Forklift Mast Chains

Mast Chains - Used in various functions, leaf chains are regulated by ANSI. They can be used for forklift masts, as balancers between heads and counterweight in several machine devices, and for low-speed pulling and tension linkage. Leaf chains are sometimes even called 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 pitch and the lacing of the links. The chains have certain features like for example high tensile strength for every section area, that allows the design of smaller mechanisms. There are B- and A+ type chains in this series and both the BL6 and AL6 Series include the same pitch as RS60. Finally, these chains cannot be driven utilizing sprockets.

Selection and Handling

In roller chains, the link plates have a higher fatigue resistance because of the compressive stress of press fits, yet the leaf chain just has two outer press fit plates. On the leaf chain, the maximum acceptable tension is low and the tensile strength is high. When handling leaf chains it is essential to check with the manufacturer's instruction manual to be able to guarantee the safety factor is outlined and use safety measures always. It is a better idea to apply utmost caution and utilize extra safety guards in applications where the consequences of chain failure are severe.

Using much more plates in the lacing leads to the higher tensile strength. Since this does not enhance the most acceptable tension directly, the number of plates utilized can be restricted. The chains require regular lubrication as the pins link directly on the plates, producing a very high bearing pressure. Using a SAE 30 or 40 machine oil is frequently suggested for most applications. If the chain is cycled more than one thousand times each day or if the chain speed is more than 30m for each minute, it will wear extremely fast, even with continuous lubrication. So, in either of these situations using RS Roller Chains would be much more suitable.

AL type chains are only to be used under certain conditions like where there are no shock loads or if wear is not a huge problem. Be certain that the number of cycles does not exceed a hundred each day. The BL-type would be better suited under different situations.

The stress load in components would become higher if a chain with a lower safety factor is selected. If the chain is likewise utilized amongst corrosive conditions, it can easily fatigue and break really fast. Doing frequent maintenance is really essential when operating under these kinds of conditions.

The outer link or inner link kind of end link on the chain would determine the shape of the clevis. Clevis connectors or Clevis pins are constructed by manufacturers, but the user usually provides the clevis. An improperly made clevis could reduce the working life of the chain. The strands should be finished to length by the maker. Check the ANSI standard or phone the manufacturer.