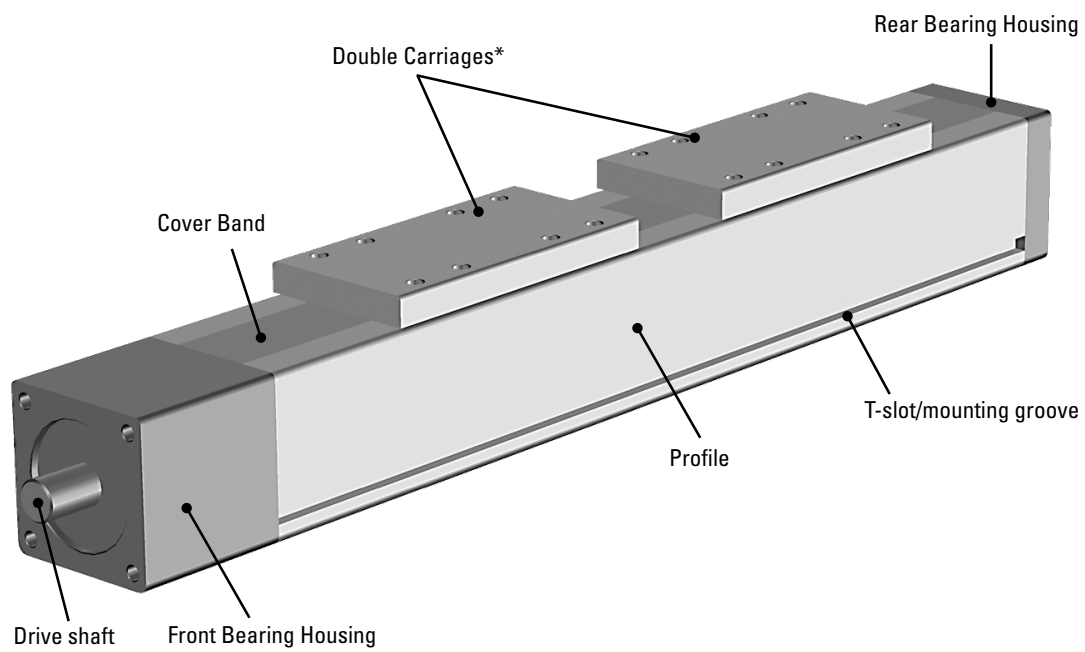


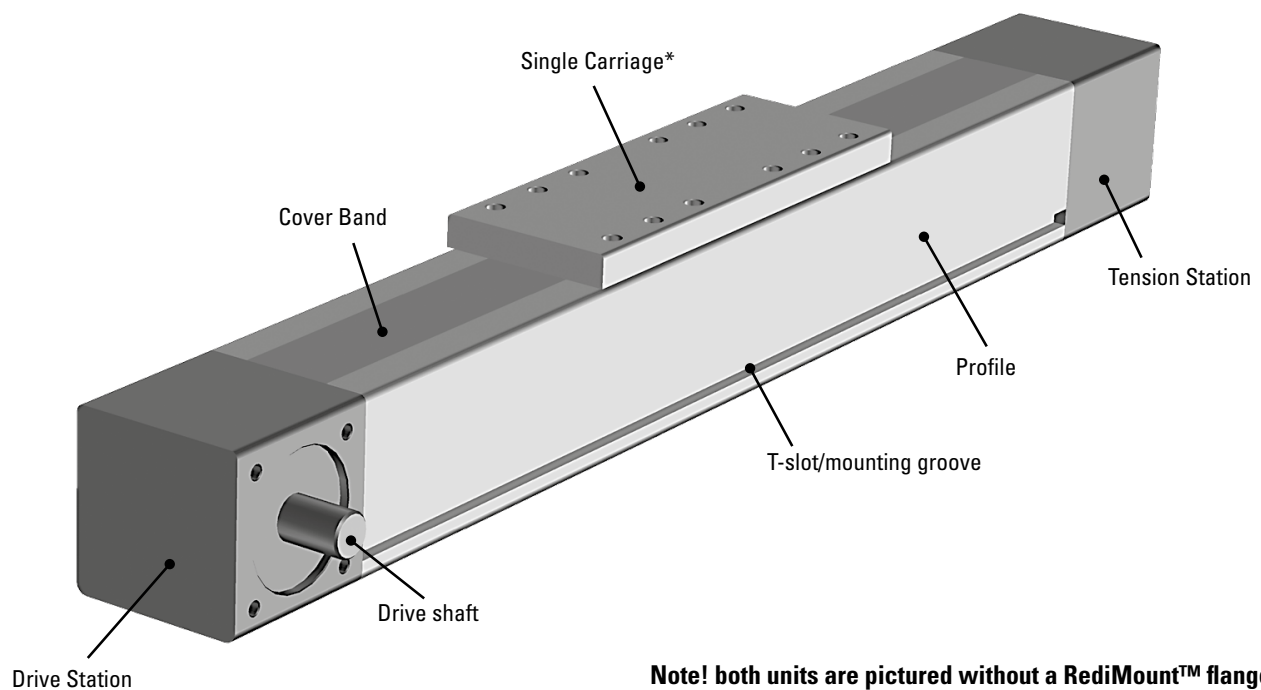
Terminology

Basic Linear Motion System Terminology

Screw Driven Unit



Belt Driven Unit



Note! both units are pictured without a RediMount™ flange

* Both screw and belt driven units can have single or double carriages.

Glossary

A - Belt D

Acceleration

Acceleration is a measure of the rate of speed change going from standstill (or a lower speed) to a higher speed. Please contact customer service if your application is critical to which acceleration rate is acceptable or needed.

Accuracy

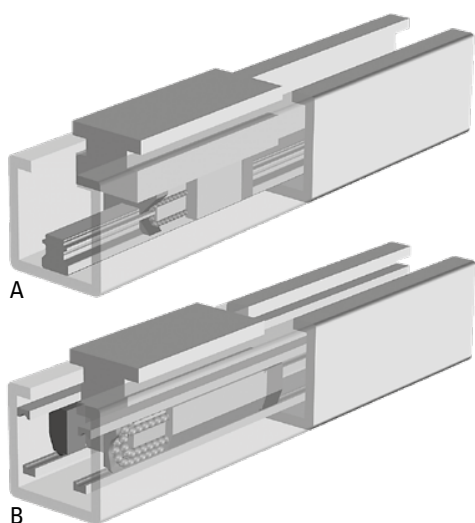
There are several types of accuracy and many different factors that will affect the overall accuracy of a system. Also see "Repeatability", "Positioning Accuracy", "Resolution", "Lead Accuracy" and "Backlash".

Backlash

Backlash is the stack up of tolerances (play) within the leadscrew/belt transmission assembly and gearing which creates a dead band when changing directions. The result is that the motor can rotate some before any motion can be seen on the carriage when reversing the direction of the motor rotation. The backlash varies depending of the liner motion system model.

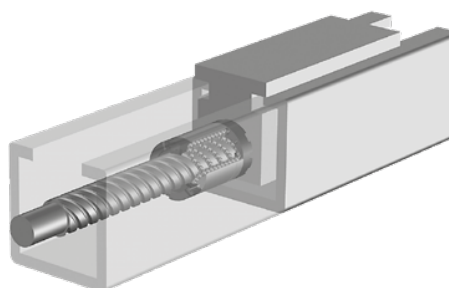
Ball Guides

A ball guide consists of a ball rail and a ball bushing. The ball rail is made of hardened steel and runs along the inside of the profile. The ball bushing is attached to the carriage of the unit and contains balls that roll against the rail. The balls in the bushing can be recirculating or have fixed ball positions depending on the type of ball guide. The recirculating type has a longer life and better load capability while the fixed type typically is much smaller. Thomson uses three major types of ball guides in its linear motion systems. Either the compact single rail type with recirculating ball bushing (A), the stronger double rail type also with recirculating ball bushings (B) or the fixed ball position ball bushings type (not shown) which require very little space and are used in the smallest units. Ball guides offer high accuracy, high loads and medium speed.



