Designing with engineering Plastics
Licharz on the web
Plastic friction bearings
Plastic friction bearings

1. Use of thermoplastics for friction bearings

Requirements for a friction bearing material such as

- Good sliding and emergency running properties
- Wear resistance
- Pressure resistance
- Long life
- Heat deflection temperature

are easily fulfilled by today’s modern thermoplastics.

Plastics are especially used where

- Dry running or mixed friction occurs
- Special plastic-specific properties are required
- Low manufacturing costs are advantageous even with low quantities

The following plastic-specific properties are especially valued:

- Good sliding properties
- Low coefficients of friction
- High wear resistance
- Good damping properties
- Low weight
- Good dry and emergency running properties
- Corrosion resistance
- Chemical resistance
- Low maintenance after initial one time lubrication
- Physiologically safe in some cases

Disadvantages such as low heat conductivity, temperature-dependent stability values, relatively high heat expansion, creeping when subject to long-term stress and in some cases the tendency to absorb moisture can be kept under control to a great extent by material-related design measures.

1.1 Materials

Of the large number of plastics that are available, those with semi-crystalline or high crystalline molecular structures are most suitable for use as sliding elements. Several materials belonging to this group, and how they have been modified for slide applications, are listed in Table 1.
Plastic friction bearings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Short description</th>
<th>Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polyamide 6 cast</td>
<td>PA 6 G</td>
<td>High abrasion resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyamide 6 cast + MoS₂</td>
<td>PA 6 G + MoS₂</td>
<td>Higher crystallinity than PA 6 G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oilamid®</td>
<td>PA 6 G + OIL</td>
<td>Highest abrasion resistance, low coefficient of friction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calamid® 1200</td>
<td>PA 12 G</td>
<td>High abrasion resistance, high load bearing strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyamide 6</td>
<td>PA 6</td>
<td>Medium abrasion resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyamide 66</td>
<td>PA 66</td>
<td>High abrasion resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyacetel (Copolymer)</td>
<td>POM</td>
<td>Medium abrasion resistance, compression resistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyethylene terephthalate</td>
<td>PET</td>
<td>High abrasion resistance, low coefficient of friction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyethylene terephthalate and lubricant</td>
<td>PET-GL</td>
<td>High abrasion resistance, very low coefficient of friction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyethylene UHMW</td>
<td>PE - UHMW</td>
<td>Low coefficient of friction, low rigidity, acid-resistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polytetrafluoroethylene</td>
<td>PTFE</td>
<td>Very good sliding properties, low rigidity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polytetrafluoroethylene and glass fibre</td>
<td>PTFE + Glass</td>
<td>good rigidity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyetheretherketone</td>
<td>PEEK</td>
<td>High pv, high loadability, high price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyetheretherketone modified</td>
<td>PEEK - GL</td>
<td>Best sliding properties, highest pv value and highest price</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Friction bearing materials and properties

1.2 Manufacture

Friction bearings can be manufactured by machining or injection moulding. Polyamide bearings manufactured by injection moulding are much less wear resistant than those produced by machining due to their amorphous proportions in the molecular structure. The fine crystalline structure of the low stress polyamide semi-finished products manufactured by casting guarantees optimum wear resistance.

Compared to injection moulded friction bearings, machined bearings allow high dimensional precision. The high machining performance of conventional machine tools, lathes and CNC processing centres allow the cost-effective manufacturing of individual parts as well as small to medium sized batches. Flexible, almost limitless design possibilities, especially for thick walled parts are another advantage of machined friction bearings.

1.3 Sliding abrasion/mating

Sliding abrasion is primarily dependent on the material and surface properties of the mating component. The most favourable mating component for plastic has proven to be hardened steel with a minimum hardness of 50 HRC. If surfaces with a lower hardness are used there is a danger of rough tips breaking off and causing increased plastic/metal abrasion in friction bearings.

The influence of surface roughness on sliding abrasion and the sliding friction coefficient can be evaluated in different ways. For the more abrasion resistant, less roughness sensitive plastics (e.g. PA and POM) it can...
be observed that the sliding friction coefficient is relatively high, especially for particularly smooth surfaces (Figure 1).

As the roughness increases, it is reduced to a minimum and then increases again in the further course. The sliding abrasion becomes higher with increasing roughness.

On the other hand, the more abrasion susceptible plastics (e.g., PE-UHMW, PTFE) show a steadily increasing sliding friction coefficient with increasing roughness. The range in which the sliding friction coefficient improves with increasing roughness is minimal. The sliding abrasion increases with increasing roughness.

