

Rolling Bearings

Types and Features of Rolling Bearings



1. TYPES AND FEATURES OF ROLLING BEARINGS

1.1 Design and Classification

Rolling bearings generally consist of two rings, rolling elements, and a cage, and they are classified into radial bearings or thrust bearings depending on the direction of the main load. In addition, depending on the type of rolling elements, they are classified into ball bearings or roller bearings, and they are further segregated by differences in their design or specific purpose. The most common bearing types and nomenclature of bearing parts are shown in Fig.1.1, and a general classification of rolling bearings is shown in Fig. 1.2.

1.2 Characteristics of Rolling Bearings

Compared with plain bearings, rolling bearings have the following major advantages:
 (1) Their starting torque or friction is low and the difference between the starting torque and running torque is small.

- (2) With the advancement of worldwide standardization, rolling bearings are internationally available and interchangeable.
- (3) Maintenance, replacement, and inspection are easy because the structure surrounding rolling bearings is simple.
- (4) Many rolling bearings are capable of taking both radial and axial loads simultaneously or independently.
- (5) Rolling bearings can be used under a wide range of temperatures.
- (6) Rolling bearings can be preloaded to produce a negative clearance and achieve greater rigidity.

Furthermore, different types of rolling bearings have their own individual advantages. The features of the most common rolling bearings are described on Pages A10 to A12 and in Table 1.1 (Pages A14 and A15).

