Forklift Mast Chains

Mast Chains - Utilized in different functions, leaf chains are regulated by ANSI. They can be used for forklift masts, as balancers between heads and counterweight in some machine devices, and for tension linkage and low-speed pulling. Leaf chains are occasionally also referred to as Balance Chains.

Features and Construction

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 such as high tensile strength per section area, which allows the design of smaller machines. 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

In roller chains, the link plates have a higher fatigue resistance due to the compressive tension of press fits, yet the leaf chain just contains 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 vital to consult the manufacturer's guidebook so as to guarantee the safety factor is outlined and utilize safety measures all the time. It is a better idea to exercise utmost caution and use extra safety guards in functions where the consequences of chain failure are severe.

Utilizing a lot more plates in the lacing results in the higher tensile strength. Since this does not improve the most allowable tension directly, the number of plates utilized may be restricted. The chains need regular lubrication as the pins link directly on the plates, generating a really 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 each day or if the chain speed is over 30m per minute, it would wear very quick, even with continuous lubrication. Thus, in either of these conditions utilizing RS Roller Chains would be much more suitable.

The AL-type of chains must just be used under certain situations like for instance when wear is not a huge problem, when there are no shock loads, the number of cycles does not go over one hundred daily. The BL-type will be better suited under various conditions.

The stress load in parts will become higher if a chain with a lower safety factor is selected. If the chain is even utilized amongst corrosive conditions, it can easily fatigue and break very fast. Performing frequent maintenance is vital when operating under these kinds of conditions.

The kind of end link of the chain, whether it is an inner link or outer link, determines the shape of the clevis. Clevis connectors or Clevis pins are made by manufacturers but normally, the user supplies the clevis. A wrongly made clevis can reduce the working life of the chain. The strands must be finished to length by the maker. Check the ANSI standard or call the manufacturer.