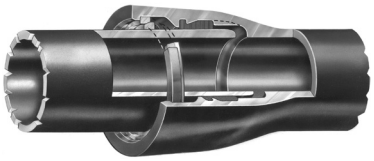
# AMERICAN Ductile Iron Flex-Ring® Joint Pipe

## Centrifugally Cast for Water, Sewage, or Other Liquids

**4"-12" Flex-Ring® Joint**



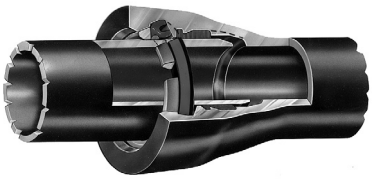
AMERICAN Flex-Ring® Restrained Joint Ductile Iron pipe, utilizing the sealing features of the time-proven Fastite® Joint and a boltless restrained connection, provides flexible, easily assembled, positive restraint against endwise separation due to thrust.

The patented Flex-Ring Joint is designed for a working pressure equal to that of the pipe or up to 350 psi in sizes 4"-24" and up to 250 psi in sizes 30" through 60". The joint has been thoroughly factory tested to withstand dead-end thrust resulting from more than twice those working pressures.

Flex-Ring® joint pipe with its positive, flexible joint restraint may also be used in trenchless applications such as **horizontal directional drilling** and pipe bursting. With spigot ahead, the low-profile Flex-Ring® bell assembles quickly and offers a smooth transition during pipe pull-back. AMERICAN offers a Flex-Ring® pulling bell assembly specifically designed for this installation method.

**Pulling Bell Assembly**

**14"-60" Flex-Ring® Joint**



For 4"-12" sizes, a beveled ductile iron, welded-on retainer ring and a yellow painted ductile iron split flex-ring, assembled behind the retainer ring, provide the means of restraint. After the plain end of the pipe is assembled into the Flex-Ring bell, the split flex-ring is inserted and springs into the socket locking groove. The flex-ring is securely positioned behind the welded-on retainer ring and in the socket locking groove on the inside of the pipe bell. This provides the flexible restraint.

For 14"-60" sizes, a shop-applied weld bead and a rubber-backed ring, containing yellow painted ductile iron segments, provide the means of restraint. As the plain end of the pipe is fully assembled into the bell, the ductile iron segments automatically close on the pipe behind the weld bead. The enclosure of the segments between the weld bead, spigot, and the sloped inner lip of the bell provides the flexible restraint.

The Flex-Ring Joint can be safely deflected after assembly to the limits shown in Table Nos. 9-1 and 9-2. This liberal deflection facilitates installation, decreases the number of necessary fittings, and accommodates settlement.

The Flex-Ring Joint is Underwriters Laboratories listed and Factory Mutual approved in sizes 4"-12". This UL listing and FM approval applies to all pressure classes and special thickness classes of ductile iron pipe. The only joint components needed to assemble the Flex-Ring Joint are a gasket and a single ring.

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No loose lugs, heavy wedges, rubber tubes, etc. are necessary. Also, there is no need to orient bells to ensure proper installation, though for convenience, most installers orient the split locking ring ends in 4"-12" sizes away from the very bottom of the joints. Just follow the simple instructions shown on the following pages, and positive restraint is ensured.

Flex-Rings, Flex-Ring segments, and retainer rings are manufactured of ductile iron compatible with pipe. Welds and weld beads (if used) are nickel-iron, proven desirably cathodic to the ductile iron pipe, and welding is performed using welders qualified to produce high-quality, dependable welds.

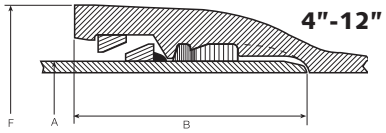
Fittings for use with 16"- 48" Flex-Ring pipe are ductile iron and meet or exceed the applicable performance and manufacturing requirements of ANSI /AWWA C110/A21.10 or ANSI/AWWA C153/A21.53. These are rated for the same working pressures shown for like fittings in C110 and C153. Fittings in these sizes are also available in both bell-bell and bell-Flex-Ring spigot configurations for installation versatility and economy.

AMERICAN Flex-Ring® pipe and fittings are normally furnished with standard asphaltic coating outside and cement lined in accordance with ANSI/AWWA C104/A21.4. Special coatings and linings can be furnished when specified.

