

Mast Chains

Forklift Mast Chain - Utilized in different applications, leaf chains are regulated by ANSI. They could be utilized for lift truck masts, as balancers between heads and counterweight in some machine tools, and for tension linkage and low-speed pulling. Leaf chains are sometimes also known as Balance Chains.

Features and Construction

Leaf chains are actually steel chains utilizing a simple pin construction and link plate. The chain number refers to the lacing of the links and the pitch. The chains have certain features such as high tensile strength per section area, which allows the design of smaller machines. There are A- and B- type chains in this series and both the BL6 and AL6 Series have the same pitch as RS60. Lastly, these chains cannot be driven utilizing sprockets.

Handling and Selection

In roller chains, the link plates maintain a higher fatigue resistance because of the compressive tension of press fits, yet the leaf chain just contains two outer press fit plates. On the leaf chain, the most acceptable tension is low and the tensile strength is high. Whenever handling leaf chains it is essential to consult the manufacturer's handbook to be able to ensure the safety factor is outlined and utilize safety guards at all times. It is a great idea to carry out extreme care and utilize extra safety guards in applications wherein the consequences of chain failure are severe.

Utilizing much more plates in the lacing causes the higher tensile strength. In view of the fact that this does not improve the utmost acceptable tension directly, the number of plates used may be restricted. The chains need regular lubrication because the pins link directly on the plates, producing a really high bearing pressure. Utilizing a SAE 30 or 40 machine oil is normally suggested for nearly all applications. If the chain is cycled more than 1000 times on a daily basis or if the chain speed is over 30m per minute, it would wear extremely rapidly, even with continual lubrication. Thus, in either of these situations using RS Roller Chains will be much more suitable.

The AL-type of chains must only be utilized under certain conditions like for example if wear is really not a big concern, if there are no shock loads, the number of cycles does not go over one hundred every day. The BL-type will be better suited under different conditions.

If a chain with a lower safety factor is selected then the stress load in components would become higher. If chains are utilized with corrosive elements, then they may become fatigued and break rather easily. Doing regular maintenance is essential if operating under these types of conditions.

The outer link or inner link kind of end link on the chain will determine the shape of the clevis. Clevis connectors or likewise known as Clevis pins are made by manufacturers, but the user normally supplies the clevis. An improperly made clevis can lessen the working life of the chain. The strands should be finished to length by the maker. Refer to the ANSI standard or phone the manufacturer.