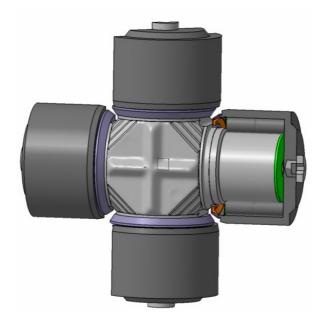




Sicit High Performance Universal Joints



In a typical Cardan joint, the yoke is the basic torque and motion input and output member, while the Universal Joint is the intermediate drive member which has four equally spaced trunnions with needle or roller bearing cups in the same plane. The ultimate strength of the UJ must be safely in excess of the maximum torque applied. The bearing configuration must have the dynamic capacity to transmit power for a required period of time at various torques, speed, and joint angles.

For a proper balanced-designed cardan shaft the Universal Joint should be the weakest component, and thus the quality of the Universal Joint is determining the operational life of the cardanshaft.

The majority of premature failure of cardanshafts, excluding misuse, is resulting due to an early breakdown of the UJ- for a variety of reasons. The service life is limited in case of an optimal lubrication by fatigue of the material after millions of operations, and on the other hand in case of inadequate sealing by corrosion and by abrasive wear as result of contamination.

A high quality UJ must consider all aspects and provide a sound solution and mixture of all features – for the benefits of a long cardan shaft service life.

Important to consider: the Universal joint as a major part of the cardan shaft is a precision component – it has to be seen through the eyes of a bearing manufacturer!

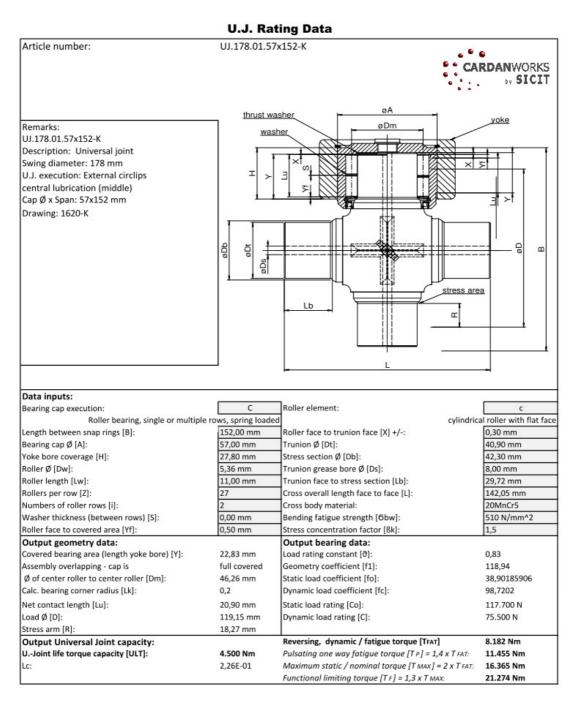
SICIT Universal Joints make this difference!





Cross body design and nominal strength

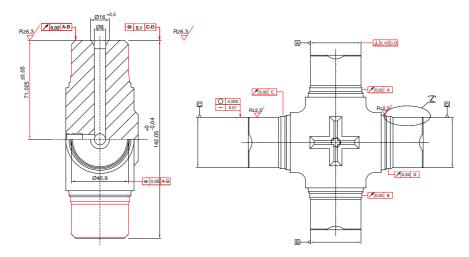
A well designed cross body geometry, with a focus on stress concentration areas in combination with a strong material creates a powerful Universal Joint. All round up with the accurate heat treatment and machining and the utilization of a high precision bearing cup leads to high performance rating capacity of a Sicit Universal Joint.



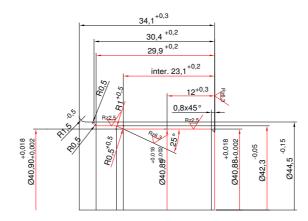
Computation of the U.J. strength and dynamic capacity







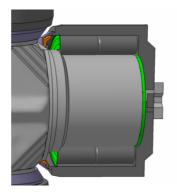
Geometric dimensioning and tolerancing of the cross body



Surface- and dimensional tolerances of the trunnion

Needle and roller design

Contour of rolling elements for comparative stress patterns for ideal bearing – bearing life increases when using relieved end rollers because the stress concentration at the roller ends are decreased. The effects of manufacturing inaccuracies or misalignment caused by deflection due to transmitted torque are minimized.