Field closures or other restraint can normally be securely made by using AMERICAN's Amarillo Fast-Grip® gasket, which is available in 4"-30" sizes. (See page 9-2 for details of the Amarillo Fast-Grip gasket.)The Fast-Grip® gasket restraint closure is UL listed and FM approved for use in Flex-Ring and Fastite bells in 4"-16" sizes. Field closures or other restraint in 14"-36" sizes can also be made in Flex-Ring bells only by using AMERICAN's Field Flex-Ring®. (See page 9-23.)

# AMERICAN Ductile Iron Flex-Ring® Joint Pipe

## Standard Dimensions and Pressure Ratings



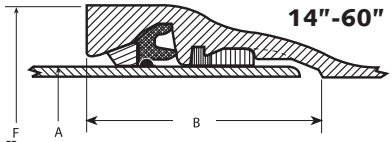




Table No. 9-1 **4"-12"**

| Size in. | Working Pressure* psi | Nominal Laying Length** ft. | A O.D. in. | B Socket Depth in. | F Bell O.D.† in. | Allowable Pulling Load lb.†† | Allowable Deflection degree | Offset per 20' Length in. | Radius of Curve^ ft. | Empty Pipe Buoyancy in Water (lb/ft)^^ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 350 | 20 | 4.80 | 5.62 | 7.06 | 10,000 | 5 | 21 | 230 | –5 |
| 6 | 350 | 20 | 6.90 | 5.62 | 9.19 | 20,000 | 5 | 21 | 230 | –2 |
| 8 | 350 | 20 | 9.05 | 5.74 | 11.33 | 30,000 | 5 | 21 | 230 | 3 |
| 10 | 350 | 20 | 11.10 | 6.72 | 13.56 | 45,000 | 5 | 21 | 230 | 11 |
| 12 | 350 | 20 | 13.20 | 6.72 | 15.74 | 60,000 | 5 | 21 | 230 | 19 |

* Working pressure is the maximum pressure rating of the joint and is based on its capability to resist thrust due to internal pressure. If higher working pressure is required, check AMERICAN.

** Laying length is nominal 20'. Where exact lengths are required, contact AMERICAN. Minimum laying lengths for Flex–Ring & Flex–Ring End pipe is 1'–0" and for Flex–Ring End & Flex–Ring End pipe is 2'–0".

† Dimensions subject to change at our option. Check AMERICAN if smaller or exact dimensions are required.

†† Intended for Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) applications, so these pulling loads are for a fully deflected position. Flex–Ring pipe may be available for greater pulling loads than indicated in the tabulated values. Contact AMERICAN when higher pulling loads are required.

^ Approximate radius of curve produced by a succession of 20' lengths of pipe fully deflected.

^^ Based on weight of empty (full of air) Pressure Class 350 Flex–Ring pipe with standard cement lining immersed in water. Positive numbers indicate such pipe will float.

Table No. 9-2 **14"-60"**

| Size in. | Working Pressure* psi | Nominal Laying Length** ft. | A O.D. in. | B Socket Depth in. | F Bell O.D.† in. | Allowable Pulling Load lb.†† | Allowable Deflection degree | Offset per 20' Length in. | Radius of Curve^ ft. | Empty Pipe Buoyancy in Water (lb/ft)^^ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | 350 | 20 | 15.30 | 7.38 | 19.31 | 75,000 | 4 | 17 | 285 | 27 |
| 16 | 350 | 20 | 17.40 | 7.38 | 21.08 | 95,000 | 3 3/4 | 16 | 305 | 38 |
| 18 | 350 | 20 | 19.50 | 8.20 | 23.70 | 120,000 | 3 3/4 | 16 | 305 | 52 |
| 20 | 350 | 20 | 21.60 | 8.20 | 25.37 | 150,000 | 3 1/2 | 15 | 327 | 69 |
| 24 | 350 | 20 | 25.80 | 8.96 | 29.88 | 210,000 | 3 | 12 | 380 | 104 |
| 30 | 250 | 20 | 32.00 | 9.63 | 36.34 | 220,000 | 2 1/2 | 10 | 458 | 175 |
| 36 | 250 | 20 | 38.30 | 9.63 | 43.10 | 310,000 | 2 | 8 | 570 | 266 |
| 42 | 250 | 20 | 44.50 | 10.84 | 49.92 | 390,000 | 2 | 8 | 570 | 359 |
| 48 | 250 | 20 | 50.80 | 12.37 | 56.36 | 500,000 | 2 | 8 | 570 | 484 |
| 54 | 250 | 20 | 57.56 | 12.74 | 63.90 | 650,000 | 1 1/2 | 6 | 760 | 632 |
| 60 | 250 | 20 | 61.61 | 13.13 | 68.16 | 745,000 | 1 1/2 | 6 | 760 | 781 |

* Working pressure is the maximum pressure rating of the joint and is based on its capability to resist thrust due to internal pressure. If higher working pressure is required, check AMERICAN. Pressure rating of the joint is limited by the pressure rating of the parent pipe.