The model idea to explain this behaviour assumes that abrasion in friction bearings takes over a lubricating function. It can be observed that a favourable sliding condition exists when the quantity and form of abrasion are optimum.

With the plastics that are less sensitive to roughness, adhesion forces and adhesive bridges have an effect in the low roughness range of the mating component. Due to the smooth surface, there is no great abrasion that can take over the lubricating function. As roughness increases, the movement-hindering forces decrease so that the sliding friction coefficient improves with increasing abrasion. From a specific degree of roughness, the plastic begins to abrade, which requires higher movement forces. The amount of abrasion exceeds the optimum. Because of these mechanisms, the sliding friction coefficient deteriorates.

As the optimum abrasion volume is very small with the plastics that are sensitive to roughness, these plastics only have a very narrow range in which the sliding behaviour can be improved by abrasion. With increasing roughness, the effects of the abrasion become predominant. It is no longer possible to improve the sliding behaviour. On the other hand, by this token the sliding behaviour only worsens due to a lack of abrasion on materials that have mating components with an extremely smooth surface.

The surface roughness of the plastics plays no role in this observation, as they are soft compared to the metallic mating component and quickly adapt to its contact pattern. Hence, important for choosing the surface quality of the steel sliding surface is the question whether the functionality of the sliding element is affected by either the amount of sliding abrasion or the sliding friction coefficient. For combination with plastic friction bearings, the mating components in Table 2 with the associated surface grades can be recommended:

Table 2: Recommended surface qualities for mating components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mating component</th>
<th>PA 6 G</th>
<th>PA 12 G</th>
<th>PA 6</th>
<th>PA 66</th>
<th>PA 12</th>
<th>POM</th>
<th>PET</th>
<th>PE-UHMW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hardness HRc min.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rz [µm]</td>
<td>2 – 4</td>
<td>2 – 4</td>
<td>2 – 4</td>
<td>2 – 4</td>
<td>2 – 4</td>
<td>1 – 3</td>
<td>0.5 – 2</td>
<td>0.2 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mating component</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>POM</td>
<td>POM</td>
<td>POM</td>
<td>POM</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>PA/POM</td>
<td>PA/POM/PET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rz [µm]</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Low surface hardness and smaller/greater surface roughnesses than those specified promote sliding abrasion in the bearing and thus shorten its useful life.
In addition to the above-mentioned factors, running speed, surface pressure and temperature also have an effect on sliding abrasion. High running speeds, surface pressure and temperatures also increase sliding abrasion.

The following table contains guiding values for the sliding abrasion of plastics.

Table 3: Sliding abrasion of plastics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Sliding abrasion in µm/km</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oilamid®</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 6 G</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 6</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 66</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 12</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POM-C</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PET</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PET-GL</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE-UHMW</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTFE</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The stated values depend on the sliding system and can also change due to changes in the sliding system parameters.

1.4 Lubrication/dry running

At present there are no general valid lubrication rules for plastic friction bearings. The same lubricants that are used for metallic friction bearings can also be used for plastic bearings. It is advisable to use a lubricant despite the good dry running properties of plastics, as the lubricant reduces the coefficient of friction and thus the frictional heat. In addition, continuous lubrication also helps dissipate heat from the bearing. Lubricating the friction bearings gives them a higher load bearing capacity and reduces wear, which in turn gives them longer life. However, if the bearings are to be used in a very dusty application it is advisable not to use any lubrication, as the dust particles become bonded in the lubricant and can form an abrasive paste which causes considerable wear. The plastic bearing materials recommended in the table on page 53 are resistant to most commonly used lubricants.

An alternative to external lubrication are plastics with self-lubricating properties such as OILAMID and PET-GL. Due to the lubricants that are integrated into the plastic, these materials have the lowest wear rates as well as excellent dry and emergency running properties. When design reasons require to do so, it is also possible to operate plastic friction bearings without lubrication.

However, attention must be paid that the load values are within the pv values stated in Table 4. In any case, a one time lubrication should be carried out during installation if possible, even if the bearings will run dry. This considerably improves the start-up behaviour and can prolong the life of the product. It is also possible to lubricate the bearings subsequently at intervals to be determined empirically.

1.5 Contamination/corrosion

The steel shaft of friction bearings that are operated in dry running conditions is in danger of corroding due to migrating moisture. When the surface of the mating component is damaged by corrosion, this increases sliding abrasion and can cause the bearing to malfunction prematurely. This can be prevented by sealing the bearing against moisture. Other effective measures are to plate the mating component with chromium or to manufacture the mating component from stainless steel.

