NEW BEARING DOCTOR

Diagnosis of bearing problems. Objective: Smooth & reliable operation.
On the occasion of the “New Bearing Doctor” pamphlet being published, we would like to express our sincere thanks for your continuous patronage of NSK products.

This pamphlet contains explanations about correct bearing handling, mounting, lubrication, and maintenance to prevent premature failure together with color photos of bearing failures. Bearings become unserviceable when they suffer premature failure which is due to a lack of attention to proper handling and/or maintenance. This pamphlet is useful in determining causes of and measures against premature failure. It’s our pleasure to offer you this pamphlet. Please be sure to consult the NSK Rolling Bearing Catalog (CAT. No. E1102) for more details regarding handling, maintenance, etc.
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1. Introduction

When a rolling bearing is damaged during machine operation, the entire machine or equipment may seize or malfunction. Since bearings that fail prematurely or unexpectedly cause trouble, it is important to be able to identify and predict failure beforehand, if possible, so that preventive measures can be adopted.

Generally, bearing inspection or housing inspection can identify the cause of the problem. Often the cause is attributable to poor lubrication, improper handling, selecting the wrong bearing, or not enough study of the shaft and housing. Usually the cause can be determined by considering operation of the bearing before the failure, investigating the lubrication conditions and the mounting condition, and carefully observing the damaged bearing itself.

Sometimes bearings are damaged and fail both quickly and unexpectedly. Such premature failure is different from fatigue failure which is due to flaking. Bearing life can be separated and categorized into two types: premature failure and normal rolling contact fatigue.

2. Bearing Handling

2.1 Precautions for Handling

Since rolling bearings are high precision machine parts, they must be handled carefully. Even if high quality bearings are used, their expected life and performance cannot be attained if they are used improperly. The main precautions to be observed are as follows:

1. Keep the Bearings and Surrounding Area Clean: Dust and dirt, even if invisible to the naked eye, have harmful effects on bearings. It is necessary to prevent the entry of dust and dirt by keeping the bearings and their environment as clean as possible.
2. Careful Handling: Heavy shocks during handling may scratch or cause other damage to the bearing possibly resulting in bearing failure. Strong impacts may cause brinelling, breaking, or cracking.
3. Use Proper Tools: Always use the proper tool when handling bearings and avoid general purpose tools.
4. Prevent Corrosion: Since perspiration on the hands and various other contaminants may cause corrosion, keep your hands clean when handling bearings. Wear gloves if possible.

2.2 Mounting

It is advisable to study the bearing mounting thoroughly since the quality of the bearing mounting influences the bearing’s running accuracy, life, and performance. It is recommended that the mounting method include the following steps:

(1) Clean the bearing and surrounding parts.
(2) Check the dimensions and finish conditions of related parts.
(3) Follow mounting procedure.
(4) Check if the bearing is mounted correctly.
(5) Supply with correct kind and quantity of lubricant.

Since most bearings rotate with the shaft, the bearing mounting method is generally an interference (tight) fit for the inner ring and shaft while giving a clearance (loose) fit for the outer ring and housing.

2.3 Check the Operation

After mounting the bearing, it is important to carry out an operating test to confirm that the bearing is mounted properly. Table 2.1 indicates operating test methods. If irregularities are detected, immediately suspend the test and consult Table 2.2 which lists appropriate measures to specific bearing problems.

### Table 2.1 Methods to check operation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Machine size</th>
<th>Operating procedure</th>
<th>Bearing condition checks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small machine</td>
<td>Manual operation. Turn the bearing by hand; if no problems are detected, then proceed to operate the machine.</td>
<td>Stick-slip (Debris, cracks, dents), Uneven rotating torque (Faulty mounting), Excessive torque (Error in mounting or insufficient radial internal clearance).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large machine</td>
<td>Idle operation. Turn ON power and allow machine to rotate slowly. Turn OFF the power and allow the bearing to coast to a stop. If no irregularities are detected by the test, then proceed to the loaded rotation testing.</td>
<td>Check for irregular noise. Check for bearing temperature rise. Lubricant leakage. Discoloration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2.2 Causes and measures for operating irregularities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Irregularities</th>
<th>Possible causes</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noise</td>
<td>Abnormal load</td>
<td>Improve the fit, internal clearance, preload, position of housing shoulder, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incorrect mounting</td>
<td>Improve the machining accuracy and alignment of shaft and housing, accuracy of mounting method.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insufficient or improper lubricant</td>
<td>Replace the lubricant or select another lubricant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contact of rotating parts</td>
<td>Modify the labyrinth seal, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flawing, corrosion, or scratches on raceways</td>
<td>Replace or clean the bearing, improve the seals, and use clean lubricant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brinelling</td>
<td>Replace the bearing and use care when handling bearings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flaking on raceway</td>
<td>Replace the bearing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excessive clearance</td>
<td>Improve the fit, clearance and preload.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Penetration of foreign particles</td>
<td>Replace or clean the bearing, improve the seals, and use clean lubricant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flaws or flaking on balls</td>
<td>Replace the bearing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal Temperature Rise</td>
<td>Excessive amount of lubricant</td>
<td>Reduce amount of lubricant, select stiffer grease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insufficient or improper lubricant</td>
<td>Replace lubricant or select a better one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abnormal load</td>
<td>Improve the fit, internal clearance, preload, position of housing shoulder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incorrect mounting</td>
<td>Improve the machining accuracy and alignment of shaft and housing, accuracy of mounting, or mounting method.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creep on fitted surface, excessive seal friction</td>
<td>Correct the seals, replace the bearing, correct the fitting or mounting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vibration (Axial runout)</td>
<td>Brinelling</td>
<td>Replace the bearing and use care when handling bearings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flaking</td>
<td>Replace the bearing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incorrect mounting</td>
<td>Correct the squareness between the shaft and housing shoulder or side of spacer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creep on fitted surface</td>
<td>Replace the bearing and use care when handling bearings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Penetration of foreign particles</td>
<td>Replace the bearing, improve the seals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaks or Discoloration of Lubricant</td>
<td>Too much lubricant</td>
<td>Reduce the amount of lubricant, select a stiffer grease. Replace the bearing or lubricant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Penetration by foreign matter or abrasion chips</td>
<td>Replace the bearing or lubricant. Clean the housing and adjacent parts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Bearing Maintenance

It is necessary to periodically inspect and maintain the bearing and its operating conditions in order to maximize the bearing life. In general, the following method is adopted.

