

Forklift Mast Chains

Mast Chains - Used in various functions, leaf chains are regulated by ANSI. They can be utilized for forklift masts, as balancers between heads and counterweight in some machine devices, and for tension linkage and low-speed pulling. Leaf chains are sometimes even called Balance Chains.

Construction and Features

Leaf chains are actually steel chains using a simple link plate and pin construction. The chain number refers to the pitch and the lacing of the links. The chains have specific features like for instance high tensile strength for every 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. Finally, these chains cannot be driven with sprockets.

Selection and Handling

Comparably, in roller chains, all of the link plates maintain higher fatigue resistance because of the compressive stress of press fits, while in leaf chains, just two outer plates are press fit. The tensile strength of leaf chains is high and the maximum allowable tension is low. When handling leaf chains it is vital to check with the manufacturer's instruction booklet in order to ensure the safety factor is outlined and use safety measures always. It is a better idea to apply utmost care and use extra safety guards in functions wherein the consequences of chain failure are severe.

Using much more plates in the lacing results in the higher tensile strength. Since this does not enhance the most acceptable tension directly, the number of plates used could be limited. The chains require regular lubrication as the pins link directly on the plates, producing an extremely high bearing pressure. Making use of a SAE 30 or 40 machine oil is frequently advised for most applications. If the chain is cycled over one thousand times in a day or if the chain speed is more than 30m per minute, it will wear really fast, even with continual lubrication. So, in either of these conditions utilizing RS Roller Chains will be much more suitable.

AL type chains are just to be used under particular conditions like where there are no shock loads or when wear is not really a big concern. Be positive that the number of cycles does not go over 100 day after day. The BL-type will be better suited under different situations.

The stress load in parts would become higher if a chain with a lower safety factor is chosen. If the chain is even used among corrosive situations, it can easily fatigue and break extremely quick. Doing frequent maintenance is important when operating under these kinds of situations.

The kind of end link of the chain, whether it is an outer link or inner link, determines the shape of the clevis. Clevis connectors or also called Clevis pins are made by manufacturers but normally, the user supplies the clevis. An improperly made clevis could reduce the working life of the chain. The strands must be finished to length by the maker. Refer to the ANSI standard or get in touch with the manufacturer.