



SELECTING AND HANDLING OF ROLLER CHAINS

Chain Power Transmission Tables

Power transmission capacities of the KCM products shown in this catalog are determined under the following conditions:

- 1) Operation at -10°C to +60°C in the atmosphere free from abrasive dirt.
- 2) No corrosive gas and high humidity.
- 3) Two sprockets on which roller chain is mounted are properly aligned on parallel and level shafts.
- 4) Use of lubricant and lubrication method.
- 5) Less loading variations.

Multiple strand factor (Table 1)

Power transmission capacity of multiple strand roller chain is not equal to the number of strands times that of single strand roller chain, because the load is not evenly distributed to respective strands of roller chains. Therefore, power transmission capacity of multiple strand roller chain is determined by multiplying that of single strand roller chain by multiple strand factor.

Service factor (Table 2)

Actual power transmission capacity is adjusted according to the degree of loading variations, because the power transmission capacity tables are prepared on condition that loading variations are small.

Quick Selection Chart

How to Use:

EXAMPLE: Single strand roller chain with 5kW compensated chain drive power.

1. When smaller sprocket speed is 100 r/min

Find the intersection of 5kW vertical line of the compensated chain drive power and 100 r/min horizontal line of the smaller sprocket speed in the quick selection chart. You'll find that the chain is KCM80, and number of sprocket teeth is between 16T and 20T, judging as 17T from the exact location of the intersection.

2. When smaller sprocket speed is 300 r/min

1) Find the intersection in the same way as 1, you'll find that the chain is KCM60, and number of sprocket teeth is 13T to 18T, judging as 15T from the exact location of the intersection that is closed to 13T. Also, you'll find that there is KCM50-24T line (dotted) near this intersection. This means you can use either KCM60-15T and KCM50-24T.

After tentatively making quick selection with this chart confirm the selected sprocket is appropriate with reference to the power transmission capacity tables.

2) For power transmission capacity lines of 20T, 24T, and 30T, only its high speed portions are shown to simplify the quick selection chart. For lower speed portions, extend a line in parallel to the lines, just like a dotted line of KCM50-24T.

3) For chain speeds of 50 m/min or lower, it is economical to make selection by "Low speed selection method" described later.

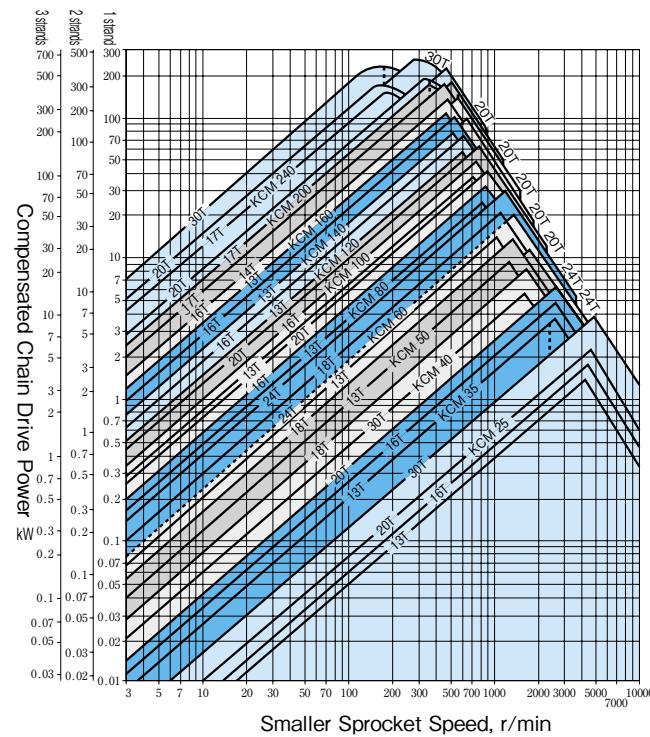
Table 1: Multiple Strand Factor

No. of Chain Strands	Multiple Strand factor
2 strands	1.7
3 strands	2.5
4 strands	3.3
5 strands	3.9
6 strands	4.6

Table 2: Service Factor

Load	Prime mover Driven machine	Combustion engine	
		Motor turbine W/hyd. equipment	W/o hyd. equipment
Smooth loading	Belt conveyor, subjected to small loading variation, chain conveyor, centrifugal pump, centrifugal blower, textile machine and other machinery subjected to small loading variation.	1.0	1.0
With some shocks	Centrifugal compressor, marine propulsion system, conveyer subjected to some loading variations, automatic furnace, drier, crusher, machine tool, compressor, construction and civil engineering machinery, and papermaking machine	1.3	1.2
With heavy shocks	Press, crusher, mining machinery, vibratory machine, oil-well machinery, rubber mixer, roll, roll gang, and other machinery subjected to reversing load or heavy shock.	1.5	1.4

Table 3: Quick Selection Chart





SELECTING AND HANDLING OF ROLLER CHAINS

General Roller Chain Selection Method

For roller chain transmission, it is important to select appropriate roller chain and sprockets.