(1) Inspection under operating conditions

To determine the bearing replacement periods and replenishment intervals for lubricant, investigate the lubricant properties and consider factors such as operating temperature, vibration, and bearing noise. (Refer to Section 4 for more details.)

(2) Inspection of the bearing

Be sure to inspect the bearing thoroughly during times of periodic machine inspection and part replacement. Check the raceway condition. Determine if damage exists. Confirm if the bearing can be reused or should be replaced. (Refer to Section 5 for more details.)

4. Bearing Performance Factors

Key bearing performance factors during operation are bearing noise, vibration, temperature, and lubricant state. Please refer to Table 2.2 if any operation irregularities are detected.

4.1 Bearing Noise

During operation, sound detection instruments (stethoscope, NSK Bearing Monitor, etc.) can be used to investigate the volume and characteristics of the bearing rotation noise. It is possible to distinguish bearing damage such as small flaking by means of its unusual yet characteristic noise.

4.2 Bearing Vibration

Bearing irregularities can be analyzed by measuring vibrations of an operating machine. A frequency spectrum analyzer is used to measure the magnitude of vibration and the distribution of the frequencies. Test results enable the determination of the life expectancy of the bearing. The measured data varies depending on the operating conditions of the bearing and the location of the vibration pick-up. Therefore, the method requires the determination of evaluation standards for each measured machine.

It is useful to be able to detect irregularities from the bearing vibration pattern during operation. Please refer to the NSK pamphlet CAT. No. E410 (Bearing Monitor) for more information about such a device.

4.3 Bearing Temperature

Generally, the bearing temperature can be estimated from the temperature of the housing outside surface, but a preferable way is to obtain direct measurement from the bearing outer ring by a probe going through an oil hole.

Usually, the bearing temperature gradually increases after the start of operation until reaching a steady state condition about 1 or 2 hours later. The bearing steady state temperature depends on load, rotational speed and heat transfer properties of the machine. Insufficient lubrication or improper mounting might cause the bearing temperature to rise rapidly. In such a case, suspend the machine operation and adopt an appropriate countermeasure.

4.4 Effects of Lubrication

The two main purposes of lubrication are to minimize friction and reduce wear inside bearings that might otherwise fail prematurely. Lubrication provides the following advantages:

(1) Reduction of Friction and Wear

Direct metallic contact between the bearing rings, rolling elements and cage, which are the basic components of a bearing, is prevented by an oil film which reduces the friction and wear in the contact areas.

(2) Extension of Fatigue Life

The rolling fatigue life of bearings depends greatly upon the viscosity and film thickness between the rolling contact surfaces. A heavy film thickness prolongs the fatigue life, but it is shortened if the viscosity of the oil is too low so that the film thickness is insufficient.

(3) Dissipation of Frictional Heat and Cooling

Circulation lubrication may be used to carry away either frictional heat or heat transferred from the outside to prevent the bearing from overheating and the oil from deteriorating.

(4) Sealing and Rust Prevention

Adequate lubrication also helps to prevent foreign material from entering the bearings and guards against corrosion or rusting.

4.5 Selection of Lubrication

Bearing lubrication methods are divided into two main categories: grease lubrication and oil lubrication. A lubrication method is adopted that matches the application conditions and application purpose in order to attain best performance from the bearing. Table 4.1 shows a comparison between grease and oil lubrication.

Table 4.1 Comparison between grease and oil lubrication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Grease lubrication</th>
<th>Oil lubrication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing structure and seal method</td>
<td>Simple</td>
<td>May be complex, careful maintenance required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td>Limiting speed is 65% to 80% of that with oil lubrication</td>
<td>High limiting speed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling effect</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Heat transfer is possible using forced oil circulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluidity</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubricant replacement</td>
<td>Sometimes difficult</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal of foreign material</td>
<td>Removal of particles from grease is impossible</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External contamination due to leakage</td>
<td>Surroundings seldom contaminated by leakage</td>
<td>Often leaks if proper countermeasures are not taken. Not suitable if external contamination must be avoided.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Grease lubrication

Grease is a lubricant that is made from base oil, thickener, and additives. When selecting a grease, it is necessary to select a grease that is suitable to the bearing application conditions. There are large differences in performance even between different brands of the same type of grease. Therefore special attention must be given to grease selection. Table 4.2 gives examples of applications and grease consistency.

(2) Oil lubrication

There are several different oil lubrication methods: Oil bath, Drip feed, Splash, Circulating, Jet, Oil mist, and Oil air. Oil lubrication methods are more suitable for higher speed and higher temperature applications than are grease lubrication methods. Oil lubrication is especially effective in the case where it is necessary to dissipate heat to the exterior.

Be sure to select a lubricating oil that has suitable viscosity at the bearing operating temperature. Generally, an oil with a low viscosity is used for high speed application while an oil with high viscosity is used for applications with heavy loads. For normal application conditions, Table 4.3 lists the suitable viscosity range for the operating temperature. For reference when making a selection, Fig. 4.1 shows the relationship between temperature and viscosity for the lubricating oil. Table 4.4 gives examples of how to select the lubrication oil for different bearing application conditions.