Because of their low coefficients of sliding friction, plastic friction bearings tend to suffer much less from frictional corrosion than metallic bearing materials. Wear caused by frictional corrosion can be reduced even further by lubrication. Compared to metallic bearing materials, wear in plastic friction bearings caused by contamination such as dust or abrasion is much lower, as plastics, and especially polyamides, have the ability to embed dust particles and thus prevent the
Plastic friction bearings

1.4 Abrading effects. When operating in environments with high dust levels, it is recommended that the bearing is fitted with lubrication grooves. The lubricant contained there binds the dust particles and keeps them away from the slide zone.

1.6 Load limits

Load limits for thermoplastic friction bearings are defined by the compressive strength and bearing temperature. The bearing temperature is directly related to the running speed and the ambient temperature, and, with dynamically stressed friction bearings, also to the duration of operation. The mating components, their surface quality and the chosen type of operation (lubricated or unlubricated) also have an effect on the bearing temperature of a thermoplastic friction bearing.

Table 4 contains guiding values for individual plastics. For statically loaded bearings or friction bearings with very low running speeds, the figures for sustained pressure loading can be applied. For dynamically loaded bearings, usually the pv value (product of surface pressure and average running speed) is used as a characteristic variable. It must be noted that this value is not a material characteristic value, as the load limit of the plastics depends on the above-mentioned variables.

Table 4: Material guiding values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>PA 6</th>
<th>Oilamid®</th>
<th>Calumid® 1200</th>
<th>PA 66</th>
<th>PA 12</th>
<th>POM-C</th>
<th>PET</th>
<th>PTFE</th>
<th>PTFE-GF</th>
<th>PTFE-Co</th>
<th>PEK</th>
<th>PEK-GL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustained pressure load static MPa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not equipped with chambers; Deformation &lt; 2%</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipped with chambers; Deformation &lt; 2%</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coefficient of friction µ (average value)</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry running on steel</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coefficient of friction µ pv-guiding value MPa m/s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry running/ Installation lubrication</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V = 0.1 m/s</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V = 1.0 m/s</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuously lubricated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coefficient of thermal expansion Δ20°C bis +60°C in 10⁻⁵ K⁻¹</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum permissible bearing temperature in continuous operation (RF&lt; 80%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moisture absorption in % at 23°C/50% RF when saturated in water</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moisture absorption in % when saturated in water</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Constructional design

2.1 Bearing play

When designing friction bearings, a distinction is made between operating play $h_0$, installation play $h_e$, and manufacturing play $h_f$ (see Figure 3).

- The operating play (basic play or minimum play) $h_0$ is the minimum clearance that must exist under the most unfavourable conditions to prevent the bearing from sticking.
- The installation play $h_e$ is the clearance in an installed but not yet warm operating state.
- The manufacturing play $h_f$ is the measure describing the excess size that the internal diameter of the bearing must have compared to the shaft diameter to ensure operating play under operating conditions.

The required operating bearing play $h_0$ can be seen in Diagram 1. If guiding requirements are higher, the bearing play can be less. Literature recommends the following as a calculation basis

$$h_0 = 0.015 \frac{d_w}{M}$$

where

- $h_0 =$ operating bearing play in mm
- $d_w =$ spindle diameter in mm

However, for arithmetical determination, the precise operating conditions must be known, as otherwise the temperature and moisture effects cannot be taken fully into account.

2.2 Wall thickness/bearing width

The wall thickness of thermoplastic friction bearings is very important in regard to the good insulation properties of the plastics. To ensure adequate heat dissipation and good dimensional stability, the friction bearing wall must be thin. However, the bearing wall thickness also depends on the amount and type of load. Bearings with high circumferential speeds and/or high surface pressures should have thin walls, while those with high impact loads should be thicker. Diagram 2 shows the bearing wall thicknesses that we recommend in relation to the shaft diameter and the type of load.

Where thermoplastic friction bearings are to be used as a replacement for bearings made from other materials, the wall thicknesses are generally defined by the existing shafts and bearing housings. In cases such as this, attention should be paid that the minimum wall thicknesses in Diagram 2 are maintained. To prevent a build-up of heat in the centre of the friction bearing it should be ensured that it is in the range of 1–1.5 $d_w$ when the bearing width is being determined. Experience has shown that a bearing width of approx. 1.2 $d_w$ is ideal to prevent an accumulation of heat in the middle of the bearing.
2.3 Allowances

For friction bearings that are to be used in environments with high temperatures, a certain dimensional change due to thermal expansion should be allowed for when the bearing is being dimensioned.

