

Classification and Characteristics of Rolling Bearings

1.1 Rolling bearing construction

Most rolling bearings consist of rings with raceway (inner ring and outer ring), rolling elements (either balls or rollers) and cage. The cage separates the rolling elements at regular intervals, holds them in place within the inner and outer raceways, and allows them to rotate freely.

Raceway (inner ring and outer ring) or raceway washer 1)

The surface on which rolling elements roll is called the "raceway surface". The load placed on the bearing is supported by this contact surface.

Generally the inner ring fits on the axle or shaft and the outer ring on the housing.

Note 1: The raceway of thrust bearing is called "raceway washer," the inner ring is called the "shaft raceway washer" and the outer ring is called the "housing raceway washer."

Rolling elements

Rolling elements classify in two types: balls and rollers. Rollers come in four types: cylindrical, needle, tapered, and spherical.

Balls geometrically contact with the raceway surfaces of the inner and outer rings at "points", while the contact surface of rollers is a "line" contact.

Theoretically, rolling bearings are so constructed as to allow the rolling elements to rotate orbitally while also rotating on their own axes at the same time.

Cages

Cages function to maintain rolling elements at a uniform pitch so load is never applied directly to the cage and to prevent the rolling elements from falling out when handling the bearing. Types of cages differ according to way they are manufactured, and include pressed, machined and formed cages.

1.2 Classification of rolling bearings

Rolling bearings divide into two main classifications: ball bearings and roller bearings. Ball bearings are classified according to their bearing ring configurations: deep groove type and angular contact type. Roller bearings on the other hand are classified according to the shape of the rollers: cylindrical, needle, tapered and spherical. Rolling bearings can be further classified according to the direction in which the load is applied; radial bearings carry radial loads and thrust bearings carry axial loads. Other classification methods include: 1) number of rolling rows (single, double, or 4-row), 2) separable and non-separable, in which either the inner ring or the outer ring can be detached.

There are also bearings designed for special applications, such as: railway car journal roller bearings, ball screw support bearings, turntable bearings, as well as linear motion bearings (linear ball bearings, linear roller bearings and linear flat roller bearings). Types of rolling bearings are given in Fig. 1.2.