1) Power to be transmitted

2) Compensated chain drive power

Determine the compensated chain drive power by multiplying the power to be transmitted by service factor shown in Table 2 according to the driven machine and prime mover. If the desired transmission power cannot be achieved with single strand chain, select multiple strand chain in this case. It is required to make compensation with multiple strand factor listed in Table 1 as follows.

Single strand chain:

$$\text{Compensated chain drive power} = \text{Power to be transmitted} \times \text{Service factor}$$

Multiple strand chain:

$$\text{Compensated chain drive power} = \frac{\text{Power to be transmitted} \times \text{Service factor}}{\text{Multiple strand factor}}$$

3) Speeds of drive and driven shafts:

Determine appropriate roller chain and number of teeth of smaller sprocket from Table 3 "Quick Selection Chart" according to the speed (r/min) of higher-speed shaft (drive shaft in case of deceleration and driven shaft in acceleration) and compensated chain drive power.

In this case, it is recommended to select a chain with pitches as small as possible for smooth and quiet operation.

4) Shaft diameter and boss diameter:

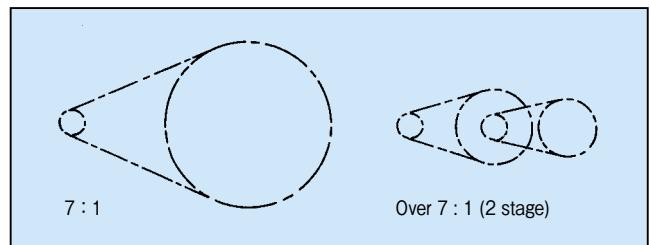
After determining the number of teeth of smaller sprocket, refer to Sprocket dimensions tables on pages 73 to 86 to find boss diameter and maximum bore diameter. If the bore diameter is less than the actual shaft diameter, reselect the increased number of teeth of smaller sprocket so that the bore diameter matches the actual shaft diameter.

5) Speed ratio of both shafts

Determine the number of teeth of larger sprocket by multiplying the number of teeth of smaller sprocket by the RPM ratio (speed ratio) of smaller sprocket to larger sprocket. Here, note that the number of teeth of smaller sprocket must be 17 or more, and that of larger sprocket must be 114 or less.

When uniform load is transferred at low speed, it is possible to select a sprocket whose number of teeth is down to 13.

In roller chain drive, the speed ratio of smaller sprocket to larger sprocket is normally 7 : 1 or less. If larger speed ratio is required, select two or more stages for speed change.



6) Shaft-to-shaft distance

It is ideal that shaft-to-shaft distance is 30 to 50 times chain pitch employed, although both shafts are positioned close to each other just before engagement of both sprockets. If subjected to pulsating load, shaft-to-shaft distance must be 20 or less times chain pitch employed.

Special Selection Method

Low Speed Roller Chain Selection Method

When the chain speed is 50 m/min or less, follow the "Low Speed Roller Chain Selection Method", rather than "General Roller Chain Selection Method", described above, for economical operation.

This low speed roller chain selection method is suitable for smooth power transmission with less frequent starts and stops. Working conditions such as operating environment, arrangement and lubrication are similar to those of general roller chain selection method.

1) Chain Speed

$$V = \frac{P \cdot N \cdot n}{1000}$$

V: Chain speed, m/min
P: Chain pitch, mm
N: Number of teeth of smaller sprocket
n: Number of r/min of smaller sprocket, r/min

2) Load acting on roller chain

$$F = \frac{6120 \cdot kW}{V}$$

F: Max. load acting on roller chain, kgf
kW: Transmission Power, kW

3) Max. acting load and max. allowable load

$$\boxed{\text{Max. load acting on chain}} \times \boxed{\begin{matrix} \text{Service factor} \\ \text{Table 2} \end{matrix}} \times \boxed{\begin{matrix} \text{Speed factor} \\ \text{Table 4} \end{matrix}} \leq \boxed{\begin{matrix} \text{Max. allowable load} \\ \text{of roller chain} \end{matrix}} \text{ kgf}$$

Table 4: Speed Factor

Chain Speed	Speed Factor
15m/min or less	1.0
15 to 30m/min	1.2
30 to 50m/min	1.4

If the foregoing equation is not satisfied, change the size of roller chain and the number of teeth of sprocket, and try to recheck if the equation is satisfied or not.