** Laying length is nominal 20'. Where exact lengths are required, contact AMERICAN. See below for minimum laying lengths for 14"–60" Flex–Ring.

† Dimensions subject to change at our option. Check AMERICAN if smaller or exact dimensions are required.

†† Intended for Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) applications, so these pulling loads are for a fully deflected position. The tabulated values are based on Pressure Class 350 pipe thickness. Contact AMERICAN when it may be desirable to use lesser pressure class pipe or when higher pulling loads are required. Flex–Ring pipe may be available for greater pulling loads than indicated in the tabulated values.

^ Approximate radius of curve produced by a succession of 20' lengths of pipe fully deflected.

^^ Based on weight of empty (full of air) Pressure Class 350 Flex–Ring pipe with standard cement lining immersed in water. Positive numbers indicate such pipe will float.

**Minimum Laying Lengths**

| Size in. | Flex-Ring & Flex-Ring End | Flex-Ring End & Flex-Ring End |
|---|---|---|
| 14 | 1'–6" | 2'–0" |
| 16 | 1'–6" | 2'–0" |
| 18 | 1'–6" | 2'–0" |
| 20 | 1'–6" | 2'–0" |
| 24 | 2'–0" | 2'–6" |
| 30 | 2'–0" | 2'–6" |
| 36 | 2'–0" | 2'–6" |
| 42 | 2'–0" | 3'–0" |
| 48 | 2'–6" | 3'–0" |
| 54 | 3'–0" | 3'–6" |
| 60 | 3'–6" | 4'–0" |

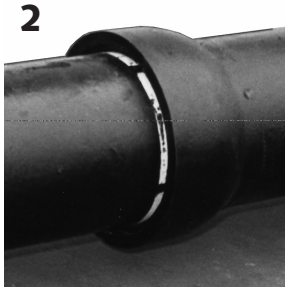
# AMERICAN Ductile Iron Flex-Ring® Joint Pipe

## Assembly Instructions

### 4"-12"

1

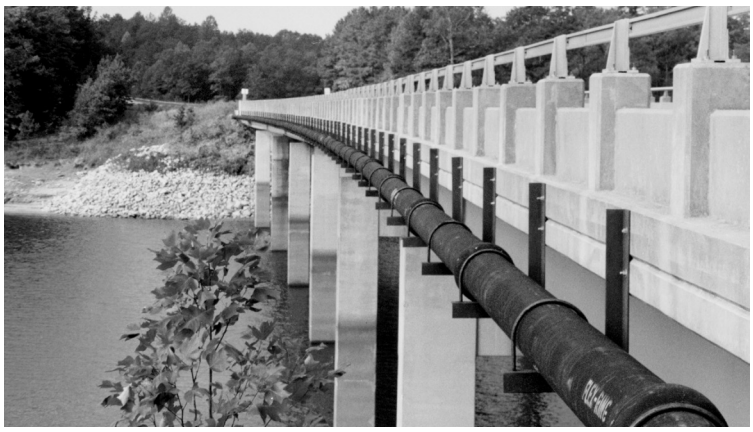
2



Prior to joint assembly, remove the packing material holding the split flex-ring onto the pipe. (See "Field Assembly of Flex-Ring" if split flex-ring is shipped separately.) Thoroughly clean the socket locking groove as well as the Fastite gasket recess and pipe plain end. In accordance with standard Fastite joint assembly instructions, insert the gasket and lubricate the pipe plain end, bevel, and inside surface of the gasket. With the pipe in essentially straight alignment, assemble the plain end into the Flex-Ring socket until the spigot stripe disappears into the bell. The orientation of the spigot stripe relative to the bell face is an indication of pipe alignment.

**1.** Tap the flex-ring into the socket beginning with one end of the flex-ring and progressing around the joint as shown in Photo 1. This operation is made easier by holding one end of the flex-ring inside the bell as the remainder of the ring is caulked into the socket. Correct seating is generally ensured by a snapping noise as the flex-ring springs into position. This should be accompanied by visual or tactile inspection (the flex-ring is painted yellow to aid in this inspection). (Note: When a visual inspection to determine the flex-ring position is not practical, such as in an underwater installation, a feeler gauge can be used to ensure the correct positioning of the flex-ring in the socket locking groove. It may be necessary to move the entering pipe slightly to improve alignment if the ring does not readily spring into the socket locking groove.)