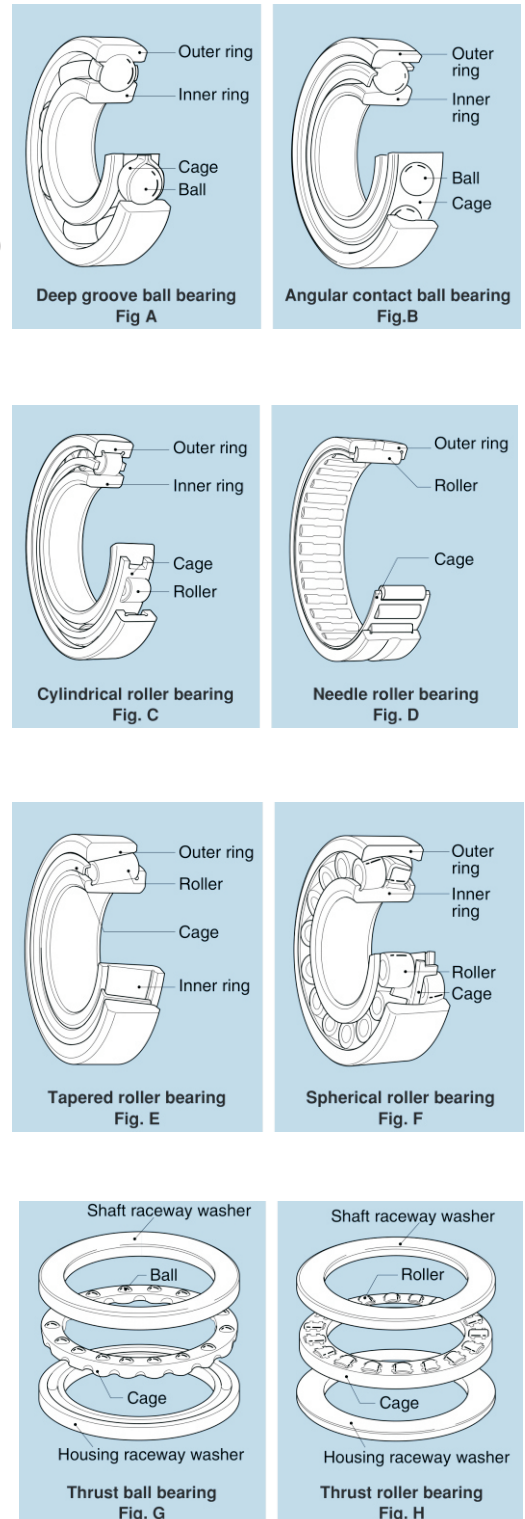


Fig. 1.1 Rolling bearing

Classification and Characteristics of Rolling Bearings

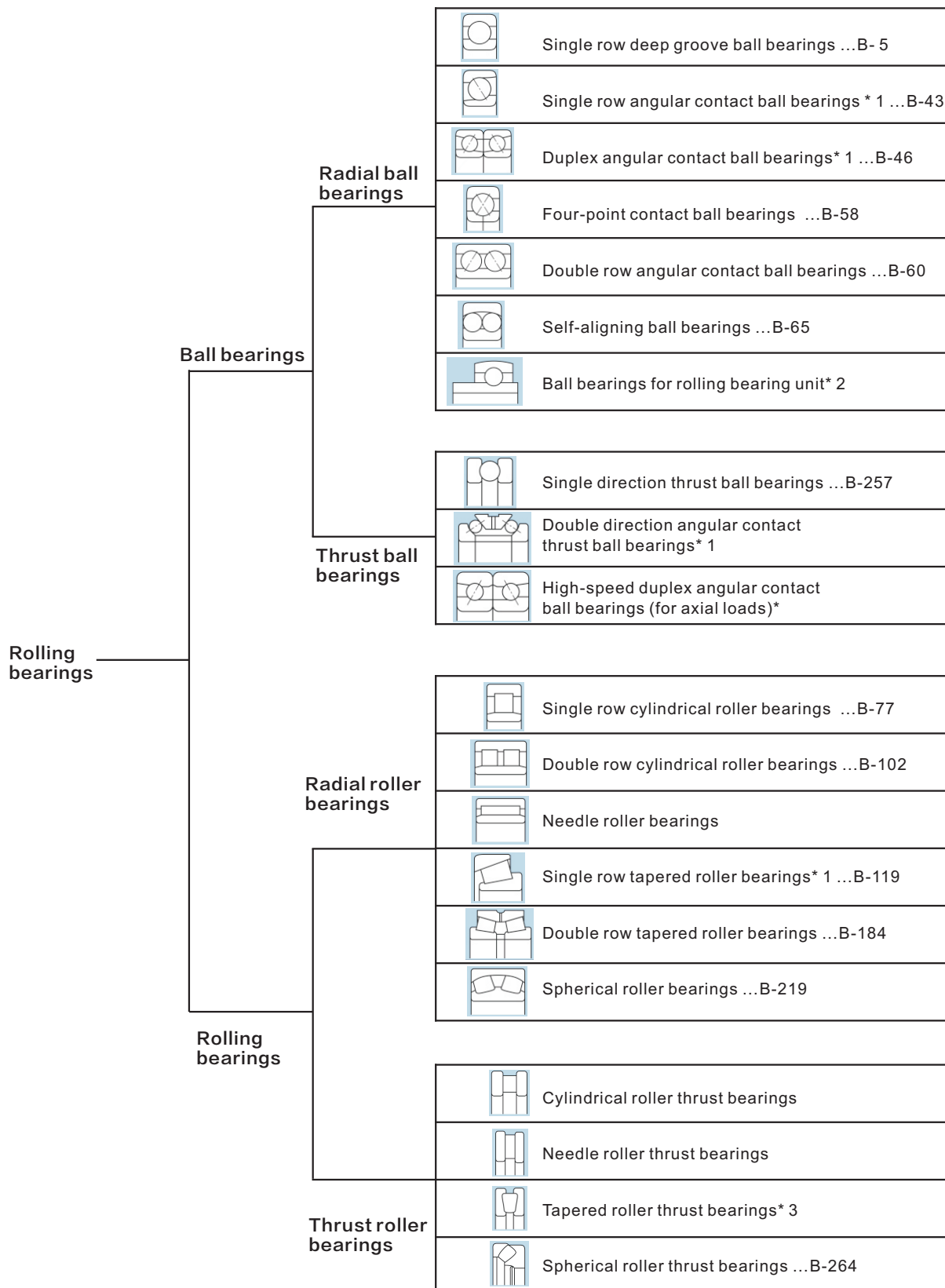


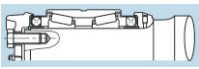



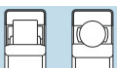
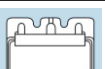