The expected dimensional change is calculated from

\[ \Delta l = s_L \cdot k_w \] [mm]

where

- \( \Delta l \) = dimensional change
- \( s_L \) = bearing wall thickness
- \( k_w \) = correction factor for heat expansion

The correction factor \( k_w \) for the respective max. ambient temperatures is shown in Diagram 3.

The calculated dimensional change must be added to the operating bearing play.

If it is foreseeable that polyamide friction bearings are to be used permanently under conditions with increased humidity or water splashing, an additional dimensional change due to moisture absorption must be taken into account.

The expected dimensional change is calculated from

\[ \Delta l = s_L \cdot k_f \] [mm]

where

- \( \Delta l \) = dimensional change
- \( s_L \) = bearing wall thickness
- \( k_f \) = correction factor for moisture absorption

Diagram 4 shows the correction factor \( k_f \) for the respective max. humidity.

The calculated dimensional change must be added to the operating bearing play.

The two values are determined and added for operating conditions that require a correction due to temperature and moisture. The total is the required allowance.

2.4 Design as slit bearing bush

For use in extreme moisture and temperature conditions, a bearing bush with an axial slit running at an angle of 15° - 30° to the shaft axis has proven to be the best solution.

The slit absorbs the circumferential expansion of the bearing bush so that a diameter change caused by the effects of temperature or moisture does not have to be considered when calculating bearing play. Only the wall thickness change has to be included, although
this is minor compared to the change in diameter caused by circumferential expansion.

In lubricated bearings, the slit can also fulfil the role of a lubricant depot and collect abrasion particles.

The width of the slit depends on the diameter of the bearing and the requirements of the operating conditions. We recommend a slit approx. 1–1.5% of the circumference of the friction bearing.

2.5 Fixing

In practice it has proved expedient to press over-dimensional friction bearings into a bearing bore. When it is being set in, the bearing bush is compressed by the amount of the oversize. Therefore this oversize must be considered as an allowance to the operating bearing play on the internal diameter of the bush. Diagram 6 shows the required oversize.

As a result of temperature increases, the stresses in the bearing become greater and there is a danger of relaxation when it cools. This can lead to a situation where the force of pressure is no longer adequate to keep the friction bearing in the bearing seat under pressure. Because of this we recommend an additional safeguard for temperatures above 50°C with a securing form-fit element commonly used in machine engineering.

3. Calculating dynamically loaded friction bearings

As opposed to friction bearings that are only burdened by a static normal force, statically loaded friction bearings are also subjected to a tangential force. This leads to an increase in transverse stress in the plastic and consequently to higher material stress.

3.1 Continuous operation

Generally the pv value (the product of the average surface pressure and the average running speed) is used as a characteristic value for the dynamic load bearing capacity of friction bearings. To calculate the dynamic load bearing capacity of radial bearings, it is necessary to determine the \( P_{\text{duration}} \) value.

The average surface pressure for radial bearings is

\[
p = \frac{F}{d_w L} \quad [\text{MPa}]
\]

where

\( F = \) bearing load in N

\( d_w = \) shaft diameter in mm

\( L = \) bearing width in mm
The average running speed for radial bearings is
\[ v = \frac{d_w \cdot \pi \cdot n}{60000} \text{ [m/s]} \]
where
\[ d_w = \text{shaft diameter in mm} \]
\[ n = \text{speed in min}^{-1} \]

Hence, for dynamic loading for radial bearings without lubrication is
\[ \text{pv}_{\text{duration}} = \frac{F}{d_w \cdot L} \cdot \left[ \frac{d_w \cdot \pi \cdot n}{60000} \right] \text{ [MPa m/s]} \]

The calculated \( \text{pv}_{\text{duration}} \) value should be less or equal to the material-specific pv value shown in Table 4.

### 3.2 Intermittent operation

The dynamic load bearing capacity of thermoplastic friction bearings is very much dependent on the heat that builds up during operation. Accordingly, friction bearings in intermittent operation with a decreasing duty cycle become increasingly loadable. This is accounted for by using a correction factor for the relative duty cycle (= ED).