**2.** The completed joint.



**This bridge crossing illustrates design/construction advantages, including the deflection capabilities of AMERICAN Flex-Ring Joint Pipe.**

# AMERICAN Ductile Iron Flex-Ring® Joint Pipe

## Assembly Instructions
## 4"-12"

**FIELD ASSEMBLY OF FLEX-RING**

If the split flex-ring is shipped separately, assemble it onto the pipe spigot by spreading the Flex-Ring ends as shown above. Be sure that the flex-ring is oriented so that the small end is toward the pipe plain end.

**DISASSEMBLY OF 4"-12" FLEX-RING**

If disassembly of the joint is required, it may be accomplished by inserting pins or nails into the drilled holes furnished in the flex-ring ends and compressing the flex-ring firmly onto the pipe as shown above. If desired, steel pins can be field welded onto the ends of common adjustable pliers, if such a disassembly tool is more desirable to the user. If axial movement or joint extension has occurred in the joint prior to disassembly, it may be necessary to move the spigot completely to the rear of the socket in straight alignment to allow the Flex-Ring to be compressed for removal.

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**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION PERTAINS TO 4"-60" JOINTS:**

**NOTE:** The AMERICAN Flex-Ring Joint allows for joint take-up and flexibility after installation. In most underground installations, including most restrained bend locations, this feature is advantageous in that increased thrust-resisting soil forces are generated. Also, expansion and contraction due to temperature variations may be accommodated without excessive stress in the pipe members.

**In any application where axial or lateral movement may be undesirable, such as certain bridge crossings, certain exposed or unburied piping applications, or certain connections of restrained pipe sections to rigid piping, special provisions, including effective joint extension, may be necessary to control unacceptable pipeline movement. (See also Section 7, Pipe-On-Supports, etc.)**

Depending on job conditions and restrained pipe length, cumulative joint take-up can be substantial, particularly in exposed or unburied piping applications. In this regard, joints may be extended after assembly to minimize further joint take-up in test or service. This will not prevent proper joint deflection.

The amount of joint take-up or line movement in buried restrained pipelines is substantially limited by the surrounding soil. Therefore, system security and safety is maximized by filling and testing restrained sections of pipelines after backfilling as recommended by ANSI/AWWA C600, Installation of Ductile Iron Water Mains and Their Appurtenances and AWWA M41.

# AMERICAN Ductile Iron Flex-Ring® Joint Pipe

## Assembly Instructions
## 14"-60"

**1) Cleaning and Fastite gasket insertion**

Thoroughly clean the socket restraining groove (nearest the bell end), the Fastite gasket recess, and the pipe plain end, removing dirt, sand, ice, mud, or any other material which could prevent the proper placement of the Fastite gasket and flex-ring. As in normal Fastite joint assembly, insert the gasket into the gasket socket groove.**(1). Important: A Fastite gasket must also be used, because the rubber backed flex-ring does not perform any sealing function.**

Photo 1

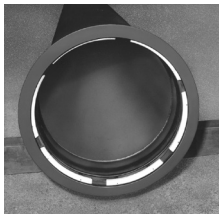
**2) Placement of the the flex-ring in socket and joint lubrication**

Photo 2

Remove the flex-ring from its container and place it in the socket restraining groove in gasket-like fashion (Photo 2). **The yellow** restraining segments of the flex–ring must be oriented toward the entering spigot. This may be done by first placing the flex-ring in the socket groove by forming one or more inward or lateral loops in the rubber backed ring (Photo 3). The 48-inch, 54-inch, and 60-inch diameter rubber backed flex-ring has an area with an extended rubber section. When placing the 48-inch, 54-inch, and 60-inch rubber backed flex-ring into the socket, this extended rubber section should be oriented at the top of the joint.

Photo 3

Photo 4



Work all inward or lateral loops fully outward and planar such that each metal segment fits reasonably flush against the wedging surface of the socket, and no rubber bulges or twists remain (Photo 4).

Lubricate the inside surface of the gasket and the first four inches of the spigot including the beveled nose end of the pipe. It is not necessary to lubricate the rubber backed flex-ring or the yellow segments. Do not allow the lubricated spigot end of the pipe to contact the ground prior to insertion.

