

Tackle Block and Sheave Maintenance

Tackle Blocks and Sheaves must be regularly inspected, lubricated, and maintained for peak efficiency and extended usefulness. Their proper use and maintenance is equal in importance to other mechanical equipment. The frequency of inspection and lubrication is dependent upon frequency and periods of use, environmental conditions, and the user's good judgment.

Inspection: As a minimum, the following points should be considered:

1. Wear on pins or axles, rope grooves, side plates, bushing or bearings, cases, trunnions, hook shanks, and fittings (See Fitting Maintenance). Excessive wear may be a cause to replace parts or remove block or sheave from service.
2. Deformation in side plates, pins and axles, fitting attachment points, trunnions, etc. Deformation can be caused by abusive service or overload and may be a cause to remove block or sheave from service.
3. Misalignment or wobble in sheaves.
4. Security of nuts, bolts, and other locking methods, especially after reassembly following a tear down inspection. Original securing method should be used; e.g., staking, set screw, cotter pin, cap screw.
5. Pins retained by snap rings should be checked for missing or loose rings.
6. Sheave pin nuts should be checked for proper positioning. Pins for tapered roller bearings should be tightened to remove all end play during sheave rotation. Pins for bronze bushings and straight roller bearings should have a running clearance of .031 inch per sheave of end play and should be adjusted accordingly.
7. Hook or shackle to swivel case clearance is set at .031 to .062 at the factory. Increased clearance can result from component wear. Clearance exceeding .12 to .18 should necessitate disassembly and further inspection.
8. Deformation or corrosion of hook and nut threads. Your block's hook may be fitted with the Crosby/McKissick Patented Split Nut. Refer to the Split Nut section for proper removal, inspection and installation procedures.
9. Loss of material due to corrosion or wear on external area of welded hook and nut may indicate thread corrosion or damage. If these conditions exist, remove from service or perform load test.
10. Surface condition and deformation of hook (See Fitting Maintenance and ASME B30.10.)
11. Welded side plates for weld corrosion or weld cracking.
12. Hook latch for deformation, proper fit and operation.
13. Remove from service any bushings with cracks on inside diameter or bushing end. Bushings that are cracked and/or extended beyond sheave hub are indications of bushing overload.

LUBRICATION: The frequency of lubrication depends upon frequency and period of product use as well as environmental conditions, which are contingent upon the user's good judgment. Assuming normal product use, the following schedule is suggested when using lithium-base grease of a medium consistency.

SHEAVE BEARINGS

Tapered Roller Bearings – Every 40 hours of continuous operation or every 30 days of intermittent operation.

Roller Bearings – Every 24 hours of continuous operation or every 14 days of intermittent operation.

Bronze Bushings – (Not Self Lubricated) – Every 8 hours of continuous operation or every 14 days of intermittent operation.

Self Lubricating Bronze Bushing – are for slow line speeds and infrequent use (moderate bearing friction). Frequent inspection is required to determine the condition of bushing.

HOOK BEARINGS

Anti Friction – Every 14 days for frequent swiveling; every 45 days for infrequent swiveling.

Bronze Thrust Bushing or No Bearing Every 16 hours for frequent swiveling; every 21 days for infrequent swiveling.

Tackle Block Maintenance also depends upon proper block selection (see “Loads on Blocks”), proper reeving (see “The Reeving of Tackle Blocks”), consideration of shock loads, side loading, and other adverse conditions.

Sheave Bearing Application Information

Sheaves in a system of blocks rotate at different rates of speed, and have different loads. When raising and lowering, the line tension is not equal throughout the system. Refer to “How to Figure Line Parts” in the Sheaves Section for assistance in determining lead line loads used for bushing or bearing selection.

BRONZE BUSHINGS

Bronze Bushings are used primarily for sheave applications using slow line speed, moderate load, and moderate use. The performance capability of a bearing is related to the bearing pressure and the bearing surface velocity by a relationship known as true PV (Maximum Pressure - Velocity Factor). The material properties of the Bronze Bushings furnished as standard in Crosby catalog sheaves are:

(BP) Maximum Bearing Pressure :4500 PSI

(BV) Maximum Velocity at Bearing :1200 FPM

(PV) Maximum Pressure Velocity Factor: 55000

(It should be noted that due to material property relations, the maximum BP times the maximum BV is NOT equal to the maximum PV.)

Formula for Calculating Bearing Pressure:

$$BP = \frac{\text{Line Pull} \times \text{Angle Factor}}{\text{Shaft Size} \times \text{Hub Width}}$$

Note: Angle Factor Multipliers listed in the Sheaves Section

Formula for Calculating Bearing Velocity:

$$BV = \frac{PV}{BP}$$

Formula for Calculating Line Speed:

$$\text{Line Speed} = \frac{BV (\text{Tread Diameter} + \text{Rope Diameter})}{\text{Shaft Diameter}}$$

Calculations can be made to find the maximum allowable line speed for a given total sheave load. If the required line speed is greater than the maximum allowable line speed calculated, then increase the shaft size and/or the hub width and recalculate. Continue the process until the maximum allowable line speed is equal to or exceeds the required line speed.

Example

Using a 14 in. sheave (Stock # 917191; refer to Wireline sheave section of this Catalog for dimensions) with a 4,600 lbs line pull and an 80° angle between lines, determine maximum allowable line speed.

$$BP = \frac{4,600 \text{ lbs} \times 1.53}{1.50 \times 1.62} = 2,896 \text{ PSI}$$

(Line pull) (Angle Factor)
(Shaft Size) (Hub Width)

$$BV = \frac{55,000 \text{ (PV Factor)}}{2,896 \text{ (BP)}} = 19 \text{ FPM Allowable}$$