Under these conditions, the following applies to radial bearings in intermittent operation
\[ \text{pv}_{\text{int}} = \frac{\text{pv}_{\text{duration}}}{f} \]
where
\[ f = \text{correction factor for ED} \]

The relative duty cycle ED is defined as the ratio of the load duration \( t \) to the total cycle time \( T \) in percent.

\[ \text{ED} = \frac{t}{T} \times 100 \quad \text{[\%]} \]

For thermoplastic friction bearings, the total cycle time is defined as \( T = 60 \text{ min} \). The total of all individual loads during these 60 minutes forms the load duration.

This calculated value can then be used to determine the correction factor \( f \) from Diagram 7. It should be noted that every load duration \( t \), over and above 60 min., (regardless of whether this only happens once), is to be evaluated as continuous loading.

### 3.3 Determining sliding abrasion

It is a very complex matter to determine the sliding abrasion beforehand in order to determine the expected life of a friction bearing. Generally it is not possible to record the external conditions adequately, or conditions change during operation in a manner that cannot be predetermined. However, it is possible to calculate the expected sliding abrasion sufficiently accurately to provide a rough estimate of the life of a bearing. Roughness, pressure and temperature proportions are aggregated to form an equation based on simplified assumptions.
Hence sliding abrasion $\Delta S$ is

$$\Delta S = 10pN \left( S_0 + S_1 \cdot RV + S_2 \cdot R_2^v \right) \left( 1 - \frac{d_0}{\delta_0} + \frac{\delta_0}{400} \right) \cdot \rho_2 \gamma \quad [\mu m/km]$$

where

- $S_0$ = measured and experience value
- $S_1$ = measured and experience value
- $S_2$ = measured and experience value
- $d_0$ = measured and experience value
- $\delta_0$ = sliding surface temperature in °C
- $RV$ = average depth of roughness in µm
- $pN$ = maximum compression in MPa
- $\rho_2$ = grooving direction factor
- $\gamma$ = smoothing factor

The grooving direction factor $\rho_2$ is only used in the equation if the sliding direction corresponds to the direction of the processing grooves of the metallic mating component. This takes account of the influence of the different degrees of roughness during the relative movement of the metallic mating component in the same direction and vertically to the direction of the processing grooves.

The smoothing factor $\gamma$ describes the smoothing of the metallic mating component through the abrasion of rough tips and/or the filling of roughness troughs with abraded plastic material.

Using an approximation equation the maximum compression $p_N$ is

$$p_N = \frac{16F}{3\pi d_w \cdot L} \quad [\text{MPa}]$$

where

- $F$ = bearing load in N
- $d_w$ = shaft diameter in mm
- $L$ = bearing width in mm

where $p_N \geq (0.8 \text{ bis } 1.0)$ may not exceed $\delta_0$ (compressive strength of the respective plastic).

The measured and experience values can be seen in Table 5. The grooving direction factors in Table 6. We do not have any measured or experience values for materials other than those listed below.

### Table 5: Measured and experience values for individual plastics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>$S_0$</th>
<th>$S_1$</th>
<th>$S_2$</th>
<th>$d_0$</th>
<th>$\gamma$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA 6</td>
<td>0.267</td>
<td>0.134</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 66</td>
<td>0.375</td>
<td>0.043</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 12</td>
<td>0.102</td>
<td>0.270</td>
<td>0.076</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POM-C</td>
<td>0.042</td>
<td>0.465</td>
<td>0.049</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE-UHMW</td>
<td>1.085</td>
<td>-4.160</td>
<td>4.133</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PET</td>
<td>0.020</td>
<td>0.201</td>
<td>-0.007</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTFE</td>
<td>1.353</td>
<td>-19.43</td>
<td>117.5</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.4 Determining the service life of a bearing

As a rule, a plastic friction bearing has reached the end of its service life when the bearing play has reached an unacceptably high level. Bearing play is made up of several factors. On the one hand there is some deformation due to the bearing load, and on the other hand the operating play and the wear resulting from use must be considered. As these can only be arithmetically calculated in advance and since the sliding abrasion calculated approximately at 3.3 is used to calculate the service life, the service life itself should only be regarded as an approximate value for a rough estimate.