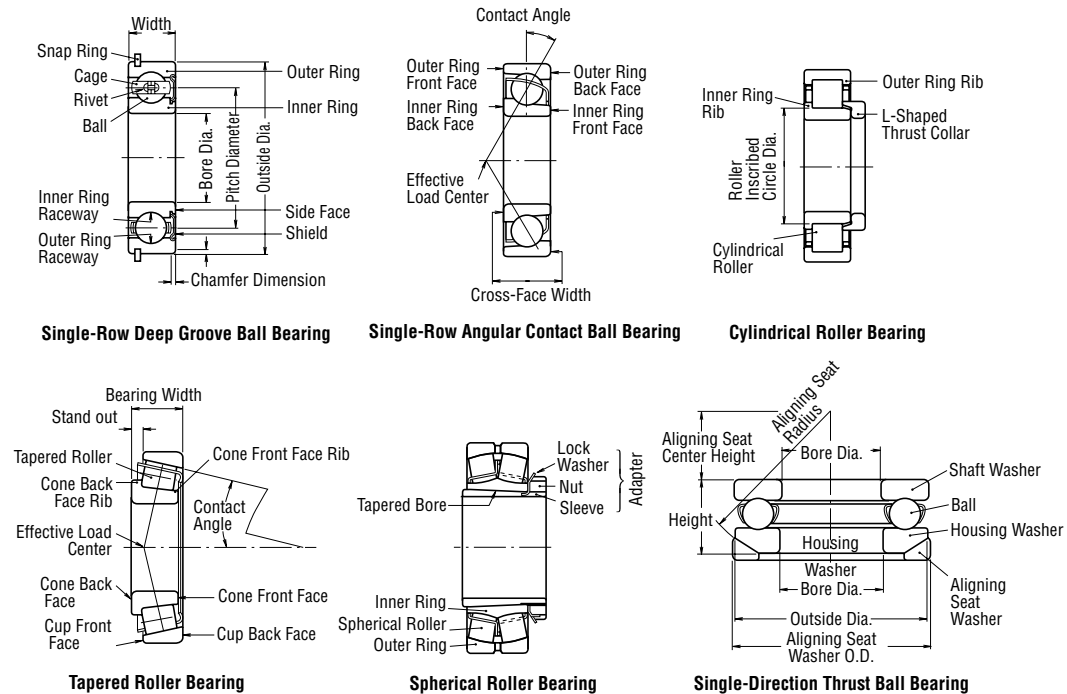


Fig. 1.1 Nomenclature for Bearing Parts

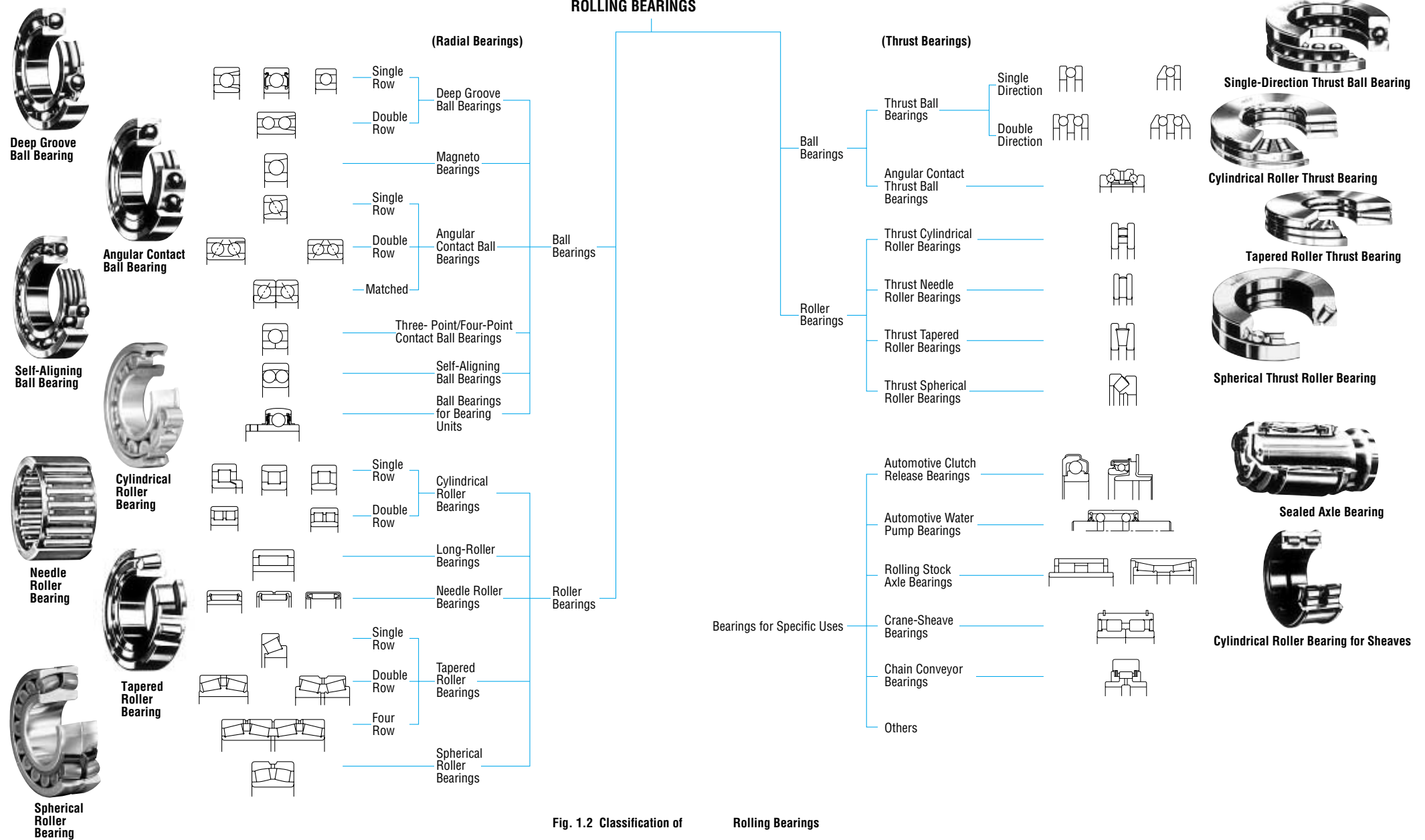
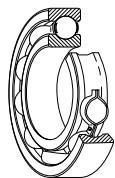