**3) Initial placement of Flex-Ring spigot end into socket**

With the spigot in reasonably straight alignment and centered within the flex–ring (Photo 5), insert the spigot until it contacts the back of the socket per normal Fastite joint assembly procedure. (See Section 2 for additional detail on Fastite assembly procedures.) When the weld bead is in proper assembled position fully beyond the yellow Flex–Ring segments, every segment will be trapped firmly between the weld bead, the spigot, and the wedging surface of the socket.

Photo 5

**Verify the correct positioning of the yellow Flex-Ring segments by visual inspection (or by "feeler" gauge if installed in conditions of poor visibility).**

The segments will normally snap directly into the correct assembled position. However, if any segment should not come down firmly onto the pipe at any location, deflect the pipe slightly in that direction, thereby allowing the segment to seat itself correctly.

After joint assembly, the joint may be extended and then deflected within the range of allowable joint deflection for the size of pipe being assembled.

**4) Assembly of fittings**

Flex-Ring pipe and fitting joints can generally be assembled with the same tools and methods used for many years with Fastite joints. When using a field-cut pipe to locate a fitting, it may be advantageous to use an uncut flex-ring spigot end (with factory weld bead) and a standard Flex-Ring in the fitting socket rather than using a field-cut plain end and Field Flex-Ring with

# AMERICAN Ductile Iron Flex-Ring® Joint Pipe
## Assembly Instructions
## 14"-60"

black-toothed gripping segments. A Field Flex-Ring and cut pipe plain end may then be used in the nearest pipe socket on either side of the fitting. When possible, the use of standard flex–ring with yellow segments and factory spigots with weld beads in the sockets of a fitting may allow easier orientation or rotation of the fitting relative to the pipe after assembly, if this is needed. (See Section 4 for additional detail on the assembly of Fastite fittings.)

**5) Joint extension after installation**

The 14"- 60" Flex-Ring locking mechanism allows approximately one inch of free axial movement and also provides substantial flexibility after installation. However, the joints may be extended after assembly to minimize this joint takeup in test or service conditions.

In most underground installations (including most restrained bend locations), joint take-up is advantageous in that increased thrust-resisting forces are generated. Also, expansion and contraction due to temperature variations may be accommodated without excessive stress in pipe members. The amount of joint take-up or line movement in buried restrained pipelines is substantially limited by the surrounding soil. Therefore, system security and safety is maximized by filling and testing restrained sections of pipelines **after** backfilling as recommended by ANSI/AWWA C600, Installation of Ductile Iron Water Mains and Their Appurtenances and AWWA M41.

**In any application where axial or lateral movement may be undesirable, such as certain bridge crossings, certain exposed or unburied piping applications, or certain connections of restrained pipe sections to rigid piping, special provisions, including effective joint extension, may be necessary to control unacceptable pipeline movement.**

Depending on job conditions and restrained pipe length, cumulative joint take-up can obviously be substantial, particularly in exposed piping applications. Where joint pre-extension is necessary in a piping system, it may be accomplished by pulling or jacking the spigot away from the socket until firm resistance is encountered. This will not limit joint flexibility. See "Restrained Joint Pipe Assembly Extension Procedure" in this section of the Pipe Manual for more information concerning joint extension.

**The versatile performance capabilities of AMERICAN Flex-Ring Joint Pipe are perfectly suited for projects containing a variety of conditions such as the hilly, rocky terrain shown in this photo.**

# AMERICAN Ductile Iron Flex-Ring® Joint Pipe

## Disassembly Instructions for 14"-60" Flex-Ring Joints

Flex-Ring joints may be disassembled if required using sharp wedges and 3/16"-1/4" thick disassembly shims. Flex-Ring disassembly sets are available from AMERICAN and are suggested for disassembly. These disassembly sets include two sharp steel starter wedges and an appropriate number of "L"- shaped shims. The wedges are used to start the separation of the yellow Flex-Ring joint locking segments outward from the spigot while it is in the bell of an already assembled joint. The "L"-shaped shims are then hammered between the spigot and each locking segment. The thicker shims lift the locking segments entirely away from the spigot when fully inserted, and allow the spigot weld bead to pass under the locking segments generally located as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Step-by-step instructions follow:

**1. First straighten the joint as much as possible and push or pull the spigot back into the bell until it "bottoms out" in the rear of the socket. (Fig. 3)**

**2. Hammer a starter wedge under a yellow locking segment until an approximately 1/8" gap is seen between the segment and the spigot. (Fig. 4)**

**3. Hammer a second wedge (if necessary to start the shims) under the other end of the locking segment as in step 2.**

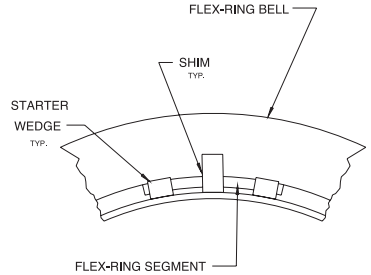



Figure 1
Starter shim and wedge arrangement for 14", 18", and 20" sizes.

