Mast Chain

Forklift Mast Chains - Utilized in various functions, leaf chains are regulated by ANSI. They can be used for lift truck masts, as balancers between heads and counterweight in several machine tools, and for low-speed pulling and tension linkage. Leaf chains are occasionally also called 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 like high tensile strength for every section area, that allows the design of smaller machines. There are B- and A+ kind chains in this particular series and both the AL6 and BL6 Series contain the same pitch as RS60. Lastly, these chains cannot be powered with sprockets.

Selection and Handling

Comparably, in roller chains, all of the link plates maintain higher fatigue resistance due to the compressive stress of press fits, whereas in leaf chains, only two outer plates are press fit. The tensile strength of leaf chains is high and the utmost acceptable tension is low. While handling leaf chains it is essential to consult the manufacturer's instruction booklet to be able to ensure the safety factor is outlined and utilize safety guards always. It is a great idea to exercise utmost caution and use extra safety measures in functions wherein the consequences of chain failure are serious.

Using more plates in the lacing leads to the higher tensile strength. In view of the fact that this does not enhance the maximum allowable tension directly, the number of plates used may be limited. The chains require regular lubrication in view of the fact that the pins link directly on the plates, producing a very high bearing pressure. Utilizing a SAE 30 or 40 machine oil is frequently suggested for most applications. If the chain is cycled more than one thousand times day after day or if the chain speed is more than 30m for each minute, it would wear extremely fast, even with continuous lubrication. Therefore, in either of these conditions using RS Roller Chains would be more suitable.

AL type chains are only to be used under particular conditions like for instance where there are no shock loads or if wear is not really a huge issue. Be positive that the number of cycles does not go over one hundred day after day. The BL-type would be better suited under various situations.

If a chain with a lower safety factor is chosen then the stress load in parts will become higher. If chains are utilized with corrosive elements, then they may become fatigued and break somewhat easily. Doing regular maintenance is vital when operating under these kinds of conditions.

The type 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 constructed by manufacturers but normally, the user provides the clevis. A wrongly constructed clevis could reduce the working life of the chain. The strands should be finished to length by the manufacturer. Refer to the ANSI standard or contact the manufacturer.