

Forklift Mast Chains

Mast Chain - Utilized in different functions, leaf chains are regulated by ANSI. They could be utilized for forklift masts, as balancers between counterweight and heads in some machine devices, and for low-speed pulling and tension linkage. Leaf chains are at times also referred to as Balance Chains.

Features and Construction

Leaf chains are actually steel chains using a simple link plate and pin construction. The chain number refers to the lacing of the links and the pitch. The chains have particular features like for instance high tensile strength per section area, that allows the design of smaller devices. There are A- and B- kind chains in this particular series and both the BL6 and AL6 Series have the same pitch as RS60. Lastly, these chains cannot be powered with 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 has two outer press fit plates. On the leaf chain, the most permissible tension is low and the tensile strength is high. While handling leaf chains it is essential to consult the manufacturer's manual so as to ensure the safety factor is outlined and utilize safety measures always. It is a better idea to exercise extreme caution and utilize extra safety measures in applications where the consequences of chain failure are severe.

Higher tensile strength is a direct correlation to the utilization of more plates. In view of the fact that the utilization of much more plates does not improve the maximum acceptable tension directly, the number of plates could be restricted. The chains require regular lubrication as the pins link directly on the plates, producing a very high bearing pressure. Utilizing a SAE 30 or 40 machine oil is frequently advised for most applications. If the chain is cycled over one thousand times on a daily basis or if the chain speed is over 30m for each minute, it would wear really fast, even with constant lubrication. Thus, in either of these conditions using RS Roller Chains will be more suitable.

AL type chains are just to be used under certain situations such as where there are no shock loads or when wear is not a big concern. Be certain that the number of cycles does not go beyond one hundred daily. The BL-type would be better suited under different conditions.

If a chain with a lower safety factor is selected then the stress load in parts will become higher. If chains are utilized with corrosive elements, then they could become fatigued and break rather easily. Doing frequent maintenance is really important if operating under these types of conditions.

The inner link or outer link type of end link on the chain would determine the shape of the clevis. Clevis connectors or otherwise known as Clevis pins are constructed by manufacturers, but the user normally provides the clevis. A wrongly constructed clevis can reduce the working life of the chain. The strands must be finished to length by the producer. Refer to the ANSI standard or phone the producer.