Table 4.2 Examples of applications and grease consistency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consistency number</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consistency (1/10 mm)</td>
<td>365 to 385</td>
<td>310 to 340</td>
<td>265 to 295</td>
<td>220 to 250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application</td>
<td>Central grease supply</td>
<td>Central grease supply</td>
<td>Low temperature</td>
<td>Sealed ball bearings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluidity</td>
<td>Where fretting occurs easily</td>
<td>Where fretting occurs easily</td>
<td>Sealed ball bearings</td>
<td>Sealed ball bearings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature range</td>
<td>Below limiting speed</td>
<td>Between 50% and 100% of limiting speed</td>
<td>Above limiting speed</td>
<td>Between 50% and 100% of limiting speed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubricating oil</td>
<td>ISO VG 15, 22, 32 (Refrigerator oil)</td>
<td>ISO VG 32, 46, 68 (Bearing oil, Turbine oil)</td>
<td>ISO VG 68, 100, 150 (Bearing oil, Turbine oil)</td>
<td>ISO VG 68, 100, 150 (Bearing oil, Turbine oil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viscosity temperature</td>
<td>High temperature</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.3 Required viscosity by bearing type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bearing type</th>
<th>Viscosity at operating temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ball bearings, Cylindrical roller bearings</td>
<td>15 mm²/s or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapered roller bearings, Spherical roller bearings</td>
<td>20 mm²/s or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spherical thrust roller bearings</td>
<td>32 mm²/s or more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.4 Selection of lubricating oils for different bearing applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating temperature</th>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Light or normal load</th>
<th>Heavy or shock load</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-30 to 0°C</td>
<td>Below limiting speed</td>
<td>ISO VG 15, 22, 32 (Refrigerator oil)</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 to 50°C</td>
<td>Below 50% of limiting speed</td>
<td>ISO VG 32, 46, 68 (Bearing oil, Turbine oil)</td>
<td>ISO VG 68, 100, 150 (Bearing oil, Turbine oil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above limiting speed</td>
<td>ISO VG 10, 15, 22 (Bearing oil, Turbine oil)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 80°C</td>
<td>Below 50% of limiting speed</td>
<td>ISO VG 100, 150, 220 (Bearing oil, Turbine oil)</td>
<td>ISO VG 68, 100, 150 (Bearing oil, Turbine oil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above limiting speed</td>
<td>ISO VG 32, 46, 68 (Bearing oil, Turbine oil)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 to 110°C</td>
<td>Below 50% of limiting speed</td>
<td>ISO VG 320, 460 (Bearing oil, Turbine oil)</td>
<td>ISO VG 460, 680 (Bearing oil, Gear oil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above limiting speed</td>
<td>ISO VG 68, 100, 150 (Bearing oil, Turbine oil)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. As for the limiting speed, use the value listed under oil lubrication in the Bearing Dimension Tables of "NSK Rolling Bearings" (No. E1102).
2. Refer to refrigerator oil (JIS K 2211), Bearing oil (JIS K 2239), Turbine oil (JIS K 2213), Gear oil (JIS K 2219).
3. Temperature ranges are shown in the left column in the table above. For operating temperatures that are on the high temperature side, a high viscosity lubrication oil is recommended.
5. Bearing Inspection

When inspecting a bearing during periodic inspection of equipment, operating inspections, or replacement of adjacent parts, determine the condition of the bearing and if its continued service is advisable.

A record should be kept of the inspection and external appearance of dismounted bearings. After taking a grease sample and measuring the quantity of residual grease, the bearing should be cleaned. Also, determine whether abnormalities and damage exist in the cage, fitting surfaces, rolling element surfaces, and raceway surfaces. Refer to Section 6 regarding the observation of running traces on the raceway surface.

When evaluating whether a bearing can be reused or not, the following points need to be considered: degree of bearing damage, machine performance, critical nature of the application, operating conditions, inspection interval. If the inspection reveals bearing damage or abnormalities, then try to confirm the cause and determine a measure by referring to Section 7 and then carry out the countermeasure.

If your inspection discovers any of the following kinds of damage, which would prevent the bearing from being reused, then the bearing must be replaced with a new one.

(1) Cracks or chipping in the cage, rolling elements, or raceway ring.
(2) Flaking in the rolling elements or raceway ring.
(3) Notable scoring on the rolling elements, rib face (collar), or raceway surface.
(4) Notable wear on the cage or loose rivets.
(5) Flaws or rust on the rolling elements or raceway surface.
(6) Notable dents on the rolling elements or raceway surface.
(7) Notable creep of the outer ring outside surface or inner ring bore.
(8) Discoloration due to heating.
(9) Serious damage on shield or seal of grease packed bearings.

6. Running Traces and Applied Loads

As the bearing rotates, the raceways of the inner ring and outer ring make contact with the rolling elements. This results in a wear path on both the rolling elements and raceways. Running traces are useful, since they indicate the loading conditions, and should be carefully observed when the bearing is disassembled.

If the running traces are clearly defined, it is possible to determine whether the bearing is carrying a radial load, axial load or moment load. Also, the roundness condition of the bearing can be determined. Check whether unexpected bearing loads or large mounting errors occurred. Also, determine the probable cause of the bearing damage.

Fig. 6.1 shows the running traces generated in deep groove bearings under various load conditions. Figs. 6.1 (a) through (h) show several different running traces that result in shortened life due to their adverse effect on the bearings.

Similarly, Fig. 6.2 shows different roller bearing running traces: Fig. 6.2 (i) shows the outer ring running trace when a radial load is properly applied to a cylindrical roller bearing which has a load on a rotating inner ring. Fig. 6.2 (j) shows the running trace in the case of shaft bending or relative inclination between the inner and outer rings. This misalignment leads to the generation of slightly shaded (full) bands in the width direction. Traces are diagonal at the beginning and end of the loading zone. For double-row tapered roller bearings where a single load is applied to the rotating inner ring, Fig. 6.2 (k) shows the running trace on the outer ring under radial load while Fig. 6.2 (l) shows the running trace on the outer ring under axial load. When misalignment exists between the inner and the outer rings, then the application of a radial load causes running traces to appear on the outer ring as shown in Fig. 6.2 (m).
7. Bearing Damage and Measures

In general, if rolling bearings are used correctly, they will survive to their predicted fatigue life. Bearings, however, often fail prematurely due to avoidable mistakes. In contrast to fatigue life, this premature failure is caused by improper mounting, mishandling, poor lubrication, entry of foreign matter or abnormal heat generation.

For example, one cause of premature failure is rib scoring which is due to insufficient lubrication, use of improper lubricant, faulty lubrication system, entry of foreign matter, bearing mounting error, excessive deflection of the shaft or some combination of these. If all conditions are known for the times both before and after the failure, including the application, the operating conditions, and environment, then a measure can be determined by studying the nature of the failure and its probable causes. A successful measure will reduce similar failures or prevent them from happening again.

