



Brake Line Fitting Compatibility

American brake system compression fittings should never be used with British brake system compression fittings.

At first glance they seem to work together. They thread into each other just fine. Both use either the same double flare or bubble flare depending upon application. So what is the problem?

The incompatibility lies in the length of the fittings. American fittings are a lot shorter than British fittings.

If you look at a British male fitting it has a long unthreaded nose to help you line up the male and female fittings when connecting them. The British female fitting is longer to accommodate the alignment nose. The American fitting lacks this alignment nose.

The seal of a brake line fitting occurs where the tube flare on one fitting seats against the seat of the other fitting.

When you connect a male American fitting into a British female fitting the male fitting runs out of threads before the flare reaches the seat. The only seal is the interlocking of the threads.

When a male British fitting is used with an American female fitting the flare seats and seals when there are only a couple of threads holding one fitting to the other.

For safety of yourself and others only use British fittings with British Fittings. Never mix the two types of fittings.