

Forklift Mast Chains

Mast Chains - Used 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 devices, and for low-speed pulling and tension linkage. Leaf chains are at times also known as Balance Chains.

Construction and Features

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

Handling and Selection

In roller chains, the link plates have a higher fatigue resistance because of the compressive stress of press fits, yet the leaf chain only has 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 important to confer with the manufacturer's manual in order to ensure the safety factor is outlined and use safety measures always. It is a great idea to carry out utmost care and utilize extra safety measures in functions where the consequences of chain failure are severe.

Higher tensile strength is a direct correlation to the utilization of a lot more plates. Because the use of a lot more plates does not enhance the most allowable tension directly, the number of plates can be restricted. The chains need regular lubrication since the pins link directly on the plates, generating a really high bearing pressure. Using a SAE 30 or 40 machine oil is frequently advised for the majority of applications. If the chain is cycled more than one thousand times each day or if the chain speed is over 30m for each minute, it will wear extremely quick, even with continual lubrication. So, in either of these situations using RS Roller Chains will be much more suitable.

AL type chains are only to be utilized under particular situations like for example where there are no shock loads or when wear is not a big problem. Be positive that the number of cycles does not go over one hundred day after day. The BL-type will be better suited under other situations.

If a chain using a lower safety factor is selected then the stress load in parts will become higher. If chains are utilized with corrosive elements, then they can become fatigued and break rather easily. Performing frequent maintenance is really vital when operating under these types of situations.

The kind of end link of the chain, whether it is an inner link or outer link, determines the shape of the clevis. Clevis connectors or also called Clevis pins are constructed by manufacturers but usually, the user provides the clevis. An improperly made clevis could decrease the working life of the chain. The strands should be finished to length by the manufacturer. Refer to the ANSI standard or call the manufacturer.