Ball Screw Drive

A ball screw is made up of a rotating screw and a moving ball nut. The ball nut is attached to the carriage of the unit. It does not have a normal thread, instead balls circulate inside the nut making it work as an efficient ball bearing that travels along the screw. Ball screws come in a large variety of leads, diameters and tolerance classes. The tolerance class (T3, T5, T7 or T9) indicates the lead tolerance of the screw. The lower the number, the higher the tolerance. High load capability and high accuracy are typical features of ball screw driven units.



Bearing Housing

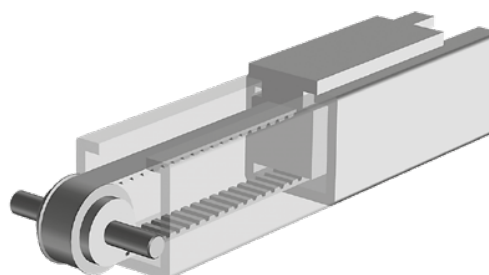
Screw driven units has two bearing housings, front and rear. The front bearing housing has a drive shaft while the rear has none. Sometimes however the rear housing can have an optional output shaft which is used to connect to an encoder.

Bell House Flange

A bell house flange is used when a motor should be connected directly to the drive shaft of a linear motion system, i.e when it is direct driven. The bell house has the bolt pattern of the motor flange in one end and the bolt pattern of the drive shaft flange in the other while the two shafts are joined by a coupling. Also see "Direct Drive".

Belt Drive

A belt drive consists of a toothed belt which is attached to the carriage of the unit. The belt runs between two pulleys positioned at either end of the profile. One pulley is attached to the motor via the drive shaft in the drive station while the other is mounted in a tension station. The belts are made of plastic reinforced with steel cords. High speeds, long stroke, low noise and low overall weight are typical features of belt driven units



Glossary

Belt G - C

Belt Gear

A belt gear consists of a timing belt that runs between two pulley wheels of different diameters. The difference between the diameters determines the gear ratio. Belt gears are quiet, have medium accuracy and require no maintenance but are susceptible to belt breakage under overload conditions.

Brake

None of the units are equipped with a brake or are self-locking which means that a vertical unit will drop the carriage/load if no external brake (such as a brake in the motor, etc.) is applied to the drive shaft. In the case of belt driven units care must be taken as the carriage/load will drop immediately in the case of a belt breakage. This is particularly important in vertical applications. You also may want to incorporate a brake in to the system to ensure fast and secure stops at an emergency stop or a power failure. In this case the brake should be of the failsafe type, i.e. a brake that is engaged when power is off and lifted when it is on.

Carriage

The carriage is the moving member which travel along the profile of the unit to which the load is attached. Some units can have multiple carriages in order to distribute the weight of the load over a greater distance, this will however reduce the available stroke for a given profile length. There are also units having the option of short or long carriage. The short can carry less weight than a standard one but has a slightly longer stroke for a given profile length while the longer works the other way around. It is possible to fix the carriage(s) to the foundation and let the profile act as the moving member if so desired. This is often the case in vertical applications where you let the profile lift and lower the load.