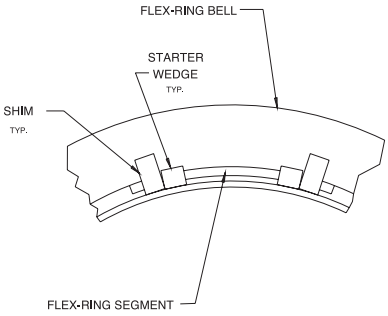



Figure 2
Shim and wedge arrangement for 16", 24", 30", 42", 48", 54" and 60" sizes.

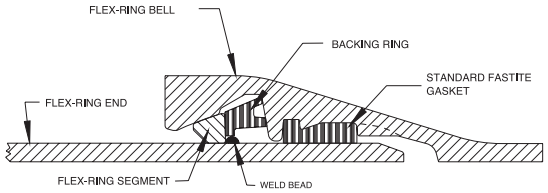



Figure 3

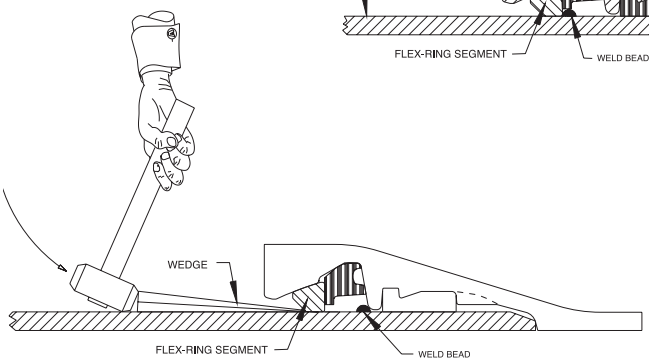



Figure 4

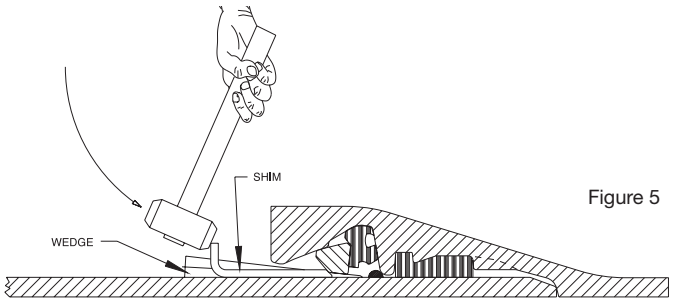



Figure 5

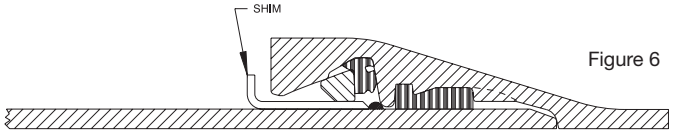



Figure 6

**4. With a large hammer (such as a six pounder) vigorously drive one or two "L"-shaped shims under the locking segment until the ends of the shims firmly contact the spigot weld bead.** (Fig. 5) Shims and wedges can be safely and firmly held against the pipe as they are hammered using a block of wood or a board. Safety precautions such as the wearing of safety glasses and keeping clear of the hammer during striking should always be taken to avoid injury.

**5. Remove the starter wedges from between the locking segment and spigot, leaving the shim(s) in place.** (Fig. 6) Note that the wedges are reused for each locking segment.

**6. Drive wedges and shims under all locking segments as shown in steps 2-5.** (See photo.) Check to be sure that the inner surface of all segments will not interfere with the spigot weld bead during joint separation after inserting shims.

**7. Separate the joint.** During joint separation, it is generally best to pull the spigot straight out of the socket. Extreme back and forth deflecting motions of the spigot during joint separation can cause shims to fall out of the joint and/or relocking to occur. If the joint does not readily come apart, check to see if one or more of the segments is in locking contact with the spigot weld bead. If so, push or deflect the spigot back in that location and add or replace shims as required.

**Disassembly kits accompanied by instructions for use can be furnished by AMERICAN upon request.**