

## FORD'S NEW *QUICK CONNECT BOX* An Evolution of Product Design

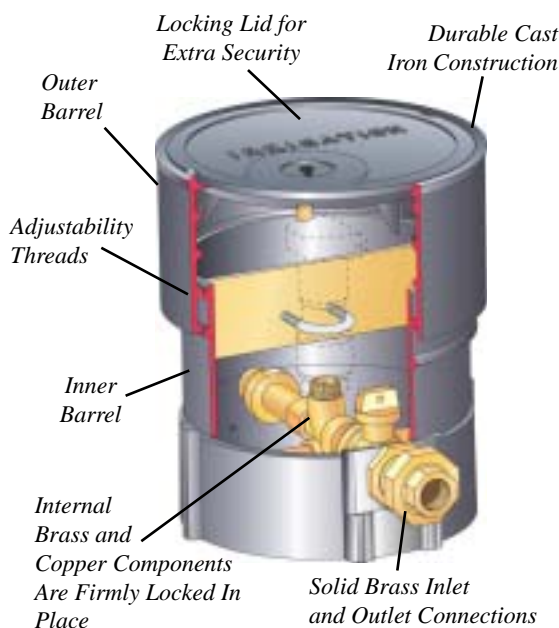
As they say, "timing is everything." Blake Kidd, Ford Meter Box District Manager for Southern California, was talking with a customer about an irrigation trade association in his area. The conversation quickly evolved to Ford's line of cast iron meter boxes. It seems several customers were disappointed with the light-weight boxes typically used for quick connections. These boxes contain a "quick connect" valve for a hose to routinely wash down hard surfaces, like pavilions, sidewalks and maintenance areas. The problematic boxes would occasionally break, causing expensive maintenance work whenever replacement was required in the "hardscape." The customer felt Ford's cast iron box would be a more durable approach to the problem.

Looking through our Ford Catalog Section C revealed a possible solution - the Ford Crescent Box. The size was right and the box's adjustable height feature was appealing. A modified Crescent Box design was the best choice.

The design evolved as the various parties offered their suggestions and solutions. Conversations among the design consultants, customers, hose connector manufacturers,

and the Ford engineering staff helped establish the new design.

With the box's final design approved, Ford's engineering staff worked to develop and build the necessary production tooling. Numerous brass and iron patterns were required for the new box to assure its long life and functionality. After many hours of collaboration, the first sample Ford "Quick Connect Box" was shipped and received rave reviews.



*Quick Connect Box*

Ford Meter Box has thrived on Edwin Ford's ingenuity and willingness to work with the customer to design the best possible products. In 1921, Edwin Ford designed the Crescent Box after hearing of the challenges unique to the City of New Orleans. Today, Ford Meter Box maintains these same values. It is very fitting that the original Crescent Box was the basis for the new Quick Connect Box.

High quality Ford products are well designed and thoroughly tested products, manufactured with the finest raw materials available, and supported by conscientious manufacturing, sales and customer service associates. For more information about the Quick Connect Box, contact your local Ford distributor or The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.

