3. Bearing fits

3.1 Interference

For rolling bearings, inner and outer rings are fixed on the shaft or in the housing so that relative movement does not occur between fitted surfaces during operation or under load. This relative movement (referred to as "creep") between the fitted surfaces of the bearing and the shaft or housing can occur in a radial direction, an axial direction, or in the direction of rotation. To help prevent this creeping movement, bearing rings and the shaft or housing are installed with one of three interference fits, a "tight fit" (also called shrink fit), "transition fit," or "loose fit" (also called clearance fit), and the degree of interference between their fitted surfaces varies.

The most effective way to fix the fitted surfaces between a bearing's raceway and shaft or housing is to apply a "tight fit." The advantage of this tight fit for thin walled bearings is that it provides uniform load support over the entire ring circumference without any loss of load carrying capacity. However, with a tight fit, ease of installation and disassembly is lost; and when using a non-separable bearing as the floating-side bearing, axial displacement is not possible. For this reason, a tight fit cannot be recommended in all cases.

3.2 The necessity of a proper fit

In some cases, improper fit may lead to damage and shorten bearing life, therefore it is necessary to make a careful analysis in selecting a proper fit. Some of the negative conditions caused by improper fit are listed below.

- Raceway cracking, early peeling and displacement of raceway
- Raceway cracking, early peeling and displacement of raceway
- Raceway and shaft or housing abrasion caused by creeping and fretting corrosion Seizing caused by loss of internal clearances Increased noise and lowered rotational accuracy due to raceway groove deformation

3.3 Fit selection

Selection of a proper fit is dependent upon thorough analysis of bearing operating conditions, including consideration of:

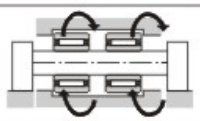
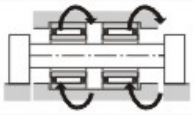
- Shaft and housing material, wall thickness, finished surface accuracy, etc.
- Machinery operating conditions (nature and magnitude of load, rotational speed, temperature, etc.)

3.3.1 "Tight fit," "transition fit," or "loose fit"

For raceways under rotating loads, a tight fit is necessary. (Refer to Table 3.1)
"Raceways under rotating loads" refers to raceways receiving loads rotating relative to their radial direction. For raceways under static loads, on the other hand, a loose fit is sufficient. (Example) Rotating inner ring load – the direction of the radial load on the inner ring is rotating relatively

For non-separable bearings, such as deep groove ball bearings, it is generally recommended that either the inner ring or outer ring be given a loose fit.

Table 3.1 Radial load and bearing

Illustration	Bearing rotation	Ring load	Fit
Static load 	 Inner ring: Rotating Outer ring: Stationary	Rotating inner ring load	Inner ring: Tight fit
Imbalanced load 	 Inner ring: Stationary Outer ring: Rotating	Static outer ring load	Outer ring: Loose fit
Static load 	 Inner ring: Stationary Outer ring: Rotating	Static inner ring load	Inner ring: Loose fit
Imbalanced load 	 Inner ring: Rotating Outer ring: Stationary	Rotating outer ring load	Outer ring: Tight fit

3.3.2 Recommended Fits

The system of limits and fits define the tolerances of the outside diameter of the shaft or the bore diameter of a housing (the shaft or housing to which a metric bearing is installed). Bearing fit is governed by the selection of tolerances for the shaft outside diameter and housing bore diameter. Fig. 3.1 summarizes the interrelations between shaft outside diameter and bearing bore diameter, and between housing bore diameter and shaft outside diameter.Table 3.2 provides the recommended fits for common radial needle roller bearings (machined ring needle roller bearings with inner ring), relative to dimensions and loading conditions. Table 3.3 is a table of the numerical value of fits.

3.3.3 Interference minimum and maximum values

The following points should be considered when it is necessary to calculate the interference for an application:

- In calculating the minimum required amount of interference keep in mind that:
  1) interference is reduced by radial loads
  2) interference is reduced by differences between bearing temperature and ambient temperature
- 3) interference is reduced by variation of fitted surfaces

Maximum interference should be no more than 1:1000 of the shaft diameter or outer diameter. Required interference calculations are shown below.

3.3.3.1 Fitted surface variation and required interference

Interference between fitted surfaces is reduced by roughness and other slight variations of these surfaces which are flattened in the fitting process. The degree of reduced interference depends upon the finish treatment of these surfaces, but in general it is necessary to assume the following interference reductions.

