Super Precision Bearings for Machine Tools

Outstanding speed, rigidity, and precision deliver improved machine tool performance while reducing energy loss and placing less burden on the global environment.
NSK’s key technologies meet the demand for high performance precision bearings and environmental preservation.

Tribology, the study of friction and wear, is a core NSK technology that not only saves energy and resources by decreasing friction and wear on machines, but also prevents machine malfunction and thereby improves reliability. NSK has established four key technologies around this central expertise as the foundation for developing environmentally sound products. These are: analysis technology toward comprehensively reducing energy loss; evaluation technology for precisely meeting market needs; lubrication technology for reducing energy loss and making higher performance compatible goals and material technology to extend product life.

**Analysis Technology**

NSK developed its own software, Bearing Analysis In NSK (BRAIN), which enables digital simulations of friction-related movement and performance by applying tribology. The combined use of this simulation data with a finite element method (FEM) leads to the realization of advanced computer-aided engineering (CAE).

**Evaluation Technology**

NSK has established an evaluation technology that spans a wide range of applications by employing advanced technologies such as nano-order runout measurement using ultrahigh-precision measuring instruments. Our evaluation technology contributes to the development of cutting-edge products that correspond with increasingly sophisticated market needs.

**Lubrication Technology**

Through the relentless application of tribology, NSK’s key technology, NSK has pursued lubrication technologies that allow machines to deliver maximum performance. NSK’s accomplishments in these efforts contribute to saving energy and resources, thereby conserving the global environment.

**Material Technology**

Research and development across a wide range of material technologies has been conducted to produce ever-higher performing products. Products made of NSK’s proprietary materials deliver long life under harsh conditions, are maintenance-free and support various applications throughout many industries.
Eco-friendly lubrication that achieves the same high-speed region as oil-air lubrication

NSK’s grease technology supports speeds that are normally only possible with oil-air lubrication systems. These high performance, energy-saving machining center bearings also exhibit outstanding noise reduction.

**High-Speed, High Precision Sealed Angular Contact Ball Bearings — ROBUST Wide Series**

NSK improves machine tool reliability by providing higher performance and greater durability. This series of bearings further provides excellent support towards a clean working environment and saving energy.

- Longer life when using grease lubrication
- Low-heat generation
- High reliability and shorter assembly process time

**Features**

- Durability comparison between open bearing and bearing with seal

**High Precision Angular Contact Ball Bearings — Standard Series**

NSK’s basic series of precision angular contact ball bearings conforms to ISO specifications.

- Long life bearing steel (Z steel) used as standard material.
- Z steel offers 1.8 times longer life when compared to standard SUJ2 bearing steel.
- The 70 and 79 series are available in sealed form and offer 1.5 times greater grease durability.
- Two types of cages are available for specific bearing types.

**Features**

- 1. High-speed performance and long life ensured with grease lubrication.
- 2. Capable of providing more than 10,000 maintenance-free hours.
- 3. Environmentally sound, low-noise bearing saves energy.

**Grease Replenishing System for High-Speed Grease Lubrication Spindles**

New automatic lubrication system converts conventional oil lubrication methods for high-speed spindles.

- High-speed performance
- Longer life when using grease lubrication
- Low-heat generation
- High reliability and shorter assembly process time

**Features**

- Grease durability comparison between open bearing and bearing with seal

**High-Speed Integrated Motor Spindle for Machining Centers**

Achieved 20,000 min⁻¹ with ISO-40 equivalent taper using NSK’s automatic grease replenishing system.

- Highest speed for NT#40 class high-speed machining center using grease-lubricated bearings
- 10,000 maintenance-free hours are made possible by the NSK grease replenishing system.
- Wide range of machining performance from low to high speeds

**Features**

- Grease durability comparison between open bearing and bearing with seal

**High Performance Grease Products (MTS, MTE, and ENS) for Machine Tools**

- **Grease features**
  - MTS: For high-speed rotation. Contains urea thickener and exhibits excellent heat resistance.
  - MTE: For high-speed rotation offers outstanding load capability.
  - ENS: Environmentally friendly due to its biodegradability.

