

History since 1914

At the turn of the twentieth century, a young Scotsman named Bill P. Marr immigrated to Ontario, Canada. After settling in the Toronto area, Marr was soon employed by the T. Eaton Company as a contractor for Ontario Hydro, where he worked as an electrician converting gas-lit homes to electrical incandescent lighting.

As part of this conversion, the accepted practice back then was a process called “solder and tape.” Typically, a mechanic would first run the wires required, then an electrician would polish the exposed conductors and twist them together. Next, the ends of the wires would be firmly joined by dipping them in a pot of molten solder, and after they cooled, the wires would then be wrapped with an insulating tape.



Over time, this process proved to be both time consuming and dangerous, as Bill Marr discovered first-hand when he inadvertently spilled a scorching solder pot while working in a customer's home. Convinced that there had to be a safer and more efficient way of joining two electrical conductors, Marr worked tirelessly in his basement shop until he finally invented the first pressure-type wire connector (a set-screw version that was the forerunner to the modern-day wire connector).

Since that day in 1914, the Marr® company became a leading manufacturer of twist-on wire connectors throughout North America. The Marrette brand so revolutionized the way branch circuits were connected that the term “marrette” has become synonymous with “wire connector” in the electrician's vocabulary.

Since being acquired in 1997 by Thomas & Betts, which was in turn acquired in 2012 by ABB, the highly respected Marrette brand name has become an integral part of the vast ABB product offering to the construction market.

