

THE

ANVIL EXPERIENCE™

A Baker Group and Anvil International Partnership – Like Money in the Bank

Baker Group, of Des Moines, IA, one of the country's leading full service mechanical contractors, is keenly aware that every project has its own set of challenges and opportunities. The 10-story, 333,000 square foot Wells Fargo Financial building, a \$7.6 million project located in the heart of downtown Des Moines, was no different.

Responsible for the job's HVAC systems, Baker Group's challenges on the project ranged from an extremely tight construction schedule to limited on-site storage and space considerations.



THE DES MOINES IOWA WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL BUILDING



Hitting a Groove with Gruvlok®

Baker Group identified Anvil International, Inc. and its Gruvlok® pipe fittings, valves and couplings to assist in meeting the project's HVAC requirements. Anvil and its distributor, Central States Industrial Supply based in Omaha, NE, provided the flexibility



required to keep the project on-time, even agreeing to custom fabricate 10" and 12" 90 degree long radius elbows to meet the specifications for the project.

"Not only was Anvil's price in an acceptable range, but they also put a premium on service that made us feel confident they would be responsive to our tight scheduling and limited space on the project," said Gary Walter, Project Manager and Estimator for Baker Group.

Delivering "Just in Time"

The construction schedule was ambitious and, to complicate matters, the project was in the middle of the city with no laydown area for materials and extremely limited space for storage in the mechanical rooms. To offset these potential challenges, Baker Group called for a "Just in Time" product delivery approach.

Baker worked with Anvil to deliver the Gruvlok® pump packages, which included standard and rigid couplings

from 2½" to 12" in diameter, butterfly valves, check valves and piping specialties to coincide with the delivery of Baker's grooved piping and the rented crane. "Anvil and Central States Supply were flexible in working with us to deliver product on time, every time," said Walter. "Without them working closely with us the schedule for this project could have been jeopardized."

Added Phil Schechinger, Marketing Manager for Anvil International, "Baker has a well earned reputation for providing superior mechanical work that is on time and on budget. It was our job to follow their lead and be there when they needed us."

It's Bagged & Tagged

Sensitive to the schedule and limited space, Baker also asked that some **Gruvlok**® product be sorted as a complete package and delivered to the floor where that particular work would take place. The Anvil team provided a form of "Bag and Tag" service, packaging product for specific applications. For example, the entire **Gruvlok**® product for chiller #1 was crated and tagged, eliminating the need for field personnel to hunt for product or refer back to the mechanical drawings.

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— Gary Walter
Project Manager and Estimator, Baker Group

"This service made it easier for us to access and identify the material once it arrived," said Mike Jackson, Field Superintendent at Baker. "It helped keep construction on schedule by allowing workers to plan ahead, determine what they were going to work on in the afternoon or the next day and grab the appropriate crate or skid."

Baker's Standard Groove

More and more contractors are converting to grooved piping from the more traditional welded system. In fact, Baker Group has made grooved product in hydronic systems standard due to the savings realized.

"The Wells Fargo project is another example of taking advantage of grooved pump packages to reduce time and labor costs in the field," said Walter. "Unlike welded, there is a certain amount of forgiveness built into each grooved connection."

In maintaining the system, grooved piping can be disassembled more quickly and easily. Also, when grooved items arrive on the job site, they are "packaged per pump" to take directly to the area of installation. A flanged system, on the other hand, will arrive in multiple shipments; increasing the likelihood that product will be lost or taken to the incorrect area.



Utilizing limited space efficiently.

Not Just a Commodity Product

Baker Group's field personnel were especially pleased with the performance of the **Gruvlok**[®] 7012 flange adapter. Specifically, how the flange adapter's tab bolt helps in the ease and speed of installation.

"The 7012 has a channel lock or clamping bolt that allows you to easily screw it down and pull the flange together," said Jackson. Baker Group realized time savings for installation of this product on the project.

Baker Group's field personnel also preferred the user-friendly drain plug feature of the 7800 Series **Gruvlok**[®] check valves. Unlike other brands which require valve removal to test the system, the 7800 check valve can be drained completely and easily without taking the line apart. This convenience feature saves the worker time when compared to other manufacturers' grooved products.

"The field personnel put chemicals in the system to test or clean it and then they need to drain it," said Jackson. "With other grooved manufacturers' systems you need to break a coupling loose and often times the fluid cannot be easily contained and often finds its way onto the floor."

Banking on a Future Together

"Wells Fargo was a great success," concluded Walter. "Being the mechanical contractor, we build things and then go away. I'm pleased to say we've had no piping-related call backs." What are the prospects for another Baker Group and Anvil Partnership? It's safe to say it's like money in the bank.

Anvil International

Anvil International is the largest and most complete manufacturer of fittings and hangers in the world, with manufacturing facilities in Columbia, PA; Pottstown, PA; Henderson, TN; Longview, TX; Houston, TX; Simcoe, Ontario and North Kingstown, RI.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Phil Schechinger, Marketing Manager, Anvil International; Mike Jackson, Field Superintendent, Baker Group; Steve Randolph, Sales Representative, Anvil International.

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Anvil's product lines include Gruvlok[®] fittings and valves, malleable, forged steel, and cast iron fittings, tee-lets, adjustable drop nipples, couplings, hangers and supports for the plumbing and mechanical, water and waste water, fire protection, mining, and oil and gas markets. Corporate offices are located at 110 Corporate Drive, Suite 10, Portsmouth, NH 03801. www.anvilintl.com





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