4) For low-speed application subjected to frequent starts and stops or braking and shocks, contact us.



Use in Severe Working Conditions

1. Application at High Temperature

If the chain is heated, its strength and wear resistance are decreased.

Table 5: Atmospheric temperature and strength

Atmospheric temp. (°C)	Strength
Up to -30	Allowable tensile force described in catalog ×0.25
-30 to -20	" ×0.30
-10 to 150	" ×1
150 to 200	" ×0.75
200 to 250	" ×0.5

2. Use in Corrosive Atmosphere

For use in alkalic or acidic environment, it is required to use the chain made of material having high corrosion resistance, for instance, stainless steel. Note that corrosion resistance of stainless steel may be decreased significantly according to kinds of liquid and gas, and operating temperatures, similar to common chains.

Installation

(A) Arrangement of Shafts

Horizontal arrangement:

Even if both shafts are arranged horizontally, pay due attention to rotational direction of the shafts. In cases of Fig. (2) and (3), there is a fear that the chain, if elongated, cannot smoothly depart from the teeth of the sprockets and can be seized by sprockets. Particularly, in the case of fig. (3), there is a fear that the upper and lower chain parts make contact; use an idler at mid-span between shafts as shown.

Vertical arrangement:

The chain, if elongated, will be deflected as illustrated in Fig. (5). Particularly, if a smaller sprocket is located at the bottom side, there is a concern that the chain can disengage from the sprocket. To avoid disengagement, it is required that the line linking centers of both shafts is at 60 or less to horizontal line, as illustrated in Fig. (4). If this arrangement is not allowed due to limitation of mechanism or space, it is recommended to arrange a larger sprocket at the lower side, and an idler at mid-span between shafts as illustrated in Fig. (6).

(B) Sag

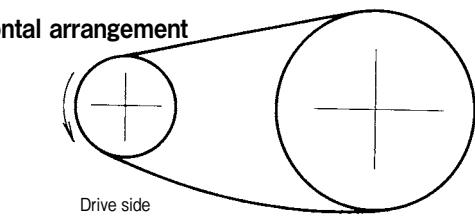
Sag of the chain is approximately 4% of shaft-to-shaft distance, and approximately 2% of that in the following cases.

- 1) Vertical arrangement or similar arrangement.
- 2) Shaft-to-shaft distance is 1 m or longer.
- 3) Frequent starts and stops under heavy load.
- 4) Reversing operation

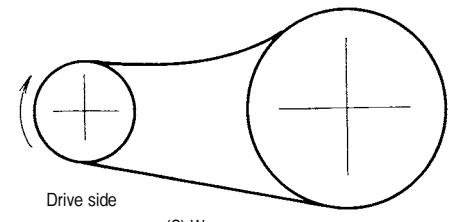
(C) Varying loads

It is required to place a tensioner on the tensed side or slackened side of the chain to give pre-tension. This eliminates vibration in operation and reduces noise.

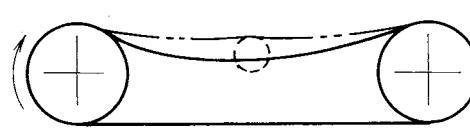
Horizontal arrangement



(1) Good



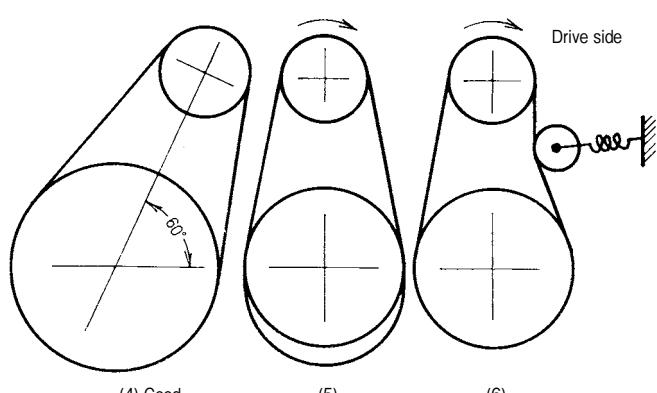
Drive side



Drive side

(3) Wrong (Change rotating direction or use an idler.)