Sections 7.1 through 7.18 give various types of bearing damage and measures. Please consult these sections when trying to determine the cause of bearing damage. By the way, the bearing diagnostic chart in the Appendix may be useful as a quick reference guide.

### 7.1 Flaking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flaking occurs when small pieces of bearing material are split off from the smooth surface of the raceway or rolling elements due to rolling fatigue, thereby creating regions having rough and coarse texture.</td>
<td>Excessive load</td>
<td>• Reconfirm the bearing application and check the load conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moment load</td>
<td>Poor mounting (misalignment)</td>
<td>• Improve the mounting method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry of foreign debris, water penetration</td>
<td>Poor lubrication, improper lubricant</td>
<td>• Improve the sealing mechanism, prevent rusting during non-running</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsuitable bearing clearance</td>
<td>Improper precision for shaft or housing, unevenness in housing rigidity, large shaft bending</td>
<td>• Use a lubricant with a proper viscosity, improve the lubrication method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progression from rust, corrosion pits, smearing, dents (Brinelling)</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Check the precision of shaft and housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Check the bearing internal clearance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Photo 7-1-1**
Part: Inner ring of an angular contact ball bearing
Symptom: Flaking occurs around half of the circumference of the raceway surface
Cause: Poor lubrication due to entry of cutting coolant into bearing

**Photo 7-1-2**
Part: Inner ring of an angular contact ball bearing
Symptom: Flaking occurs diagonally along raceway
Cause: Poor alignment between shaft and housing during mounting

**Photo 7-1-3**
Part: Inner ring of deep groove ball bearing
Symptom: Flaking of raceway at ball pitch
Cause: Dents due to shock load during mounting

**Photo 7-1-4**
Part: Inner ring of an angular contact ball bearing
Symptom: Flaking of raceway at ball pitch
Cause: Dents due to shock load while stationary
7.2 Peeling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dull or cloudy spots appear on surface along with light wear. From such dull spots, tiny cracks are generated downward to a depth of 5 to 10 μm. Small particles fall off and minor flaking occurs widely.</td>
<td>Unsuitable lubricant Entry of debris into lubricant Rough surface due to poor lubrication Surface roughness of mating rolling part</td>
<td>● Select a proper lubricant ● Improve the sealing mechanism ● Improve the surface finish of the rolling mating parts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Photo 7-1-5
Part: Outer ring of Photo 7-1-4
Symptom: Flaking of raceway surface at ball pitch
Cause: Dents due to shock load while stationary

Photo 7-1-6
Part: Balls of Photo 7-1-4
Symptom: Flaking of ball surface
Cause: Dents due to shock load while stationary

Photo 7-1-7
Part: Inner ring of a spherical roller bearing
Symptom: Flaking of only one raceway over its entire circumference
Cause: Excessive axial load

Photo 7-1-8
Part: Outer ring of Photo 7-1-7
Symptom: Flaking of only one raceway over its entire circumference
Cause: Excessive axial load

Photo 7-2-1
Part: Inner ring of a spherical roller bearing
Symptom: Round shaped peeling pattern occurs on the center of the raceway surface
Cause: Poor lubrication

Photo 7-2-2
Part: Enlargement of pattern in Photo 7-2-1

Photo 7-2-3
Part: Convex rollers of Photo 7-2-1
Symptom: Premature flaking occurs axially on the rolling surfaces
Cause: Scratches caused during improper mounting

Photo 7-2-4
Part: Outer ring of a spherical roller bearing
Symptom: Peeling occurs near the shoulder of the raceway over the entire circumference
Cause: Poor lubrication
### 7.3 Scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scoring is surface damage due to accumulated small seizures caused by sliding under improper lubrication or under severe operating conditions. Linear damage appears circumferentially on the raceway surface and rolling surface. Cycloidal shaped damage on the roller end. Scoring on rib surface contacting roller end.</td>
<td>Excessive load, excessive preload Poor lubrication Particles are caught in the surface inclination of inner and outer rings Shaft bending Poor precision of the shaft and housing</td>
<td>● Check the size of the load ● Adjust the preload ● Improve the lubricant and the lubrication method ● Check the precision of the shaft and housing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Photo 7-3-1**  
Part: Inner ring of a spherical roller bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on large rib face of inner ring  
Cause: Roller slipping due to sudden acceleration and deceleration

**Photo 7-3-2**  
Part: Convex rollers of Photo 7-3-1  
Symptom: Scoring on roller end face  
Cause: Roller slipping due to sudden acceleration and deceleration

**Photo 7-3-3**  
Part: Inner ring of a tapered roller thrust bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on the face of inner ring  
Cause: Worn particles become mixed with lubricant, and breakdown of oil film occurs due to excessive load

**Photo 7-3-4**  
Part: Rollers of a double-row cylindrical roller bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on the roller end face  
Cause: Poor lubrication and excessive axial load

**Photo 7-3-5**  
Part: Inner ring of a spherical thrust roller bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on the rib face of inner ring  
Cause: Debris, which is caught in surface, and excessive axial loading

**Photo 7-3-6**  
Part: Convex rollers of Photo 7-3-5  
Symptom: Scoring on the roller end face  
Cause: Debris, which is caught in surface, and excessive axial loading

**Photo 7-3-7**  
Part: Cage of a deep groove ball bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on the pressed-steel cage pockets  
Cause: Entry of debris

---

7.3 Scoring

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
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<td>Excessive load, excessive preload Poor lubrication Particles are caught in the surface inclination of inner and outer rings Shaft bending Poor precision of the shaft and housing</td>
<td>● Check the size of the load ● Adjust the preload ● Improve the lubricant and the lubrication method ● Check the precision of the shaft and housing</td>
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---

**Photo 7-3-1**  
Part: Inner ring of a spherical roller bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on large rib face of inner ring  
Cause: Roller slipping due to sudden acceleration and deceleration

**Photo 7-3-2**  
Part: Convex rollers of Photo 7-3-1  
Symptom: Scoring on roller end face  
Cause: Roller slipping due to sudden acceleration and deceleration

**Photo 7-3-3**  
Part: Inner ring of a tapered roller thrust bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on the face of inner ring  
Cause: Worn particles become mixed with lubricant, and breakdown of oil film occurs due to excessive load