Fig. 1.2 Classification of rolling bearings

Classification and Characteristics of Rolling Bearings

Special application bearings

	Ultra thin wall type ball bearings
	Ball screw support bearings* 1
	Railway car journal roller bearings
	Ultra-clean vacuum bearings
	SL-type cylindrical roller bearings
	Rubber molded bearings
	Insulated bearings MEGAOHM TM series
	Clearance adjusting needle roller bearings* 4
	Complex bearings* 4
	Connecting rod needle roller bearings with cage* 4
	Cam followers* 4
	Roller followers* 4

Classification and Characteristics of Rolling Bearings

1.3 Characteristics of rolling bearings

1.3.1 Characteristics of rolling bearings

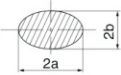
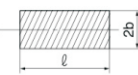
Rolling bearings come in many shapes and varieties, each with its own distinctive features. However, when compared with sliding bearings, rolling bearings all have the following advantages:

- (1) The starting friction coefficient is lower and there is little difference between this and the dynamic friction coefficient.
 - (2) They are internationally standardized, interchangeable and readily obtainable.
 - (3) They are easy to lubricate and consume less lubricant.
 - (4) As a general rule, one bearing can carry both radial and axial loads at the same time.
 - (5) May be used in either high or low temperature applications.
 - (6) Bearing rigidity can be improved by preloading.
- Construction, classes, and special features of rolling bearings are fully described in the boundary dimensions and bearing numbering system section.

1.3.2 Ball bearings and roller bearings

Table 1.1 gives a comparison of ball bearings and roller bearings.

Table 1.1 Comparison of ball bearings and roller bearings

	Ball bearings	Roller bearings
Contact with raceway		
Characteristics	<p>Point contact Contact surface is oval when load is applied.</p> <p>Because of point contact there is little rolling resistance, ball bearings are suitable for low torque and high-speed applications. They also have superior acoustic characteristics.</p>	<p>Linear contact Contact surface is generally rectangular when load is applied.</p> <p>Because of linear contact, rotational torque is higher for roller bearings than for ball bearings, but rigidity is also higher.</p>
Load capacity	Load capacity is lower for ball bearings, but radial bearings are capable of bearing loads in both the radial and axial direction.	Load capacity is higher for roller bearings. Cylindrical roller bearings equipped with a lip can bear slight radial loads. Combining tapered roller bearings in pairs enables the bearings to bear an axial load in both directions.

1.3.3 Radial and thrust bearings

Almost all types of rolling bearings can carry both radial and axial loads at the same time.

Generally, bearings with a contact angle of less than 45° have a much greater radial load capacity and are classed as radial bearings; whereas bearings which have a contact angle over 45° have a greater axial load capacity and are classed as thrust bearings. There are also bearings classed as complex bearings which combine the loading characteristics of both radial and thrust bearings.

1.3.4 Standard bearings and special bearings

The boundary dimensions and shapes of bearings conforming to international standards are interchangeable and can be obtained easily and economically over the world over. It is therefore better to design mechanical equipment to use standard bearings.

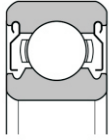
However, depending on the type of machine they are to be used in, and the expected application and function, a non-standard or specially designed bearing may be best to use. Bearings that are adapted to specific applications, and "unit bearings" which are integrated (built-in) into a machine's components, and other specially designed bearings are also available.

