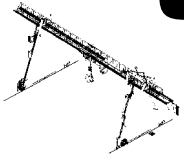


UPDATE



Summer 1994

1994 PORTAL CRANE USER MEETING SET FOR SEPTEMBER 7-9

The 1994 annual P&H Portal Crane User's Meeting is now set for September 7-9 and once again, early registrations are already coming in. You are strongly encouraged to attend this valuable meeting where you will have the opportunity to discuss and solve many problems that limit your uptime and cost your company significant dollars. Just one problem solved or idea to improve uptime or safety will make your time investment worthwhile.

Attendance lists from previous meetings are also available upon request to further illustrate the value of these meetings. Last fall we had 13 log crane installations represented at the meeting with over 45 in attendance, and we expect many more for 1994. See you there!

Attention! Round Girder Top Cord Owners

If your crane has a round top cord design, it also has a horseshoe like yoke at each leg support location. The fit up of these yokes to the round top cord is very important to keep as tight as possible and still allow movement. The yoke design should only allow the girder to move freely longitudinally along its axis. Too much side clearance allows the girder to "rock" back and forth on the girder support links and pins. This action causes premature pin and link wear and could lead to having to bore and rebush the pin connections. A little of PM in this area can result in great savings of time and expense in the future.

MAINTENANCE TIPS

- A grapple cable "Mexican hat" is commonly used to pay out and retrieve the power and control cable feeding the grapple. The addition of the "halo" or ring at the top and a reverse "funnel" entry guide can greatly improve cable retrieval dependability. If your cable often falls out of the hat in high winds, this guide may save you time and expense.
- Several users have reported that the addition of ventilation openings to their Smartorque™ and Dynamic Braking Module enclosures has resulted in fewer heat related problems. The Dynamic Braking modules do generate heat and need ventilation.
- With the increasing use of Ringfeder Shrink Disc type couplings for gantry and trolley gearcase to axle shaft connections, it may be useful to note that by simply painting a stripe across the shaft end and coupling, you can make a quick and easy visual inspection to detect any slippage of the connection. Serious damage can result of the shaft slips and scores the shaft and coupling.
- **Blower Motor Alert** During these hot summer months, it is most important to make sure your hoist motor blower unit is properly operating. Some cranes are equipped with pressure switches to alert the operator of any blower malfunction, or you can add this feature onto your crane. The blower is a very efficient way to provide essential cooling to the motor windings and should be a part of all your PM checks.

PHoenix/NU-LIFE & ENCORE Programs Can Save You Money

The NU-LIFE and ENCORE programs being run by our PHoenix crane division can save you considerable cost for major rebuildable components such as motors, brakes, Magnetorques™, and many mechanical components, too. Don't forget that static stepless control modules are often times repairable, usually with off the shelf exchange for quick response.

NU-LIFE will be starting an exchange program for gantry drive trucks. These trucks will be available in either cartridge or MCB style wheel bearings. All trucks will be universal design (can be assembled right or left handed) and all gearing will run on oil.

Combining these cost saving means with the long term savings usually obtained from modernizations such as Smartorque™ controls can greatly enhance your woodyard operating efficiency. Many customers are taking advantage of this program; shouldn't you!

Checking your Magnetorque™

By Frank Kemp, Portal Crane Specialist

Normally these brakes are so rugged and dependable that they are often overlooked when trouble shooting a static stepless drive system. For gantry drives, it should be noted that the Magnetorque™ brakes are fully excited only during deceleration. Energization for skew correction is only applied for all practical purposes during a full speed run.

The primary symptom of a faulty gantry Magnetorque™ would be uneven braking on the crane. The first check should be for insulation to ground and it is most important the leads to the brake be isolated to avoid putting high voltage back into the static stepless panel during the testing.

Assuming that the insulation is OK,(in most cases if there is a problem you will read a direct ground), the next check should be for resistance value. The low ohmic resistance (1.8 Ohm) is difficult to measure with a Fluke or Simpson Meter. It is suggested that you connect the brakes in the circuit and adjust "stand by" current by means of the "off position bias" module to maximum available current (say, 10 amps). Then read the voltage drop across the coil. In the case of a coil at 1.8 Ohm with 10 amps DC current, the reading should be 10 times the data plate resistive value or $10 \times 1.8 = 18$ volts DC.

The same remarks apply to the hoist Magnetorque™ with the exception, of course, that the anti skew correction is not applied.

The air gap between the pole pieces and the rotor should also be checked and should be in the range of 50 to 65 thousandths.

These quick checks should allow you to locate any troubles quickly and efficiently.

Wire Rope Update

- Longer life
- Greater Strength to Diameter Ratio
- Improved Resistance to Abrasion and Crushing
- Better Bending Characteristics
- Increased Fatigue Resistance

We once again will feature compacted strand, plastic filled valley wire ropes at the 1994 P&H user meeting. The trade name for this product is Flex-Kote. By compacting the strands in the manufacturing process, the rope more fully fits the pocket of your sheaves and drum, resulting in reduced wear and longer rope, sheave and drum life. Samples of this rope are available upon request and quotes can be obtained from Diane Mielke of our Portal Crane Parts department by calling 1-800-633-1136.