For ground shafts: 1.0 ~ 2.5 μm
For lathed shafts : 5.0 ~ 7.0 μm

3.3.3.2 Maximum interference

When bearing rings are installed with an interference fit, tension or compression stress may occur along their raceways. If interference is too great, this may cause damage to the rings and reduce bearing life. For these reasons, maximum interference should not exceed the previously mentioned ratio of 1:1,000 of the shaft or outside diameter.

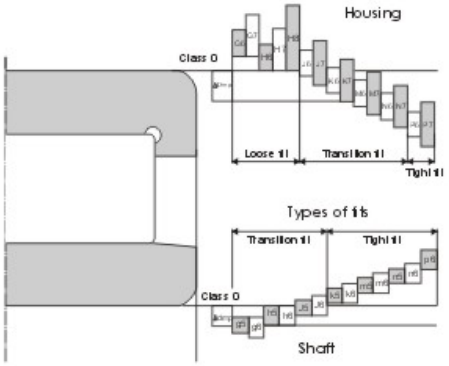


Fig. 4.1

Table 3.2 General standards for needle roller bearing fits

Table 3.2.1 Shaft fits

Nature of load	Fit	Load condition, magnitude	Shaft diameter mm over	incl	Tolerance class	Remarks
Indeterminate direction load Rotating inner ring load	Tight fit/ Transition fit	Light load ❶		~ 50	js6	When greater accuracy is required m5 may be substituted for m6.
			50 ~ 100		k6	
			100 ~ 200		m6	
		Normal load ❶		~ 50	k5	
			50 ~ 100		m5	
			100 ~ 150		m6	
			150 ~ 200		n6	
			200 ~		p6	
		Heavy load ❶ or shock load		~ 150	n6	When greater accuracy is required m5 may be substituted for m6.
			150 ~		p6	
					r6	
Static inner ring load	Transition fit	Inner ring axial displacement possible	All shaft diameters		g6	When greater accuracy is required use g5. For large bearings, f6 may be used.
		Inner ring axial displacement unnecessary			h6	When greater accuracy is required use h5.
Centric axial load only	Transition fit	All loads	All shaft diameters		js6	General; depending on the fit, shaft and inner rings are not fixed.

❶ Standards for light loads, normal loads, and heavy loads

Light loads : equivalent radial load $\leqslant 0.06\ C_r$

Normal loads: $0.06\ C_r <$ equivalent radial load $\leqslant 0.12\ C_r$

Heavy loads : $0.12\ C_r <$ equivalent radial load

Note: All values and fits listed in the above tables are for solid steel shafts.

Table 3.2 .2 Housing fits (Housing of the drawn cup needle roller bearing.)

Nature of load	Housing	Fit	Load condition, magnitude	Tolerance class	Outer ring axial displacement❷	Remarks
Rotating outer ring load or static outer ring load	Solid housing or split housing	Loose fit	All loads	J7	Displacement possible	G7 also acceptable for large type bearings as well as outer rings and housings with large temperature differences
			Light❶ to normal load	H7	Displacement possible	—
	Solid housing	Transition or loose fit	High rotation accuracy required with light to normal loads	K6	Displacement not possible(in principle)	Applies primarily to roller bearings
Direction indeterminate load		Tight to transition fit	Light to normal load	J7	Displacement possible	When greater accuracy is required substitute js for J7 and K6 for K7.
			Normal to heavy load	K7	Displacement not possible(in principle)	
			Heavy shock load	M7	Displacement not possible	—
Inner ring static load or outer ring rotating load		Tight fit	Light or variable load	M7	Displacement not possible	—
			Normal to heavy load	N7	Displacement not possible	—
			Heavy load (thin wall housing)or heavy shock load	P7	Displacement not possible	—
Centered axial load only - Loose fit		Loose fit	—	Select a tolerance class that will provide clearance between outer ring and housing.		—

❶ Standards for light loads, normal loads, and heavy loads
Light loads: equivalent radial load $\leqslant 0.06\ C_r$
Normal loads: $0.06\ C_r <$ equivalent radial load $\leqslant 0.12\ C_r$
Heavy loads: $0.12\ C_r <$ equivalent radial load

❷ Indicates whether or not outer ring axial displacement is possible with non-separable type bearings.

Note 1 : All values and fits listed in the above tables are for cast iron or steel housings.
2 : In cases where only a centered axial load acts on the bearing, select a tolerance class that will provide clearance in the axial direction for the outer ring.