The feature of typical standard bearings are as follows:

Deep groove ball bearings

The most common type of bearing, deep groove ball bearings are widely used in a variety of fields. Deep groove ball bearings include shield bearings and sealed bearings with grease make them easier to use. Deep groove ball bearings also include bearings with a locating snap-ring to facilitate positioning when mounting the outer ring, expansion compensating bearings which absorb dimension variation of the bearing fitting surface due to housing temperature, and TAB bearings that are able to withstand contamination in the lubricating oil.

Table 1.2 Configuration of sealed ball bearings

Type and symbol	Shield
	Non-contact ZZ
Configuration	

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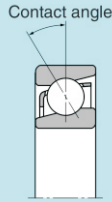
Angular contact ball bearings

The line that unites point of contact of the inner ring, ball and outer ring runs at a certain angle (contact angle) in the radial direction. Bearings are generally designed with three contact angles.

Angular contact ball bearings can support an axial load, but cannot be used by single bearing because of the contact angle. They must instead be used in pairs or in combinations.

Angular contact ball bearings include double row angular contact ball bearings for which the inner and outer rings are combined as a single unit. The contact angle of double row angular contact ball bearings is 25°. There are also four-point contact bearings that can support an axial load in both directions by themselves. These bearings however require caution because problems such as excessive temperature rise and wearing could occur depending on the load conditions.

Table 1.3 Contact angle and symbol



Contact angle and contact angle symbol			
Contact angle	15°	30°	40°
Contact angle symbol	C	A ¹⁾	B

Note 1: Contact angle symbol has been abbreviated as "A".

Table 1.4 Configuration of double row angular contact ball bearings

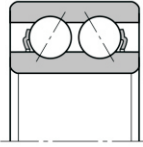
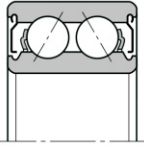
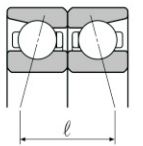
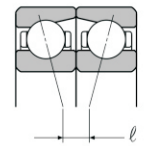
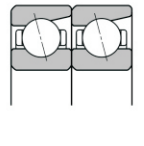
Type and symbol	Open	Shield ZZ
Configuration		

Table 1.5 Combinations of duplex angular contact ball bearings

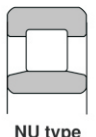
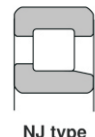
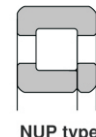
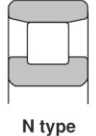
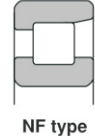
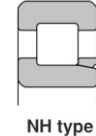
Type and symbol	Back-to-back duplex DB	Face-to-face duplex DF	Tandem duplex DT
Configuration			

Cylindrical roller bearings

Uses rollers for rolling elements, and therefore has a high load capacity. The rollers are guided by the ribs of the inner or outer ring. The inner and outer rings can be separated to facilitate assembly, and both can be fit with shaft or housing tightly. If there is no ribs, either the inner or the outer ring can move freely in the axial direction. Cylindrical roller bearings are therefore ideal to be used as so-called "free side bearings" that absorb shaft expansion. In the case where there is a ribs, the bearing can bear a slight axial load between the end of the rollers and the ribs. Cylindrical roller bearings include the HT type which modifies the shape of roller end face and ribs for increasing axial road capacity. And the E type with a special internal design for enhancing radial load capacity. The E type is standardized for small-diameter sizes. Table 1.6 shows the basic configuration for cylindrical roller bearings.

In addition to these, there are cylindrical roller bearings with multiple rows of rollers and the SL type of full complement roller bearing without cage.

Table 1.6 Types of cylindrical roller bearings

Type and Symbol	NU type N type	NJ type NF type	NUP type NH type (NJ+HJ)
Drawings			
			

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Tapered roller bearings

Tapered roller bearings are designed so the inner/outer ring raceway and apex of the tapered rollers intersect at one point on the bearing centerline. By receiving combined load from inner and outer ring, the rollers are pushed against the inner ring rib and guided by rib. Induced force is produced in the axial direction when a radial load is applied, so must be handled by using a pair of bearings. The inner ring with rollers and outer ring come apart, thus facilitating mounting with clearance or preload. Assembled clearance is however hard to manage and requires special attention. Tapered roller bearings are capable of supporting large loads in both the axial and radial directions.

