

## Forklift Mast Chain

Mast Chains - Leaf Chains comprise various applications and are regulated by ANSI. They are meant for low-speed pulling, for tension linkage and lift truck masts, and as balancers between counterweight and head in some machine devices. Leaf chains are occasionally even known as Balance Chains.

### Features and Construction

Leaf chains are actually steel chains utilizing 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 like for example high tensile strength per section area, which allows the design of smaller devices. 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 with sprockets.

### Selection and Handling

Comparably, in roller chains, all of the link plates maintain 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 utmost acceptable tension is low. If handling leaf chains it is essential to consult the manufacturer's instruction booklet in order 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 measures in applications wherein the consequences of chain failure are serious.

Utilizing much more plates in the lacing results in the higher tensile strength. In view of the fact that this does not enhance the utmost permissible tension directly, the number of plates used could be limited. The chains need regular lubrication as the pins link directly on the plates, generating an extremely high bearing pressure. Utilizing a SAE 30 or 40 machine oil is frequently suggested for nearly all applications. If the chain is cycled over one thousand times daily or if the chain speed is more than 30m per minute, it would wear extremely quick, even with continuous lubrication. So, in either of these conditions utilizing RS Roller Chains will be much more suitable.

AL type chains are only to be utilized under particular situations such as where there are no shock loads or if wear is not really a big issue. Be certain that the number of cycles does not exceed a hundred every day. The BL-type would be better suited under various conditions.

If a chain with a lower safety factor is selected then the stress load in components would become higher. If chains are utilized with corrosive elements, then they may become fatigued and break somewhat easily. Doing regular maintenance is important if operating under these kinds of situations.

The inner link or outer link type of end link on the chain will determine the shape of the clevis. Clevis connectors or likewise known as Clevis pins are made by manufacturers, but the user normally supplies the clevis. A wrongly made clevis can lessen the working life of the chain. The strands must be finished to length by the maker. Refer to the ANSI standard or phone the producer.