Under these prerequisites and in combination with the running speed, the expected service life \( H \) is

\[
H = \frac{\Delta h_{\text{per}} \cdot \Delta h - h_0}{\Delta S \cdot v \cdot 3.6} \cdot 10^3 \text{ [h]}
\]

where
- \( \Delta h_{\text{per}} \) = permissible journal hollow in mm
- \( \Delta h \) = journal hollow in mm
- \( h_0 \) = operating play in mm
- \( \Delta S \) = wear rate in \( \mu \text{m} \)
- \( v \) = running speed in m/sec

To obtain a rough approximation of the actual service life, it is acceptable to leave the journal hollow \( \Delta h \) out of the calculation, as in realistic conditions this is very small and is often within the manufacturing tolerance range.
Our machining capabilities:

- CNC milling machines, workpiece capacity up to max. 2000 x 1000mm
- 5-axis CNC milling machines
- CNC lathes, chucking capacity up to max. 1560 mm diameter and 2000 mm long
- Screw machine lathes up to 100mm diameter spindle swing
- CNC automatic lathes up to 100mm diameter spindle swing
- Gear cutting machines for gears starting at Module 0.5
- Profile milling (shaping and molding)
- Circular saws up to 170mm cutting thickness and 3100mm cutting length
- Four-sided planers up to 125mm thickness and 225mm width
- Thickness planers up to 230mm thickness and 1000mm width
We process:
- Polyamide
- Polyacetal
- Polyethylene terephthalate
- Polyethylene 1000
- Polyethylene 500
- Polyethylene 300
- Polypropylene
- Polyvinyl chloride (hard)
- Polyvinylidene fluoride
- Polytetrafluoroethylene
- Polyetherketone
- Polysulphone
- Polyether-imide

Examples of parts:
- Rope sheaves and castors
- Guide rollers
- Deflection sheaves
- Friction bearings
- Slider pads
- Guide rails
- Gear wheels
- Sprocket wheels
- Spindle nuts
- Curved feed tables
- Feed tables
- Feed screws
- Curved guides
- Metering disks
- Curved disks
- Threaded joints
- Seals
- Inspection glasses
- Valve seats
- Equipment casings
- Bobbins
- Vacuum rails/panels
- Stripper rails
- Punch supports
Information on how to use this documentation

All calculations, designs and technical details are only intended as information and advice and do not replace tests by the users in regard to the suitability of the materials for specific applications. No legally binding assurance of properties and/or results from the calculations can be deduced from this document. The material parameters stated here are not binding minimum values, rather they should be regarded as guiding values. If not otherwise stated, they were determined with standardised samples at room temperature and 50% relative humidity. The user is responsible for the decision as to which material is used for which application and for the parts manufactured from the material. Hence, we recommend that practical tests are carried out to determine the suitability before producing any parts in series.

We expressly reserve the right to make changes to this document. Errors excepted.
You can download the latest version containing all changes and supplements as a pdf file at www.licharz.de.

© Copyright by Licharz GmbH, Germany

Bibliography

The following literature was used to compile “Designing with plastics”:

Ebeling, F.W. / Lüpke, G.
Schelter, W. / Schwarz, O.

Biedenkopf, K.
Carlowitz, B.
Böge, A.
Ehrenstein, Gottfried W.

Strickel, E. / Erhard G.

Strickel, E. / Erhard G.

Erhard, G.
Severin, D.
Severin, D. / Liu, X.
Severin, D.
Liu, X.
Becker, R.

VDI 2545
DIN 15061 Part 1
DIN ISO 286
DIN ISO 2768 Part 1
DIN ISO 2768 Part 2

Kunststoffverarbeitung; Vogel Verlag
Kunststoffe; Vogel Verlag
Kunststofftabellen; Hanser Verlag
Das Techniker Handbuch; Vieweg Verlag
Mit Kunststoffen Konstruieren; Hanser Verlag
Maschinenlelemente aus thermoplastischen Kunststoffen Grundlagen und Verbindungselemente; VDI Verlag
Maschinenlelemente aus thermoplastischen Kunststoffen Lager und Antriebselemente; VDI Verlag
Konstruieren mit Kunststoffen; Hanser Verlag
Die Besonderheiten von Rädern aus PolymerMaterialien; Specialist report, Berlin Technical University
Zum Rad-Schiene-System in der Fördertechnik; Specialist report, Berlin Technical University
Teaching material Nr. 701, Pressungen
Personal information
Personal information
Zahnläder aus thermoplastischen Kunststoffen; VDI Verlag
Groove profiles for wire rope sheaves; Beuth Verlag
ISO coding system for tolerances and fits; Beuth Verlag
General tolerances; Beuth Verlag
General tolerances for features; Beuth Verlag
For further information, detailed catalogs are available:

- Information on Licharz machining capabilities of component parts
- Brochure „Material Guiding Values/Chemical Resistance“
- Product information on semi-finished products of PA, POM und PET
- Delivery programme

Visit us on the internet at [www.licharz.de](http://www.licharz.de)