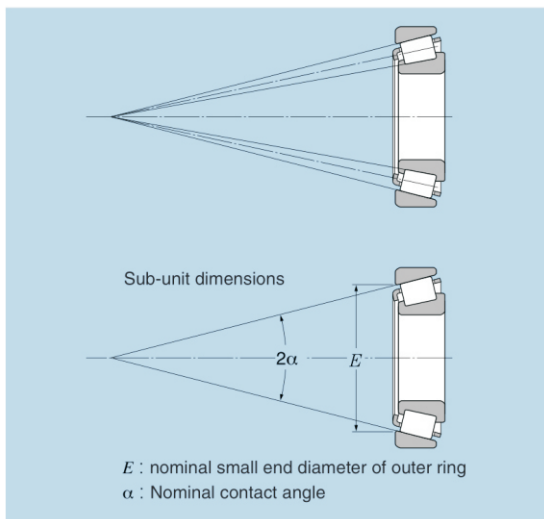


Fig. 1.3 Tapered roller bearings

Spherical roller bearings

There are variety of bearing types that differ according to internal design. Spherical roller bearings include type with tapered bore inner ring. The bearing can easily be mounted on a shaft by means of an adapter or withdrawal sleeve. The bearing is capable of supporting heavy loads, and is therefore often used for industrial machinery. When heavy axial load is applied to the bearing, the load on rollers of one row is not applied, and can cause problems. Attention must therefore be paid to operating conditions.

Table 1.7 Types of spherical roller bearings

Type	ULTAGE		B type	C type	213 type
	CC type	CA type			
Configuration					

Thrust bearings

There are many types of thrust bearings that differ according to shape of rolling element and application. Allowable rotational speed is generally low and special attention must be paid to lubrication. In addition to the ones given below, there are various types of thrust bearings for special applications. For details, see the catalog devoted to the concerned type of bearing.

Table 1.8 Types of thrust bearings

Type	Single direction thrust ball bearing	Thrust needle roller bearing
Configuration		 AXK type AS type raceway washer GS/WS type raceway washer
	Thrust cylindrical roller bearing	Thrust spherical roller bearing

Classification and Characteristics of Rolling Bearings

Needle roller bearings

Needle roller bearings use needle rollers as rolling elements. The needle rollers are a maximum of 5 mm in diameter and are 3 to 10 times as long as they are in diameter. Because the bearings use needle rollers as rolling elements, the cross-section is thin, but they have a high load capacity for their size. Because of the large number of rolling elements, bearings have high rigidity and are ideally suited to oscillating motion. There is various types of needle roller bearings, and just a few of the most representative types are covered here. For details, see “Needle roller bearings”

Table 1.9 Main types of needle roller bearings

Type	Needle roller bearing with cage
Configuration	
	Solid type needle roller bearings
	Drawn cup needle roller bearings
	Cam follower Roller follower
Cam follower Roller follower	

Bearing unit

A unit comprised of a ball bearing inserted into various types of housings. The housing can be bolted onto machinery and the inner ring can be easily mounted on the shaft with a set screw.

This means the bearing unit can support rotating equipment without special design to allow for mounting. A variety of standardized housing shapes is available, including pillow and flange types. The outer diameter of the bearing is spherical just like the inner diameter of the housing, so it is capable of aligning itself on the shaft. For lubrication, grease is filled inside the bearing, and foreign particle is prevented by a double seal. For details, see the catalog devoted to the concerned type of bearing.

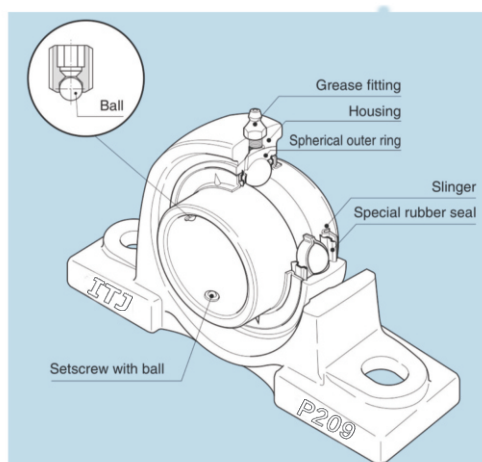


Fig. 1.4 Bearing unit with grease fitting