

Forklift Mast Chains

Forklift Mast Chain - Leaf Chains consist of several applications and are regulated by ANSI. They are meant for forklift masts, for low-speed pulling and tension linkage, and as balancers between head and counterweight in certain machine devices. Leaf chains are sometimes even known as Balance Chains.

Construction and Features

Made of a simple pin construction and link plate, steel leaf chains is identified by a number that refers to the lacing of the links and the pitch. The chains have certain features such as high tensile strength for each section area, which enables the design of smaller mechanisms. There are B- and A+ type chains in this particular series and both the BL6 and AL6 Series include the same pitch as RS60. Finally, these chains cannot be driven utilizing sprockets.

Handling and Selection

Comparably, in roller chains, all of the link plates maintain higher fatigue resistance due to 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 permissible tension is low. While handling leaf chains it is essential to check with the manufacturer's catalogue so as to guarantee the safety factor is outlined and use safety measures always. It is a better idea to exercise utmost caution and utilize extra safety guards in functions wherein the consequences of chain failure are severe.

Utilizing much more plates in the lacing causes the higher tensile strength. As this does not improve the most acceptable tension directly, the number of plates utilized can be limited. The chains need regular lubrication in view of the fact that the pins link directly on the plates, producing an extremely high bearing pressure. Making use of a SAE 30 or 40 machine oil is normally advised for the majority of applications. If the chain is cycled more than one thousand times in a day or if the chain speed is over 30m per minute, it will wear extremely rapidly, even with constant lubrication. Thus, in either of these conditions using RS Roller Chains would be much more suitable.

The AL-type of chains must just be used under certain conditions like for instance if wear is not a big concern, when there are no shock loads, the number of cycles does not go beyond one hundred on a daily basis. The BL-type would be better suited under different situations.

The stress load in parts would become higher if a chain using a lower safety factor is chosen. If the chain is likewise used amongst corrosive situations, it could easily fatigue and break extremely fast. Doing frequent maintenance is important when operating under these kinds of situations.

The outer link or inner link type of end link on the chain will determine the shape of the clevis. Clevis connectors or Clevis pins are made by manufacturers, but the user usually provides the clevis. An improperly made clevis can reduce the working life of the chain. The strands should be finished to length by the maker. Refer to the ANSI standard or call the maker.