**Photo 7-3-4**  
Part: Rollers of a double-row cylindrical roller bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on the roller end face  
Cause: Poor lubrication and excessive axial load

**Photo 7-3-5**  
Part: Inner ring of a spherical thrust roller bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on the rib face of inner ring  
Cause: Debris, which is caught in surface, and excessive axial loading

**Photo 7-3-6**  
Part: Convex rollers of Photo 7-3-5  
Symptom: Scoring on the roller end face  
Cause: Debris, which is caught in surface, and excessive axial loading

**Photo 7-3-7**  
Part: Cage of a deep groove ball bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on the pressed-steel cage pockets  
Cause: Entry of debris

---

7.3 Scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
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<th>Measures</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Excessive load, excessive preload Poor lubrication Particles are caught in the surface inclination of inner and outer rings Shaft bending Poor precision of the shaft and housing</td>
<td>● Check the size of the load ● Adjust the preload ● Improve the lubricant and the lubrication method ● Check the precision of the shaft and housing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Photo 7-3-1**  
Part: Inner ring of a spherical roller bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on large rib face of inner ring  
Cause: Roller slipping due to sudden acceleration and deceleration

**Photo 7-3-2**  
Part: Convex rollers of Photo 7-3-1  
Symptom: Scoring on roller end face  
Cause: Roller slipping due to sudden acceleration and deceleration

**Photo 7-3-3**  
Part: Inner ring of a tapered roller thrust bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on the face of inner ring  
Cause: Worn particles become mixed with lubricant, and breakdown of oil film occurs due to excessive load

**Photo 7-3-4**  
Part: Rollers of a double-row cylindrical roller bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on the roller end face  
Cause: Poor lubrication and excessive axial load

**Photo 7-3-5**  
Part: Inner ring of a spherical thrust roller bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on the rib face of inner ring  
Cause: Debris, which is caught in surface, and excessive axial loading

**Photo 7-3-6**  
Part: Convex rollers of Photo 7-3-5  
Symptom: Scoring on the roller end face  
Cause: Debris, which is caught in surface, and excessive axial loading

**Photo 7-3-7**  
Part: Cage of a deep groove ball bearing  
Symptom: Scoring on the pressed-steel cage pockets  
Cause: Entry of debris
### 7.4 Smearing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smearing is surface damage which occurs from a collection of small seizures between bearing components caused by oil film rupture and/or sliding. Surface roughening occurs along with melting.</td>
<td>High speed and light load&lt;br&gt;Sudden acceleration/deceleration&lt;br&gt;Improper lubricant&lt;br&gt;Entry of water</td>
<td>• Improve the preload&lt;br&gt;• Improve the bearing clearance&lt;br&gt;• Use a lubricant with good oil film formation ability&lt;br&gt;• Improve the lubrication method&lt;br&gt;• Improve the sealing mechanism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Photo 7-4-1
- **Part:** Inner ring of a cylindrical roller bearing  
- **Symptom:** Smearing occurs circumferentially on raceway surface  
- **Cause:** Roller slipping due to excessive grease filling

#### Photo 7-4-2
- **Part:** Outer ring of Photo 7-4-1  
- **Symptom:** Smearing occurs circumferentially on raceway surface  
- **Cause:** Roller slipping due to excessive grease filling

#### Photo 7-4-3
- **Part:** Inner ring of a spherical roller bearing  
- **Symptom:** Smearing occurs circumferentially on raceway surface  
- **Cause:** Poor lubrication

#### Photo 7-4-4
- **Part:** Outer ring of Photo 7-4-3  
- **Symptom:** Smearing occurs circumferentially on raceway surface  
- **Cause:** Poor lubrication

#### Photo 7-4-5
- **Part:** Inner ring of a spherical roller bearing  
- **Symptom:** Partial smearing occurs circumferentially on raceway surface  
- **Cause:** Poor lubrication

#### Photo 7-4-6
- **Part:** Outer ring of Photo 7-4-5  
- **Symptom:** Partial smearing occurs circumferentially on raceway surface  
- **Cause:** Poor lubrication

#### Photo 7-4-7
- **Part:** Convex rollers of Photo 7-4-5  
- **Symptom:** Smearing occurs at the center of the rolling surface  
- **Cause:** Poor lubrication

---

**7.4 Smearing**

**Damage Condition**

- Smearing
- Partial smearing
- Convex smearing

**Possible Cause**

- High speed and light load
- Sudden acceleration/deceleration
- Improper lubricant
- Entry of water
- Poor lubrication
- Entry of water
- Improper lubricant
- Improper lubrication

**Measures**

- Improve the preload
- Improve the bearing clearance
- Use a lubricant with good oil film formation ability
- Improve the lubrication method
- Improve the sealing mechanism
- Improve the lubrication method
- Improve the sealing mechanism

**High speed and light load**

- Sudden acceleration/deceleration
- Improper lubricant
- Entry of water

**Measures**

- Improve the preload
- Improve the bearing clearance
- Use a lubricant with good oil film formation ability
- Improve the lubrication method
- Improve the sealing mechanism

**Poor lubrication**

- Entry of water
- Improper lubricant
- Improper lubrication

**Measures**

- Improve the preload
- Improve the bearing clearance
- Use a lubricant with good oil film formation ability
- Improve the lubrication method
- Improve the sealing mechanism

---

**Entry of water**

- Improper lubrication

**Measures**

- Improve the preload
- Improve the bearing clearance
- Use a lubricant with good oil film formation ability
- Improve the lubrication method
- Improve the sealing mechanism
# 7.5 Fracture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fracture refers to small pieces which were broken off due to excessive load or shock load acting locally on a part of the roller corner or rib of a raceway ring.</td>
<td>Impact during mounting</td>
<td>Improve the mounting method (Shrink fit, use of proper tools)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excessive load</td>
<td>Reconsider the loading conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor handling such as dropping</td>
<td>Provide enough back-up and support for the bearing rib</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 7.5.1 Fracture

**Photo 7-5-1**
- **Part:** Inner ring of a double-row cylindrical roller bearing
- **Symptom:** Chipping occurs at the center rib
- **Cause:** Excessive load during mounting

**Photo 7-5-2**
- **Part:** Inner ring of a tapered roller bearing
- **Symptom:** Fracture occurs at the cone back face rib
- **Cause:** Large shock during mounting

**Photo 7-5-3**
- **Part:** Inner ring of a spherical thrust roller bearing
- **Symptom:** Fracture occurs at the large rib
- **Cause:** Repeated load

**Photo 7-5-4**
- **Part:** Outer ring of a solid type needle roller bearing
- **Symptom:** Fracture occurs at the outer ring rib
- **Cause:** Roller inclination due to excessive loading
  - Needle rollers are long compared to their diameter; Under excessive or uneven loading, rollers become inclined and push against the ribs.