**Features**

- Grease durability comparison between open bearing and bearing with seal
Oil-air lubrication reduces energy loss in ultrahigh-speed applications

NSK machining center bearings facilitate high-speed rotation in ultrahigh-speed applications, which require extremely reliable oil-air lubrication, while achieving environmental friendliness and energy conservation.

New Outer Ring Guided PPS Engineered Polymer Cage (TS) for ROBUST Angular Contact Ball Bearings

- Cage movement is controlled by the bearing and achieves low torque during high-speed rotation, and new cage lowers energy loss.
- Features
  1. 20% less heat generation with low temperature rise
  2. 25% higher speeds
  3. 50% decrease in cage runout

Compared with existing phenolic cages:

- 1. Achieves 40 000 min⁻¹ with ISO-40 equivalent taper using oil-air lubrication.
- 2. Noise levels reduced by 3 dB to 5 dB compared with conventional oil-air lubrication.
- 3. Achieves 40 000 min⁻¹ with approximately half the air volume of conventional oil-air lubrication.

Features

1. TS cage facilitates even lower heat generation and higher speed rotation.
2. X-type achieves high-speed performance and long life through the use of SHX material, which delivers outstanding resistance to heat and wear.
3. Extensive lineup available for specific applications

Ultrahigh-Speed Single Row Cylindrical Roller Bearings—ROBUST Series

This series achieves $d_m \times n > 2 000 000$ using highly heat-resistant PEEK cage and SHX material, which deliver outstanding heat and wear resistance.

Features

1. Optimal design enabling low-heat generation.
2. Seizure-resistant performance improved through use of SHX material.
3. Heat-resistant, highly rigid, PEEK engineered polymer boosts speed.

Features

1. 1. Ultra high-speed bearings are specially designed for small spindles.
2. X-type achieves high-speed performance and long life through the use of SHX material with excellent heat and wear resistance.
Addressing environmental conservation while maintaining both outstanding rigidity and high-speed performance

This lineup proves superior for reducing energy loss by restricting heat generation while achieving outstanding rigidity and high speed. Ceramic ball type performance also generates less heat while delivering enhanced rigidity and precise performance.

Roller-Guided PPS Resin Cage (TB) with Engineered Polymer

Use of high-strength engineered polymer L-PPS reduces deformation caused by centrifugal force and facilitates stable rotation in high-speed applications. This is a long-life cage with low temperature rise.

Features
1. Optimal roller-guided cage design with consideration for strength and friction
2. Use of high-strength engineered polymer L-PPS facilitates stable rotation in high-speed applications.
3. Achieves longer life with grease lubrication in comparison with that of metal cages.

Highly Functional, Double-Row Cylindrical Roller Bearings—High Rigidity ROBUST TB Series

New material and cage design enhance machine tool performance.

Features
1. Achieves high-speed and low-heat generation.
2. Longer life possible with grease lubrication

Ultrahigh Precision Ceramic Angular Contact Ball Bearings—ROBUST Ultrahigh Precision Specification P2X

This series achieves the world's highest rotational accuracy, exceeding ISO Class 2 for high-precision processing of small lathes.

Features
1. Ultrahigh rotational accuracy
2. NRRO value is guaranteed.
3. Ceramic ball precision is significantly improved.

High-Precision Thrust Angular Contact Ball Bearings—ROBUST Series

The ROBUST series features high-speed performance and low heat generation without compromising rigidity.

Features
- BTR with contact angle 40°: High thrust rigidity and low heat generation are compatible.
- BAR with contact angle 30°: Greater emphasis on high speed than BTR

High-Precision Thrust Angular Contact Ball Bearings—TAC-F Series

A highly precise thrust angular contact ball bearing with priority placed on rigidity at a contact angle of 50°.

