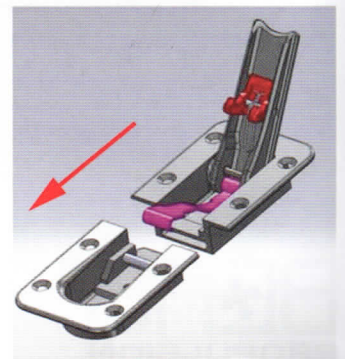
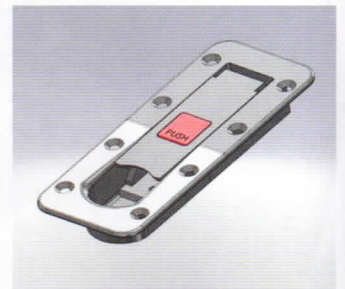
The body is fastened to the tubular chassis using shear and tension latches manufactured for this special application by **Specialty Fasteners & Components**.

The AeroCatch 3 fasteners offers an aerodynamic, high strength tension latch for fasten-

ing panels and has the added feature of a shear engagement tongue, which allows the latch to carry loads in three axes. Traditional surface mounted latches for sports car bodies are fitted into recessed pockets in an effort to improve air flow and aesthetics. The AeroCatch 3 eliminates this expensive and time consuming pocket mould process and only requires a simple panel cut-out for installation.

The latches of the bodywork are supplied in complete sets with load spreading nut plates and fixing screws and a panel preparation template. For the sports car application, they are also available as individual latch and strike bodies for fitting to spare bodywork.

SPECIALTY FASTENERS & COMPONENTS 01803 868677



The AeroCatch latches offers an aerodynamic solution for fastening panels

The body of the TS11 is fastened to the tubular chassis using shear and tension latches