Two-row / contoured rollers bearing cup

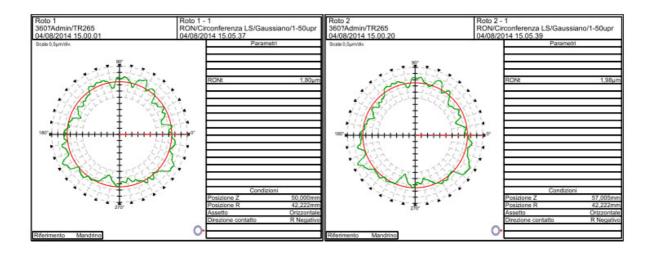


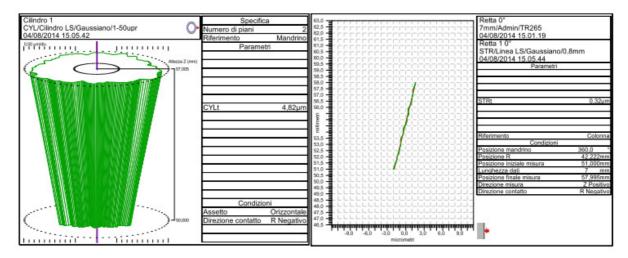


Optimal length to diameter ratio –the minimum permissible length of the roller is determined by its compressive strength value – the maximum length by the allowed geometry. Theoretically, UJ capacity increases with roller length, but practical limitations are imposed by cross and yoke deflections and by geometrical clearance limitations – the UJ rotational swing diameter.

Finish

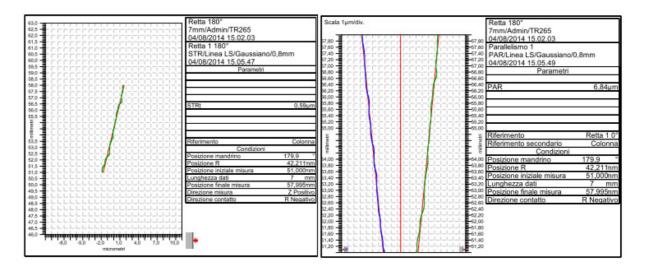
Bearing life is affected by the surface finish used on cross trunion and bearing cup bore – with a certain finish based on economic considerations. A finer finish means better bearing performance, and insofar as it diminishes the progress of fretting corrosion, results in longer bearing life.











Testing results of the trunnion geometry

Material and heat treatment

To take full advantage of the relatively high radial load capacity of the rollers, the bearing components must be made of proper materials and have optimum metallurgical structures. The surface hardness, case hardness gradient and core hardness range of the cross trunnion as well as the bearing cup must be adequate.



The results reported above, are average values of more measurements. These results are influenced by repeatability extended standard deviation to +/-3 Sigma: HV hardness s.d.=0,50 HR hardness s.d.=0,20 HB hardness s.d.=0,00 Effective Case Depth by HV s.d.=0,010						
Traceability: lot n° 8553 / Batch n° 896148 / Sub-Batch n°					RESULT	In compliance with the specification
Q.ty: 31	parts	Total weight	92,07	Kg.	in complaince that the specimeation	in compliance with the specification
Customer ref. n° UAD2						
Notes:						
Attached:						
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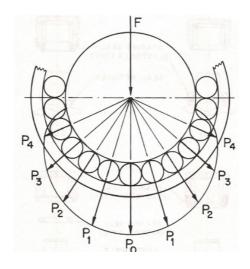




Metallurgical test report of the cross body material

Hertz contact stresses and precession

Hertz contact stresses between the rolling elements and cross trunnion, and between the rollers and the bearing cup bore. In general the contact stress between the roller and the trunnion is higher than between the roller and the bearing cup bore. The load acting on the rollers is not evenly distributed, with a peak in radial direction, and values to zero at angle less than 90° on either side, leading to completely unloaded rollers. Since the bearing motion is oscillatory the main load is more or less carried by a few rolling members, influencing the life of the bearing negative.