# 7.6 Cracks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cracks in the raceway ring and rolling elements. Continued use under this condition leads to larger cracks or fractures.</td>
<td>Excessive interference</td>
<td>Correct the interference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excessive load, shock load</td>
<td>Check the load conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Progression of flaking</td>
<td>Improve the mounting method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heat generation and fretting caused by contact between mating parts and raceway ring</td>
<td>Use an appropriate shaft shape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heat generation due to creep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor taper angle of tapered shaft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor cylindricality of shaft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interference with bearing chamfer due to a large shaft corner radius</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 7.6.1 Cracks

**Photo 7-6-1**
- **Part:** Outer ring of a double-row cylindrical roller bearing
- **Symptom:** Thermal cracks occur on the outer ring side face
- **Cause:** Abnormal heat generation due to contact sliding between mating part and face of outer ring

**Photo 7-6-2**
- **Part:** Roller of a tapered roller thrust bearing
- **Symptom:** Thermal cracks occur at large end face of roller
- **Cause:** Heat generation due to sliding with the inner ring rib under poor lubrication

**Photo 7-6-3**
- **Part:** Outer ring of a double-row cylindrical roller bearing
- **Symptom:** Cracks propagated outward in the axial and circumferential directions from the flaking origin on the raceway surface
- **Cause:** Flaking from a flaw due to shock

**Photo 7-6-4**
- **Part:** Outer ring of a double-row cylindrical roller bearing
- **Symptom:** Thermal cracks occur on the outer ring side face
- **Cause:** Abnormal heat generation due to contact sliding between mating part and face of outer ring

**Photo 7-6-5**
- **Part:** Roller of a tapered roller thrust bearing
- **Symptom:** Thermal cracks occur at large end face of roller
- **Cause:** Heat generation due to sliding with the inner ring rib under poor lubrication
### 7.7 Cage Damage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cage damage includes cage deformation, fracture, and wear</td>
<td>Poor mounting (Bearing misalignment)</td>
<td>● Check the mounting method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fracture of cage pillar</td>
<td>Poor handling</td>
<td>● Check the temperature, rotation, and load conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deformation of side face</td>
<td>Large moment load</td>
<td>● Reduce the vibration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wear of pocket surface</td>
<td>Shock and large vibration</td>
<td>● Select a cage type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wear of guide surface</td>
<td>Excessive rotation speed, sudden acceleration and deceleration</td>
<td>● Select a lubrication method and lubricant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

#### Photo 7-6-4
**Part:** Outer ring of a double-row cylindrical roller bearing used for outer ring rolling (Outer ring rotation)
**Symptoms:** Flat wear and heat generation due to non-rotation of the outer ring
**Symptom:** Outside surface cracks developing on the outer ring

#### Photo 7-6-5
**Part:** Raceway surface of outer ring in Photo 7-6-4
**Symptom:** Outside surface cracks developing on the raceway

#### Photo 7-6-6
**Part:** Inner ring of a spherical roller bearing
**Symptoms:** Axial cracks occur on raceway surface
**Cause:** Large fitting stress due to temperature difference between shaft and inner ring
**Symptom:** Origin is directly beneath the raceway surface

#### Photo 7-6-7
**Part:** Cross section of a fractured inner ring in Photo 7-6-6
**Symptom:** Origin is directly beneath the raceway surface

#### Photo 7-7-1
**Part:** Cage of a deep groove ball bearing
**Symptom:** Fracture of pressed-steel cage-pocket
**Cause:** Abnormal load action on cage due to misaligned mounting between inner and outer rings

#### Photo 7-7-2
**Part:** Cage of an angular contact ball bearing
**Symptom:** Pocket pillar fractures from a cast iron machined cage
**Cause:** Abnormal load action on cage due to misaligned mounting between inner and outer rings

#### Photo 7-7-3
**Part:** Cage of an angular contact ball bearing
**Symptom:** Fracture of machined high-tension brass cage

#### Photo 7-7-4
**Part:** Cage of a tapered roller bearing
**Symptom:** Pillar fractures of pressed-steel cage
7.8 Denting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| When debris such as small metallic particles are caught in the rolling contact zone, denting occurs on the raceway surface or rolling element surface. Denting can occur at the rolling element pitch interval if there is a shock during the mounting (Brinell dents). | Debris such as metallic particles are caught in the surface | ● Wash the housing  
● Improve the sealing mechanism  
● Filter the lubrication oil  
● Improve the mounting and handling methods |

Debris such as metallic particles are caught in the surface of the bearing. Excessive load and shock during transport or mounting can cause denting. Debris such as metallic particles are caught in the surface of the bearing. Excessive load and shock during transport or mounting can cause denting.

