



Data Cabinet Cage Nuts used extensively in Data Racking have become somewhat convoluted

Cage Nuts aka Caged Nut or Captive Nut are used extensively in Data Racking. Unfortunately, Data Cabinet Cage Nuts have become somewhat convoluted. This is due to the alternative thread options and the two types of cage nuts used.

① Metric and English Standards:

Both Metric and English standards for the threads of a cage nut are encountered. The most common threads used for data applications are English (10-32, 12-24) and Metric (M5, M6).

Branded cabinets are manufactured by either North American or International Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM). This largely determines whether Metric or English standard cage nuts are used. When a European manufacturer like (Knurr or Rittal®) is the OEM metric cage nuts will be typical. Conversely if a North American manufacturer such as (APW or Great Lakes) is the OEM than English standard cage nuts will be typical.

Are the Metric and English screws interoperable? The following table illustrates:

		Cage Nut			
		10-32	12-24	M5	M6
Screw	10-32	Perfect	Loose	Loose	No grip
	12-24	Won't Fit	Perfect	Won't Fit	Very Loose
	M5	Strips Thread	Won't Fit	Perfect	No Grip
	M6	Won't Fit	Won't Fit	Won't Fit	Perfect

Perfect Matching thread on screw and nut
Won't Fit Screw cannot be forced into the nut
Strips Thread Screw can be forced into the nut but thread is stripped

Loose Screw enters the nut but can be wiggled
Very Loose Screw enters the nut but has limited grip
No Grip Screw enters the nut but has no grip at all

② Two types of Cage Nuts:

There are two types of cage nuts used in data cabinet environments - Slide-On and Snap-In. Slide-On aka G-Clip is used primarily when the provided vertical rails are drilled but not tapped.

Slide-On cage nuts are beneficial for square punched rails because of the ease of moving the mounting hardware. However, with this approach there is extra play as the Slide-On cage nut is not locked and in a dense installation it will become problematic.

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Snap-In cage nuts are used exclusively for rails that are punched with mounting squares. All conventional data cabinet rails are punched with the same size square so you can snap in a cage nut with any size thread.

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Inserting and extracting snap-in cage nuts is difficult so we have manufactured this part for your convenience

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Choice of thread is theatrically related to the weight of equipment - 10-32 being the thinnest and M6 the thickest. However, screws are rarely shorn due to the weight of the mounted equipment. It is wise to stay with one thread for the cabinet or you will be fumbling with a host of screws in the future.

We offer both cage nuts and screws in plastic jars of 50, 100, 500, and boxes of 2500 or 3000.

10/32 Rack Screws: <http://www.stayonline.com/10-32-rack-screws.aspx>

12/24 Rack Screws: <http://www.stayonline.com/12-24-rack-screws.aspx>

M5 Rack Screws: <http://www.stayonline.com/m5-rack-screws.aspx>

M6 Rack Screws: <http://www.stayonline.com/m6-rack-screws.aspx>