Fig. 1.2 Classification of Rolling Bearings

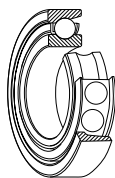
Single-Row Deep Groove Ball Bearings

Single-row deep groove ball bearings are the most common type of rolling bearings. Their use is very widespread. The raceway grooves on both the inner and outer rings have circular arcs of slightly larger radius than that of the balls. In addition to radial loads, axial loads can be imposed in either direction. Because of their low torque, they are highly suitable for applications where high speeds and low power loss are required. In addition to open type bearings, these bearings often have steel shields or rubber seals installed on one or both sides and are prelubricated with grease. Also, snap rings are sometimes used on the periphery. As to cages, pressed steel ones are the most common.



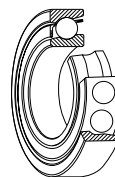
Magneto Bearings

The inner groove of magneto bearings is a little shallower than that of deep groove bearings. Since the outer ring has a shoulder on only one side, the outer ring may be removed. This is often advantageous for mounting. In general, two such bearings are used in duplex pairs. Magneto bearings are small bearings with a bore diameter of 4 to 20 mm and are mainly used for small magnetos, gyroscopes, instruments, etc. Pressed brass cages are generally used.



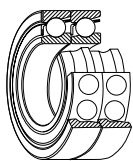
Single-Row Angular Contact Ball Bearings

Individual bearings of this type are capable of taking radial loads and also axial loads in one direction. Four contact angles of 15°, 25°, 30°, and 40° are available. The larger the contact angle, the higher the axial load capacity. For high speed operation, however, the smaller contact angles are preferred. Usually, two bearings are used in duplex pairs, and the clearance between them must be adjusted properly. Pressed-steel cages are commonly used, however, for high precision bearings with a contact angle less than 30°, polyamide resin cages are often used.



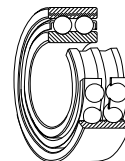
Duplex Bearings

A combination of two radial bearings is called a duplex pair. Usually, they are formed using angular contact ball bearings or tapered roller bearings. Possible combinations include face-to-face, which have the outer ring faces together (type DF), back-to-back (type DB), or both front faces in the same direction (type DT). DF and DB duplex bearings are capable of taking radial loads and axial loads in either direction. Type DT is used when there is a strong axial load in one direction and it is necessary to impose the load equally on each bearing.



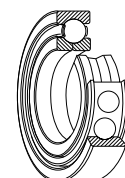
Double-Row Angular Contact Ball Bearings

Double-row angular contact ball bearings are basically two single-row angular contact ball bearings mounted back-to-back except that they have only one inner ring and one outer ring, each having raceways. They can take axial loads in either direction.



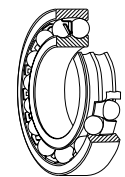
Four-Point Contact Ball Bearings

The inner and outer rings of four-point contact ball bearings are separable because the inner ring is split in a radial plane. They can take axial loads from either direction. The balls have a contact angle of 35° with each ring. Just one bearing of this type can replace a combination of face-to-face or back-to-back angular contact bearings. Machined brass cages are generally used.



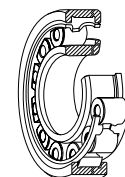
Self-Aligning Ball Bearings

The inner ring of this type of bearing has two raceways and the outer ring has a single spherical raceway with its center of curvature coincident with the bearing axis. Therefore, the axis of the inner ring, balls, and cage can deflect to some extent around the bearing center. Consequently, minor angular misalignment of the shaft and housing caused by machining or mounting error is automatically corrected. This type of bearing often has a tapered bore for mounting using an adapter sleeve.