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### 7.9 Pitting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The pitted surface has a dull luster which appears on the rolling element surface or raceway surface.</td>
<td>Debris becomes caught in the lubricant Exposure to moisture in the atmosphere Poor lubrication</td>
<td>● Improve the sealing mechanism ● Filter the lubrication oil thoroughly ● Use a proper lubricant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7.10 Wear

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wear is surface deterioration due to sliding friction at the surface of the raceway, rolling elements, roller end faces, rib face, cage pockets, etc.</td>
<td>Entry of debris Progression from rust and electrical corrosion Poor lubrication Sliding due to irregular motion of rolling elements</td>
<td>● Improve the sealing mechanism ● Clean the housing ● Filter the lubrication oil thoroughly ● Check the lubricant and lubrication method ● Prevent misalignment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Photo 7-9-1**
- **Part:** Outer ring of a slewing bearing
- **Symptom:** Pitting occurs on the raceway surface
- **Cause:** Rust at bottoms of indentations

**Photo 7-9-2**
- **Part:** Ball of Photo 7-9-1
- **Symptom:** Pitting occurs on the rolling element surface

**Photo 7-10-1**
- **Part:** Inner ring of a cylindrical roller bearing
- **Symptom:** Many pits occur due to electrical corrosion and wave-shaped wear on raceway surface
- **Cause:** Electrical corrosion

**Photo 7-10-2**
- **Part:** Outer ring of a spherical roller bearing
- **Symptom:** Wear having a wavy or concave-and-convex texture on loaded side of raceway surface
- **Cause:** Entry of debris under repeated vibration while stationary

**Photo 7-10-3**
- **Part:** Inner ring of a double-row tapered roller bearing
- **Symptom:** Fretting wear of raceway and stepped wear on the rib face
- **Cause:** Fretting progression due to excessive load while stationary

**Photo 7-10-4**
- **Part:** Tapered rollers of Photo 7-10-3
- **Symptom:** Stepped wear on the roller head and face
- **Cause:** Fretting progression due to excessive load while stationary
### 7.11 Fretting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wear occurs due to repeated sliding between the two surfaces. Fretting occurs at fitting surface and also at contact area between raceway ring and rolling elements. Fretting corrosion is another term used to describe the reddish brown or black worn particles.</td>
<td>Poor lubrication Vibration with a small amplitude Insufficient interference</td>
<td>Use a proper lubricant Apply a preload Check the interference fit Apply a film of lubricant to the fitting surface</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7.12 False Brinelling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Among the different types of fretting, false brinelling is the occurrence of hollow spots that resemble brinell dents, and are due to wear caused by vibration and swaying at the contact points between the rolling elements and raceway.</td>
<td>Oscillation and vibration of a stationary bearing during such times as transporting Oscillating motion with a small amplitude Poor lubrication</td>
<td>Secure the shaft and housing during transporting Transport with the inner and outer rings packed separately Reduce the vibration by preloading Use a proper lubricant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Photo 7-11-1**
- **Part:** Inner ring of a deep groove ball bearing
- **Symptom:** Fretting occurs on the bore surface
- **Cause:** Vibration

**Photo 7-11-2**
- **Part:** Inner ring of an angular contact ball bearing
- **Symptom:** Notable fretting occurs over entire circumference of bore surface
- **Cause:** Insufficient interference fit

**Photo 7-11-3**
- **Part:** Outer ring of a double-row cylindrical roller bearing
- **Symptom:** Fretting occurs on the raceway surface at roller pitch intervals

**Photo 7-12-1**
- **Part:** Inner ring of a deep groove ball bearing
- **Symptom:** False brinelling occurs on the raceway
- **Cause:** Vibration from an external source while stationary

**Photo 7-12-2**
- **Part:** Outer ring of Photo 7-12-1
- **Symptom:** False brinelling occurs on the raceway
- **Cause:** Vibration from an external source while stationary

**Photo 7-12-3**
- **Part:** Outer ring of a thrust ball bearing
- **Symptom:** False brinelling of raceway surface at ball pitch
- **Cause:** Repeated vibration with a small oscillating angle

**Photo 7-12-4**
- **Part:** Rollers of a cylindrical roller bearing
- **Symptom:** False brinelling occurs on rolling surface
- **Cause:** Vibration from an external source while stationary
### 7.13 Creep

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creep</td>
<td>Insufficient interference or loose fit</td>
<td>Check the interference, and prevent rotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Correct the sleeve tightening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Study the shaft and housing precision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Preload in the axial direction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tighten the raceway ring side face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Apply adhesive to the fitting surface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Apply a film of lubricant to the fitting surface</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7.14 Seizure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seizure</td>
<td>Poor lubrication</td>
<td>Study the lubricant and lubrication method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excessive load (Excessive preload)</td>
<td>Reinvestigate the suitability of the bearing type selected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excessive rotational speed</td>
<td>Study the preload, bearing clearance, and fitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excessively small internal clearance</td>
<td>Improve the sealing mechanism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Entry of water and debris</td>
<td>Check the precision of the shaft and housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor precision of shaft and housing, excessive shaft bending</td>
<td>Improve the mounting method</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Photos
- **Photo 7-13-1**: Inner ring of a spherical roller bearing
- **Photo 7-13-2**: Outer ring of a spherical roller bearing
- **Photo 7-14-1**: Inner ring of a spherical roller bearing
- **Photo 7-14-2**: Convex rollers of Photo 7-14-1
- **Photo 7-14-3**: Inner ring of an angular contact ball bearing
- **Photo 7-14-4**: Outer ring in Photo 7-14-3
- **Photo 7-14-5**: Balls and cage of Photo 7-14-3

### Parts and Symptoms
- **Part**: Inner ring of a spherical roller bearing
  - **Symptom**: Creep accompanied by scoring of bore surface
  - **Cause**: Insufficient interference

- **Part**: Outer ring of a spherical roller bearing
  - **Symptom**: Creep occurs over entire circumference of outside surface
  - **Cause**: Loose fit between outer ring and housing

- **Part**: Inner ring of an angular contact ball bearing
  - **Symptom**: Raceway is discolored and melted. Worn particles from the cage were rolled and attached to the raceway
  - **Cause**: Insufficient lubrication

- **Part**: Convex rollers of Photo 7-14-1
  - **Symptom**: Discoloration and melting of roller rolling surface, adhesion of worn particles from cage
  - **Cause**: Insufficient lubrication

- **Part**: Inner ring of an angular contact ball bearing
  - **Symptom**: Raceway discoloration, melting occurs at ball pitch intervals
  - **Cause**: Excessive preload

- **Part**: Outer ring in Photo 7-14-3
  - **Symptom**: Raceway discoloration, melting occurs at ball pitch intervals
  - **Cause**: Excessive preload

