

## Forklift Mast Chains

Mast Chains - Leaf Chains comprise several functions and are regulated by ANSI. They are intended for low-speed pulling, for tension linkage and lift truck masts, and as balancers between counterweight and head in several machine devices. Leaf chains are at times also called Balance Chains.

### Construction and Features

Constructed of a simple link plate and pin construction, steel leaf chains is identified by a number which refers to the lacing of the links and the pitch. The chains have specific features like for example high tensile strength for each section area, that allows the design of smaller mechanisms. There are A- and B- type chains in this particular series and both the AL6 and BL6 Series have the same pitch as RS60. Finally, these chains cannot be powered using 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, just two outer plates are press fit. The tensile strength of leaf chains is high and the utmost permissible tension is low. Whenever handling leaf chains it is essential to consult the manufacturer's manual so as to guarantee the safety factor is outlined and use safety measures all the time. It is a great idea to carry out utmost care and use extra safety measures in functions where the consequences of chain failure are serious.

Utilizing more plates in the lacing results in the higher tensile strength. As this does not enhance the maximum permissible tension directly, the number of plates used can be restricted. The chains require frequent lubrication for the reason that the pins link directly on the plates, generating a really high bearing pressure. Making use of a SAE 30 or 40 machine oil is often advised for nearly all applications. If the chain is cycled more than 1000 times day by day or if the chain speed is more than 30m for each minute, it will wear extremely rapidly, even with continuous lubrication. Therefore, in either of these situations the use of RS Roller Chains will be a lot more suitable.

AL type chains are just to be utilized under certain conditions like where there are no shock loads or if wear is not really a big issue. Be positive that the number of cycles does not go over a hundred daily. 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 could become fatigued and break somewhat easily. Performing regular maintenance is essential 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 otherwise known as Clevis pins are constructed by manufacturers, but the user normally provides the clevis. A wrongly constructed clevis could lessen the working life of the chain. The strands should be finished to length by the producer. Check the ANSI standard or get in touch with the producer.