

Binding Rubber Willem-Jantje



In the Theater sector is the “Willem-Jantje” a rubber Cable Tie well known and widely used at concerts. One of the reasons are that they are non conductive and don't damage the bundled objects. And if there is a need for changes the rubber ties can be easily released and re used.

Background

The first Willem-Jantjes where made from old car inner tubes. These tubes where cut into small strips and attached in a loop to a small round piece of wood. This was all manual work and was performed by theater technicians. This handy little piece is still used to this day. And primarily used for concealing cabling. The modern variant mode completely from rubber is mainly used at music performances, they work at least as well as the original.

The main issue with these binding rubber from the traveling company is that they where interchangeable with those from the theater. To separate the rubber bands the wooden piece was marked. In the nineties Willem Jan Verburg was a technician at the New Rotterdam Theatre. At quit moments during the performances he marked the wooden pieces with his name. Because it was more convenient to have one marking and evidently Verburg gained respect and prestige. All the other technicians marked the wooden pieces of the binding rubber that needed to stay at the theater with the name “Willem-Jan”.



After an industrial accident Willem-Jan had to leave his profession. However the important and handy little part was then nationally named after him and thus the name for this binding rubber “Willem-Jantje”.

Pictures