- **Part**: Balls and cage of Photo 7-14-3
  - **Symptom**: Cage is damaged by melting, balls become discolored and melted
  - **Cause**: Excessive preload
### 7.15 Electrical Corrosion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electrical current passes through a bearing, arcing and burning occur through the thin oil film at points of contact between the race and rolling elements. The points of contact are melted locally to form “fluting” or groove-like corrugations which are seen by the naked eye. The magnification of these grooves will reveal crater-like depressions which indicate melting by arcing.</td>
<td>Electrical potential difference between inner and outer rings, high frequency that is generated by instruments or substrates when used near a bearing.</td>
<td>Design electric circuits which prevent current flow through the bearings. Insulation of the bearing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Measures
- Improve the sealing mechanism
- Insulation of the bearing
- Design electric circuits which prevent current flow through the bearings

### 7.16 Rust and Corrosion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bearing rust and corrosion are pits on the surface of rings and rolling elements and may occur at the rolling element pitch on the rings or over the entire bearing surfaces.</td>
<td>Entry of corrosive gas or water, improper lubricant, high temperature and high humidity while stationary, poor rust preventive treatment during transporting, improper storage conditions, improper handling.</td>
<td>Improve the sealing mechanism. Study the lubrication method. Anti-rust treatment for periods of non-running. Improve the storage methods. Improve the handling method.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Information
- **Photo 7-15-1**
  - Part: Inner ring of a tapered roller bearing
  - Symptom: Striped pattern of corrosion occurs on the raceway surface
- **Photo 7-15-2**
  - Part: Tapered rollers in Photo 7-15-1
  - Symptom: Striped pattern of corrosion occurs on the rolling surface
- **Photo 7-15-3**
  - Part: Inner ring of a cylindrical roller bearing
  - Symptom: Belt pattern of electrical corrosion accompanied by pits on the raceway surface
- **Photo 7-15-4**
  - Part: Balls of a groove ball bearing
  - Symptom: Electrical corrosion has a dark color that covers the entire ball surface
- **Photo 7-15-5**
  - Part: Inner ring of a deep groove ball bearing
  - Symptom: Fluting occurs on the raceway surface (High frequency)
- **Photo 7-15-6**
  - Part: Outer ring of a deep groove ball bearing
  - Symptom: Fluting occurs on the raceway surface (High frequency)
- **Photo 7-16-1**
  - Part: Outer ring of a cylindrical roller bearing
  - Symptom: Rust on the rib face and raceway surface
  - Cause: Poor lubrication due to water entry
- **Photo 7-16-2**
  - Part: Outer ring of a slewing ring
  - Symptom: Rust on raceway surface at ball pitch
  - Cause: Moisture condensation during stationary periods
- **Photo 7-16-3**
  - Part: Inner ring of a spherical roller bearing
  - Symptom: Rust on raceway surface at roller pitch
  - Cause: Entry of water into lubricant
- **Photo 7-16-4**
  - Part: Rollers of a spherical roller bearing
  - Symptom: Pit-shaped rust on rolling contact surface. Corroded portions.
  - Cause: Moisture condensation during storage
### 7.17 Mounting Flaws

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Straight line scratches on surface of raceways or rolling elements caused during mounting or dismounting.</td>
<td>Inclination of inner and outer rings during mounting or dismounting.</td>
<td>Use appropriate jig and tool. Avoid a shock load by use of a press machine. Center the relative mating parts during mounting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7.18 Discoloration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Condition</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discoloration of cage, rolling elements, and raceway ring occurs due to a reaction with lubricant and high temperature.</td>
<td>Poor lubrication Oil stain due to a reaction with lubricant High temperature.</td>
<td>Improve the lubrication method.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Photos
- **Photo 7-17-1**
  - Part: Inner ring of a cylindrical roller bearing
  - Symptom: Axial scratches on raceway surface
  - Cause: Inclination of inner and outer rings during mounting

- **Photo 7-17-2**
  - Part: Outer ring of a double-row cylindrical roller bearing
  - Symptom: Axial scratches at roller pitch intervals on raceway surface
  - Cause: Inclination of inner and outer rings during mounting

- **Photo 7-17-3**
  - Part: Rollers of a cylindrical roller bearing
  - Symptom: Axial scratches on rolling surface
  - Cause: Inclination of inner and outer rings during mounting

- **Photo 7-18-1**
  - Part: Inner ring of an angular contact ball bearing
  - Symptom: Blush or purplish discoloration on raceway surface
  - Cause: Heat generation due to poor lubrication

- **Photo 7-18-2**
  - Part: Inner ring of a 4-point contact ball bearing
  - Symptom: Blush or purplish discoloration on raceway surface
  - Cause: Heat generation due to poor lubrication
## Appendix Bearing Diagnostic Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage name</th>
<th>Location (Phenomenon)</th>
<th>Cause</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stock Shipping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Flaking</td>
<td>Raceway, Rolling surface</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Peeling</td>
<td>Raceway, Rolling surface</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bearing outside surface (Rolling contact)</td>
<td>○*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Scoring</td>
<td>Roller end face surface, Rib surface</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cage guide surface, Pocket surface</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Smearing</td>
<td>Raceway, Rolling surface</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Fracture</td>
<td>Raceway collar, Rollers</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Cracks</td>
<td>Raceway rings, Rolling elements</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rib surface, Roller end face, Cage guide surface (Thermal crack)</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Cage damage</td>
<td>(Deformation), (Fracture)</td>
<td>(Wear)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Denting</td>
<td>Raceway, Rolling surface, (Innumerable small dents)</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raceway (Debris on the rolling element pitch)</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Pitting</td>
<td>Raceway, Rolling surface</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Wear</td>
<td>Raceway, Rolling surface, Rib surface, Roller end face</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Fretting</td>
<td>Raceway, Rolling surface</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bearing outside &amp; bore, side surface (Contact with housing and shaft)</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. False brinelling</td>
<td>Raceway, Rolling surface</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Creep</td>
<td>Fitting surface</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Seizure</td>
<td>Raceway ring, Rolling element, Cage</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Electrical corrosion</td>
<td>Raceway, Rolling surface</td>
<td>○*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Rust and corrosion</td>
<td>Raceway ring, Rolling element, Cage</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Mounting flaws</td>
<td>Raceway, Rolling surface</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Discoloration</td>
<td>Raceway ring, Rolling element, Cage</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remarks: This chart is not comprehensive. It lists only the more commonly occurring damages, causes, and locations.
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