Features
1. Optimal roller-guided cage design with consideration for strength and friction
2. Use of high-strength engineered polymer L-PPS facilitates stable rotation in high-speed applications.
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Features
Grease lubrication ensures durability and reduces energy loss

Two types of bearings with reliable seals; light contact seals with superior dust proofing qualities or non-contact seals that achieve low torque. Eco-friendliness is now achieved in the area of precision processing in which oil lubrication is conventionally used to prevent fretting, by taking advantage of optimum grease or ceramic balls.

Sealed Angular Contact Thrust Bearings Series for Ball Screw Support

A sealed type series has been added to broaden this product line with outstanding high performance and high rigidity for ball screw support.

Features
1. Adopts long-life, highly reliable EP steel for triple the operating life over standard bearing steel.
2. Grease lubrication extends durability.
3. High rigidity achieved with an angular contact of 60°.
4. Light-contact seal achieves high dust resistance and low temperature rise.

Light-contact seal with dust-resistant characteristics boosts reliability

Adopts NSK’s proprietary light-contact seal focusing on high speed. Limited temperature rise ensures outstanding reliability.

Extensive Lineup

1. Open type
2. DDG with light-contact seal
3. VTV with non-contact seal

New Grease Specialized for Ball Screw Support Bearings—EA9

With low temperature rise and high fretting resistance, this grease is suitable for higher precision processing.

Ball Screw Support Bearings Ceramic Ball Specifications

Achieves low temperature rise using ceramic balls for ball screw support bearings. Also features excellent anti-fretting characteristics with a durability of more than 50 times that of steel balls.

Ball Screw Support Bearings Ball Screw Support Unit

Improved ease of handling by incorporating ball screw support bearings into unit.

Features
1. Designed with dustproofing characteristics to facilitate design of ball screw support parts.
2. Easier to handle since the bearings are already mounted in the housing.
Specially designed angular contact ball bearings aid in reducing energy loss for swiveling (rotary/tilt) spindle heads and rotary/tilt tables used in machine tools.

New bearing available for high-precision machine tools using multi-axis processing. Angular contact ball bearings achieve high rigidity and low torque for swiveling spindle heads used in machine tools in which roller bearings were previously used.

Low profile, Highly Accurate, Angular Contact Ball Bearings—ROBUST Slim Series

Specially designed angular contact ball bearings for swiveling spindle heads and rotary/tilt tables used in machine tools. These bearings allow for a high rotational accuracy found only in bearings with high moment stiffness that is on a par with crossed-roller bearings.

- Lower torque rotation is achieved with ball bearings.
- Rotational runout of 0.5 µm or less achieved.
- High moment stiffness is on a par with crossed-roller bearings.
- Thin cross-section profile is 35% thinner than that of a standard angular contact ball bearing.

Features

1. Lower torque rotation is achieved with ball bearings.
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4. Thin cross-section profile is 35% thinner than that of a standard angular contact ball bearing.

Eco-friendly Bearings with Seals

The ROBUST Slim series is packed with grease after cleaning and removing oil. Production lead time is significantly shortened since the bearings can be mounted into machines immediately after opening their packaging. In addition, use of grease lubrication eliminates atomizing of oil that is generated in oil lubrication for an overall cleaner work environment.

Rotational Runout Measurement

Conventional crossed-roller bearings

Newly developed ROBUST Slim Series

Rotational runout less than 1/3

BRSA Series (bore diameter: 130, 170, 220, 340 and 400 mm)

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<tr>
<th>Bearing numbers</th>
<th>Boundary dimensions (mm)</th>
<th>Basic load ratings (kN)</th>
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Bearing Components

Angular Contact Ball Bearings

Cylindrical Roller Bearings

Low-Profile Angular Contact Ball Bearings for Rotary/Tilt Applications

Angular Contact Thrust Bearings for Ball Screw Support

Super Precision Bearings Catalog

NSK has compiled all the information it has accumulated about precision bearings over the years into a single catalog. The catalog contains a wealth of technical data regarding precision bearings as well as the information required and key points for selecting bearings, precautions for handling bearings during mounting, and so on. For details, please contact NSK or visit www.nsk.com to request this comprehensive Super Precision Bearings catalog.