



# Bearing Greases

When choosing a bearing lubricant, it is important to know the speed, load, environment (including temperature, exposure to water or chemicals), the type of bearing, size, and how the lubricant is applied. The right choice of lubricant depends on the type of bearing, how and where it is used.

Lubricants in rolling element bearings have four basic functions: (1) they reduce the friction which decreases temperatures and protects against wear, (2) lubricants dissipate the heat generated by the motion of the bearing (3) prevents corrosion and (4) seal out contaminants.

Whether hand packed or applied by a grease gun, the primary recommendation for rolling contact bearings is a NLGI#2 or #3 grade grease. NLGI #0 or #1 should be used where temperatures are low or if the grease is being dispensed through some type of centralized system. Soap based greases, such as lithium, aluminum, and calcium, are generally the first choice for high speed rolling element bearings. Complex soap greases, such as lithium complex, aluminum complex, and calcium complex, are recommended for high temperature applications.

The procedure for changing out grease in a bearing is:

1. Purge old grease by adding new grease until old grease appears at vent
2. Rotate bearing and add grease until new grease appears
3. Rotate bearing and vent grease for about 20 min. to prevent over-greasing

To determine the correct amount of grease, use one of these formulas:

$$G=0.114DB$$

G=Grease quantity (ounces)

D=Bearing OD (inches)

B=Bearing width (inches)

$$G=0.005DB$$

G=Grease quantity (grams)

D=Bearing OD (mm)

B=Bearing width (mm)

Fill the available space in the bearing and housing between 1/3 and 2/3 full, depending upon the bearing speed. The higher the speed, the less grease is required.



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