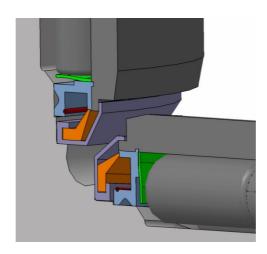


Needle roller radial load distribution





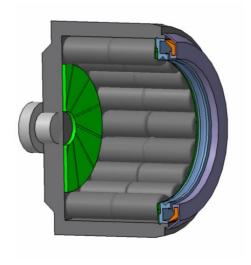
This leads to another characteristic which can add significantly to bearing life - precession. This term, as used in universal joint oscillatory bearing terminology, describes a condition where the rollers continually change position with respect to the bearing cup bore and the trunnion. Certain elements like spring washer pre-load the rollers allowing the required movement.



Spring loaded (green) rollers

Thrust washer

Also contribution significantly to the bearing life are the use of proper design techniques in the area of the bearing configuration containing the cup bore grind relief and the trunnion chamfer and face. Polyamide thrust washer in the bottom of the cup prevents the elements from contact and circumvent stress concentration and friction as source for premature failure.



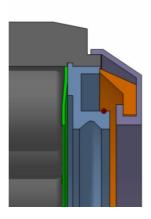
Thrust washer (green)





Sealing

An additional important factor contributing to optimum bearing life is the provision of an adequate sealing. The principal function of the bearing seal is to prevent the escape of lubrificating fluid from or entry of foreign matter into the bearing. In addition the bearing seal which is a flexible member must be capable of operating under varying environmental conditions at various speeds, joint angles, and its design depends on joint usage. Studies show that minimum ¾ of cardan shaft failures are subject to poor, incorrect or missing lubrication. As a matter of fact the standard cardan shaft has to be lubricated frequently due to grease loss and / or grease contamination in its operation. This occurs since the re-greasable Universal joint with its lubrication nipples and the corresponding sealing is not a closed system. The sealing design must allow the passing of grease for the lubricating process. Centrifugal forces, temperature changes and hydrodynamic circumstances let the U.J. "breath". As an effect the Universal Joint consequently looses lubricant by its sealing or contaminating material like water or dust penetrates, or is absorbed from outside – leading often to a premature failure.



Sealing system for bearing cup

Special sealing solutions allow to design and manufacture lube for life Universal Joints. These closed systems avoid the negative influences on the service life. The specially designed sealing system perfectly protects the thus encapsulated bearing internals.

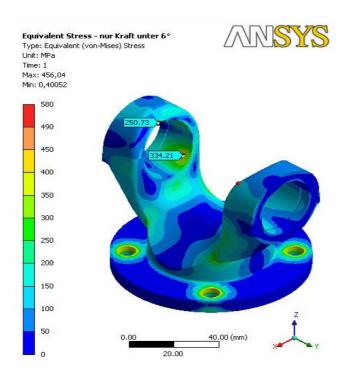
Bearing retention and yoke design

Bearing life is further influenced by the bearing retention means employed. Misalignment of the bearing cup with respect to the cross and end clearance between the cross and bearing cup thrust surfaces must be controlled to close tolerances to prevent premature bearing failure or unsatisfactory functioning of the joint. Also, if the fit between component parts is too tight, detrimental results will occur.





In general, the design of the yoke ears requires special attention. The important load –deflection characteristics of the Cardan joint components and their effect on bearing life are often overlooked. The yoke ears will deflect due to the applied torque and the centrifugal force effects caused by the high rotational speeds. For adequate bearing life, it is highly desirable to provide for balanced yoke and cross deflection under torque loads so that the needle rollers are uniformly loaded along their active length.



Optimized yoke geometry for balanced deflection under high loads

As a result the best and highest quality Universal Joint will not perform to its potential with the assembly and usage of "poor" quality yokes.