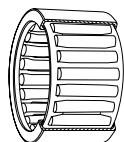


Cylindrical Roller Bearings

In bearings of this type, the cylindrical rollers are in linear contact with the raceways. They have a high radial load capacity and are suitable for high speeds. There are different types designated NU, NJ, NUP, N, NF for single-row bearings, and NNU, NN for double-row bearings depending on the design or absence of side ribs. The outer and inner rings of all types are separable. Some cylindrical roller bearings have no ribs on either the inner or outer ring, so the rings can move axially relative to each other. These can be used as free-end bearings. Cylindrical roller bearings, in which either the inner or outer rings has two ribs and the other ring has one, are capable of taking some axial load in one direction. Double-row cylindrical roller bearings have high radial rigidity and are used primarily for precision machine tools. Pressed steel or machined brass cages are generally used, but sometimes molded polyamide cages are also used.

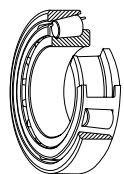


Needle Roller Bearings



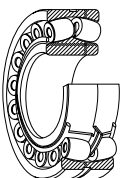
Needle roller bearings contain many slender rollers with a length 3 to 10 times their diameter. As a result, the ratio of the bearing outside diameter to the inscribed circle diameter is small, and they have a rather high radial load capacity. There are numerous types available, and many have no inner rings. The drawn-cup type has a pressed steel outer ring and the solid type has a machined outer ring. There are also cage and roller assemblies without rings. Most bearings have pressed steel cages, but some are without cages.

Tapered Roller Bearings



Bearings of this type use conical rollers guided by a back-face rib on the cone. These bearings are capable of taking high radial loads and also axial loads in one direction. In the HR series, the rollers are increased in both size and number giving it an even higher load capacity. They are generally mounted in pairs in a manner similar to single-row angular contact ball bearings. In this case, the proper internal clearance can be obtained by adjusting the axial distance between the cones or cups of the two opposed bearings. Since they are separable, the cone assemblies and cups can be mounted independently. Depending upon the contact angle, tapered roller bearings are divided into three types called the normal angle, medium angle, and steep angle. Double-row and four-row tapered roller bearings are also available. Pressed steel cages are generally used.

Spherical Roller Bearings



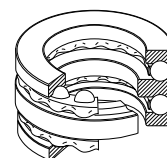
These bearings have barrel-shaped rollers between the inner ring, which has two raceways, and the outer ring which has one spherical raceway. Since the center of curvature of the outer ring raceway surface coincides with the bearing axis, they are self-aligning in a manner similar to that of self-aligning ball bearings. Therefore, if there is deflection of the shaft or housing or misalignment of their axes, it is automatically corrected so excessive force is not applied to the bearings. Spherical roller bearings can take, not only heavy radial loads, but also some axial loads in either direction. They have excellent radial load-carrying capacity and are suitable for use where there are heavy or impact loads. Some bearings have tapered bores and may be mounted directly on tapered shafts or cylindrical shafts using adapters or withdrawal sleeves. Pressed steel and machined brass cages are used.

Single-Direction Thrust Ball Bearings



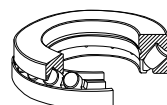
Single-direction thrust ball bearings are composed of washer-like bearing rings with raceway grooves. The ring attached to the shaft is called the shaft washer (or inner ring) while that attached to the housing is called the housing washer (or outer ring).

Double-Direction Thrust Ball Bearings



In double-direction thrust ball bearings, there are three rings with the middle one (center ring) being fixed to the shaft. There are also thrust ball bearings with an aligning seat washer beneath the housing washer in order to compensate for shaft misalignment or mounting error. Pressed steel cages are usually used in the smaller bearings and machined cages in the larger

Spherical Thrust Roller Bearings



These bearings have a spherical raceway in the housing washer and barrel-shaped rollers obliquely arranged around it. Since the raceway in the housing washer is spherical, these bearings are self-aligning. They have a very high axial load capacity and are capable of taking moderate radial loads when an axial load is applied. Pressed steel cages or machined brass cages are usually used.

