

ULTRA ACCESS

Basic Scaffolding Terminology 4a

Scaffold Fittings (inc. Couplers and Connectors) - the "Big Five".

Scaffolding Fittings are integral elements within a scaffolding structure.

You literally cannot build a scaffold without these components.

The 5 most common type of scaffolding fittings are included in the infographic within this publication:

Right Angle / "Double" Coupler: the most common type of **Load Bearing** (weight-bearing) fitting in use within the British Scaffolding Industry.

There are 2 classes, each with their own "kN" (or KiloNewtons, which is a measurement of force) equal to about 100kgs in weight.

Class A: your standard "Double", rated upto 6.1kN per M² in force loading, or 600kg per M²

Class B: a heavy duty "Double", rated upto 9.1kN per M² in force loading, or 900kg per M²

Please pay attention to any compliance sheets you use, or scaffold designs you are working to, using the wrong Double class to what the scaffold is "calculated for" could cause a structural weaknesses in your scaffold, causing a MAJOR safety concern.

Single Couplers: also known as "Clips" (or sometimes Wraps/Wrapovers - but its not common) are the "work-horse fitting", being suitable, but maybe not compliant... or safe for a whole number of applications within a scaffold structure.

Rated with slipping capacity of 0.63kN, it may be the most widely used scaffold fitting, but it is definitely "Light Duty", and considered **non-Load Bearing**.

Swivel Couplers: "Swivels" are essentially Doubles but utilising a crimped steel pin to join the 2 gates halves together (instead of being fixed at 90° - as Doubles are) allowing it to spin / or swivel a full 360°.

Rated upto 6.1kN per M² in force loading, or 600kg per M² - at the gate, which gives it the same force rating as a Double, due to their gates being the same (essentially) and **Load Bearing**...

... but, bear in mind that it was only several years ago when a Swivel was rated lower and it was uprated (for a number of reasons) to that of a Double, so ULTRA ACCESS would always recommend using Doubles as Check Fittings / Supplementary Couplers instead of Swivels, for that very reason.

Please see 4b for more information on the remaining **2 fitting types** below.