Table 3.3 Numeric value table of fitting for radial bearing of class 0
Table 3.3.1 Fitting against shaft

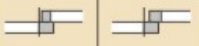
Nominal bore diameter of bearing d mm		Single plane mean bore diameter deviation $\triangle d_{mp}$		g5	g6	h5	h6	j5	js5	j6
				bearing shaft	bearing shaft	bearing shaft	bearing shaft	bearing shaft	bearing shaft	bearing shaft
over	incl.	high	low							
3	6	0	-8	4T ~ 9L	4T ~ 12L	8T ~ 5L	8T ~ 8L	11T ~ 2L	10.5T ~ 2.5L	14T ~ 2L
6	10	0	-8	3T ~ 11L	3T ~ 14L	8T ~ 6L	8T ~ 9L	12T ~ 2L	11T ~ 3L	15T ~ 2L
10	18	0	-8	2T ~ 14L	2T ~ 17L	8T ~ 8L	8T ~ 11L	13T ~ 3L	12T ~ 4L	16T ~ 3L
18	30	0	-10	3T ~ 16L	3T ~ 20L	10T ~ 9L	10T ~ 13L	15T ~ 4L	14.5T ~ 4.5L	19T ~ 4L
30	50	0	-12	3T ~ 20L	3T ~ 25 L	12T ~ 11 L	12T ~ 16L	15T ~ 5L	17.5T ~ 5.5L	23T ~ 5L
50	80	0	-15	5T ~ 23L	5T ~ 29L	15T ~ 13L	15T ~ 19L	21T ~ 7L	21.5T ~ 6.5L	27T ~ 7L
80	120	0	-20	8T ~ 27L	8T ~ 34L	20T ~ 15L	20T ~ 22L	26T ~ ^9L	27.5T ~ 7.5L	33T ~ 9L
120	140									
140	160	0	-25	11T ~ 32L	11 ~ T39L	25T ~ 18L	25T ~ 25L	32T ~ 11L	34T ~ 9L	39T ~ 11L
160	180									
180	200									
200	225	0	-30	15T ~ 35L	15T ~ 44L	30T ~ 20L	30T ~ 29L	37T ~ 13L	40T ~ 10L	46T ~ 13L
225	250									
250	280	0	-35	18T ~ 40L	18T ~ 49L	35T ~ 23L	35T ~ 32L	42T ~ 16L	46.5T ~ 11.5L	51T ~ 16L
280	315									
315	355	0	-40	22T ~ 43L	22T ~ 54L	40T ~ 25L	40T ~ 36L	47T ~ 18L	52.5T ~ 12.5L	58T ~ 18L
355	400									
400	450	0	-45	25T ~ 47L	25T ~ 60L	45T ~ 27L	45T ~ 40L	52T ~ 20L	58.5T ~ 13.5L	65T ~ 20L
450	500									

Table 3.3.2 Fitting against housing

Nominal outside diameter of bearing d mm		Single plane mean outside diameter deviation $\triangle D_{mp}$		G7	H6	H7	J6	J7	Js7	K6
				housing bearing	housing bearing	housing bearing	housing bearing	housing bearing	housing bearing	housing bearing
over	incl.	high	low							
6	10	0	-8	5L ~ 28L	0 ~ 17L	0 ~ 23L	4T ~ 13L	7T ~ 16L	7.5T ~ 15.5L	7T ~ 10L
10	18	0	-8	6L ~ 32L	0 ~ 19L	0 ~ 26L	5T ~ 14L	8T ~ 18L	9T ~ 17L	9T ~ 10L
18	30	0	-9	7L ~ 37L	0 ~ 22L	0 ~ 30L	5T ~ 17L	9T ~ 21 L	10.5T ~ 19.5L	11T ~ 11L
30	50	0	-11	9L ~ 45L	0 ~ 27L	0 ~ 36L	6T ~ 21 L	11T ~ 25L	12.5T ~ 23.5L	13T ~ 14L
50	80	0	-13	10L ~ 53L	0 ~ 32L	0 ~ 43L	6T ~ 26L	12T ~ 31 L	15T ~ 28L	15T ~ 17L
80	120	0	-15	12L ~ 62L	0 ~ 37L	0 ~ 50L	6T ~ 31 L	13T ~ 37L	17.5T ~ 32.5L	18T ~ 19L
120	150	0	-18	14L ~ 72L	0 ~ 43L	0 ~ 58L	7T ~ 36L	14T ~ 44L	20T ~ 38L	21T ~ 22L
150	180	0	-25	14L ~ 79L	0 ~ 50L	0 ~ 65L	7T ~ 43L	14T ~ 51 L	20T ~ 45L	21T ~ 29L
180	250	0	-30	15L ~ 91L	0 ~ 59L	0 ~ 76L	7T ~ 52L	16T ~ 60L	23T ~ 53L	24T ~ 35L
250	315	0	-35	17L ~ 104L	0 ~ 67L	0 ~ 87L	7T ~ 60L	16T ~ 71 L	26T ~ 61L	27T ~ 40L
315	400	0	-40	18L ~ 115L	0 ~ 76L	0 ~ 97L	7T ~ 69L	18T ~ 79L	28.5T ~ 68.5L	29T ~ 47L
400	500	0	-45	20L ~ 128L	0 ~ 85L	0 ~ 108L	7T ~ 78L	20T ~ 88L	31.5T ~ 76.5L	32T ~ 53L

