Forklift Mast Chain

Mast Chains - Used in various applications, leaf chains are regulated by ANSI. They can be utilized for forklift masts, as balancers between counterweight and heads in some machine devices, and for tension linkage and low-speed pulling. Leaf chains are occasionally even 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 pitch and the lacing of the links. The chains have specific features like for example high tensile strength for every section area, which allows the design of smaller mechanisms. There are B- and A+ kind chains in this particular series and both the AL6 and BL6 Series comprise the same pitch as RS60. Lastly, these chains cannot be driven using sprockets.

Handling and Selection

Comparably, in roller chains, all of the link plates have higher fatigue resistance because of the compressive stress of press fits, while in leaf chains, only two outer plates are press fit. The tensile strength of leaf chains is high and the most allowable tension is low. If handling leaf chains it is important to consult the manufacturer's instruction booklet so as to ensure the safety factor is outlined and use safety measures at all times. It is a better idea to carry out utmost caution and utilize extra safety measures in functions where the consequences of chain failure are serious.

Using a lot more plates in the lacing leads to the higher tensile strength. Because this does not improve the maximum allowable tension directly, the number of plates used can be limited. The chains require frequent lubrication since the pins link directly on the plates, generating a very 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 day by day or if the chain speed is more than 30m per minute, it would wear very rapidly, even with constant lubrication. Therefore, in either of these situations utilizing RS Roller Chains will be a lot more suitable.

The AL-type of chains must just be used under certain situations such as when wear is not a big issue, when there are no shock loads, the number of cycles does not go over a hundred day by day. The BL-type would be better suited under different situations.

If a chain using a lower safety factor is chosen then the stress load in components would become higher. If chains are utilized with corrosive elements, then they could become fatigued and break rather easily. Doing frequent maintenance is really important when operating under these kinds of conditions.

The outer link or inner link type of end link on the chain will determine the shape of the clevis. Clevis connectors or likewise known as Clevis pins are constructed by manufacturers, but the user normally provides the clevis. A wrongly constructed clevis could reduce the working life of the chain. The strands should be finished to length by the maker. Refer to the ANSI standard or get in touch with the producer.