Vertical arrangement:

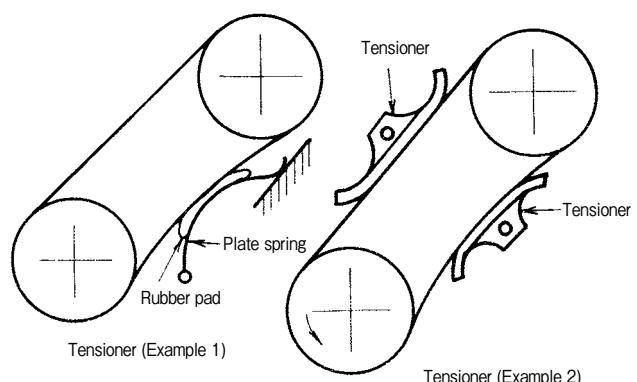


(4) Good

(5)

(6)

Examples of Tensioners



Tensioner (Example 1)

Tensioner (Example 2)



LUBRICATION FOR ROLLER CHAINS

Lubrication is of prime importance for roller chains, because it greatly influences its service life, especially in modern high-speed chain drives. Therefore, the use of highly efficient lubrication is required.

Effect of Lubrication

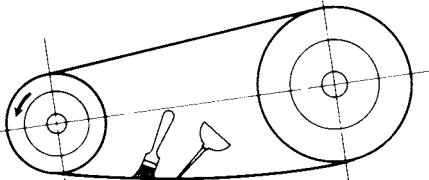
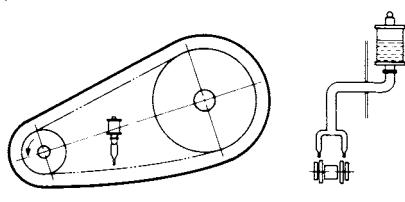
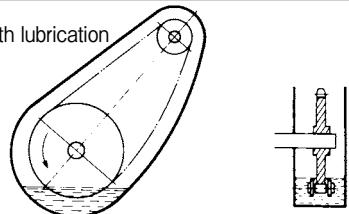
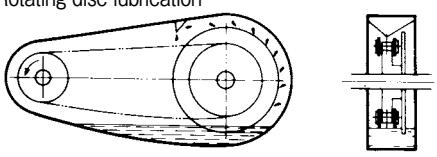
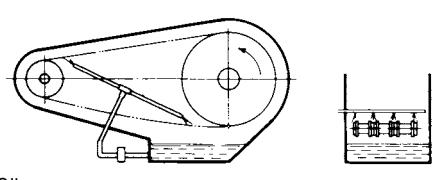
When lubricant is applied clearances among pin, bush, and roller, oil film is formed to prevent wear on parts and serve as a cushion, and absorbs heat generated in chain.

Recommended lubricant is high-quality mineral oil.

Recommended lubricants

Lubrication Type	A · B				C				
KCM Chain No.	Temp (°C)	-10 ~ 0	0 ~ 40	40 ~ 50	50 ~ 60	-10 ~ 0	0 ~ 40	40 ~ 50	50 ~ 60
KCM25 ~ 50	SAE10W	SAE20W	SAE30	SAE40	SAE10W	SAE20W	SAE30	SAE40	
KCM60 ~ 80	SAE20W	SAE30	SAE40	SAE50	SAE20W	SAE30	SAE40	SAE50	
KCM100	SAE30	SAE30	SAE50						
KCM120 or higher	SAE30	SAE30	SAE50						

Lubrication Types (These also appear in Chain Power Transmission Tables)

Lubrication Type	Lubrication Method	Lubrication Intervals and Lubricant Amount	Remarks
A	Manual lubrication 	Periodic lubrication using oil feeder or brush at least once a day.	Feed lubricant to chain while turning it slowly. Here, continuously apply oil 3 to 4 times on full roller. Also, take care that your hand or cloth is not caught by chain drive. At start after lubrication, be careful that excessive oil will not splash.
	Drip lubrication 	Supply oil at 5 to 20 oil drops per minute.	It is recommended to provide simple casing against oil splash.
B	Oil bath lubrication 	Chain is submerged in oil at depth of 10mm.	Be careful to completely clean inside of container before use to remove foreign matter such as dirt. Also, pay attention to oil level not to increase.
	Rotating disc lubrication 	Rotating disc supplies oil on roller chain. Disc submerging depth is about 20mm and the circumferential speed is 200m/min or larger.	
C	Forced circulation lubrication 	It is required to maintain proper oil amount to avoid overheating.	Be careful to completely clean inside of container before use to remove foreign matter such as dirt.