Note: T = tight L = loose

(Unit: μm)

js6	k5	k6	m5	m6	n6	p6	r6	Nominal bore diameter of bearing d mm	
bearing shaft	bearing shaft	bearing shaft	bearing shaft	bearing shaft	bearing shaft	bearing shaft	bearing shaft	over	incl
12T ~ 4L	14T ~ 1T	17T ~ 1T	17T ~ 4T	20T ~ 4T	24T ~ 8T	28T ~ 12T	—	3	6
12.5T ~ 4.5L	15T ~ 1T	18T ~ 1T	20T ~ 6T	23T ~ 6T	27T ~ 10T	32T ~ 15T	—	6	10
13.5T ~ 5.5L	17T ~ 1T	20T ~ 1T	23T ~ 7T	26T ~ 7T	31T ~ 12T	37T ~ 18T	—	10	18
16.5T ~ 6.5L	21T ~ 2T	25T ~ 2T	27T ~ 8T	31T ~ 8T	38T ~ 15T	45T ~ 22T	—	18	30
20T ~ 8L	25T ~ 2T	30T ~ 2T	32T ~ 9T	37T ~ 9T	45T ~ 17T	54T ~ 26T	—	30	50
24.5T ~ 9.5L	30T ~ 2T	36T ~ 2T	39T ~ 11T	45T ~ 11T	54T ~ 20T	66T ~ 32T	—	50	80
31T ~ 11L	38T ~ 3T	45T ~ 2T	48T ~ 13T	55T ~ 13T	65T ~ 23T	79T ~ 37T	—	80	120
37.5T ~ 12.5L	46T ~ 3T	53T ~ 3T	58T ~ 15T	65T ~ 15T	77T ~ 27T	93T ~ 43T	113T ~ 63T	120	140
							115T ~ 65T	140	160
							118T ~ 68T	160	180
44.5T ~ 14.5L	54T ~ 4T	63T ~ 4T	67T ~ 17T	76T ~ 17T	90T ~ 31T	109T ~ 50T	136T ~ 77T	180	200
							139T ~ 80T	200	225
							143T ~ 84T	225	250
51T ~ 16L	62T ~ 4T	71T ~ 4T	78T ~ 20T	87T ~ 20T	101T ~ 34T	123T ~ 56T	161T ~ 94T	250	280
							165T ~ 98T	280	315
58T ~ 18L	69T ~ 4T	80T ~ 4T	86T ~ 21T	97T ~ 21T	113T ~ 37T	138T ~ 62T	184T ~ 108T	315	355
							190T ~ 114T	355	400
65T ~ 20L	77T ~ 5T	90T ~ 4T	95T ~ 23T	108T ~ 23T	125T ~ 40T	153T ~ 68T	211T ~ 126T	400	450
							217T ~ 132T	450	500

(Unit: μm)

K7	M7	N7	P7	Nominal outside diameter of bearing d mm	
housing bearing	housing bearing	housing bearing	housing bearing	over	incl
10T ~ 13L	15T ~ 8L	19T ~ 4L	24T ~ 1L	6	10
12T ~ 14L	18T ~ 8L	23T ~ 3L	29T ~ 3L	10	18
15T ~ 15L	21T ~ 9L	28T ~ 2L	35T ~ 5L	18	30
18T ~ 18L	25T ~ 11L	33T ~ 3L	42T ~ 6L	30	50
21T ~ 22L	30T ~ 13L	39T ~ 4L	52T ~ 8L	50	80
25T ~ 25L	35T ~ 15L	45T ~ 5L	59T ~ 9L	80	120
28T ~ 30L	40T ~ 18L	52T ~ 6L	68T ~ 10L	120	150
28T ~ 37L	40T ~ 25L	52T ~ 13L	68T ~ 3L	150	180
33T ~ 43L	46T ~ 30L	60T ~ 16L	79T ~ 3L	180	250
36T ~ 51L	52T ~ 35L	66T ~ 21L	88 ~ 1L	250	315
40T ~ 57L	57T ~ 40L	73T ~ 24L	98 ~ 1L	315	400
45T ~ 63L	63T ~ 45L	80T ~ 28L	108T ~ 0	400	500