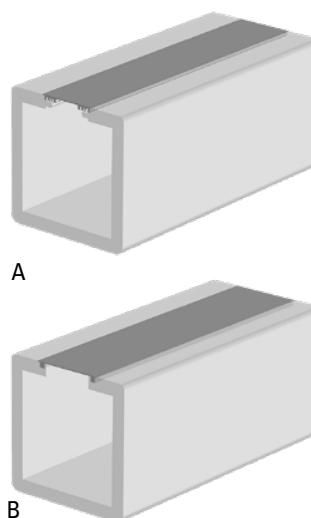
CE Certificate

Linear motion systems do not need and do therefore not have any CE certification. All Thomson linear motion systems are however designed in accordance with the CE regulations and comes with a manufacturers declaration to prove this. Once the linear motion system is used or made in to a machine it is the responsibility of the end customer to make sure the entire machine that the linear motion system is a part of is in accordance with the applicable CE regulations, produce the documents that proves this and apply a CE mark to the machine.

Cover Band

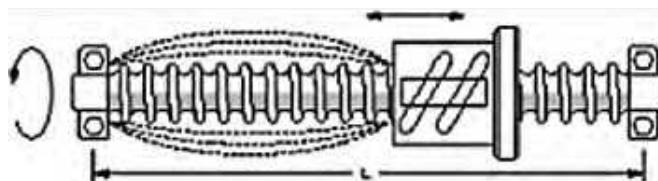
Cover bands are used on some units to protect them from the ingress of foreign objects through the opening in the profile where the carriage runs and can be made of plastic (A) or stainless steel (B). In the case of plastic the cover band seals the profile by snapping into small grooves running along the carriage opening. In the case of stainless steel the cover band seal the profile magnetically using magnet strips mounted on each side of the carriage opening. Some units also have a self-adjusting

cover band tensioning mechanism that eliminates any slack in the cover band that can occur from temperature changes, thus improving the sealing degree and the expected life of the cover band.



Critical Speed

All ball screws have a critical speed where the screw starts to vibrate and eventually bend or warp the screw. The exact limit is a function of how long the screw is and the speed. For some units this means that the allowed maximum speed found in the performance specifications can be higher than the critical speed when the stroke exceeds a certain distance. In this case, either the speed must be reduced to the critical speed, the amount of stroke must be reduced, or you must use the screw support option if the unit in question allows this. Otherwise you must select another unit that can manage the speed at that stroke. The critical speed limits can be found in the "Critical Speed" diagrams on the product pages of the units that this concern.



Customization

Despite the large range of linear motion systems offered by Thomson you may not find the exact unit to suit your application. But whatever your need is, Thomson is ready to help you to customize a unit according to your requirements. Please contact customer service for more information.

Cycle

One cycle is when the carriage has travelled back and forth over the complete stroke of the unit one time.

Glossary

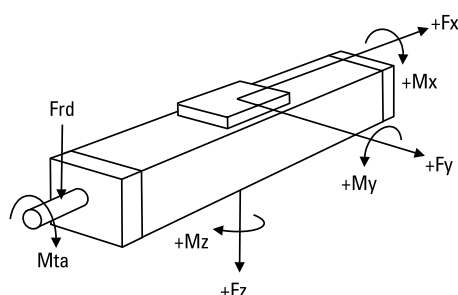
D - E

Deceleration

Deceleration is a measure of the rate of speed change going from a higher speed to a lower speed (or standstill). Please contact customer service if your application is critical to which deceleration rate is acceptable or needed.

Definition of Forces

The designations of the forces that acts on the unit are defined on the product page of each unit in the "Definition of Forces" drawing (see example below). Please always use the same definitions whenever communicating with Thomson.



Deflection of the Profile

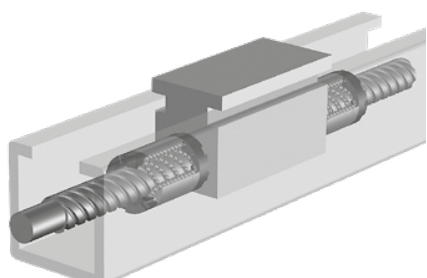
Some units require support along the whole profile whilst some are self-supporting over a specified span. Further details can be found on the product data pages. The recommended support intervals should be followed to minimize deflection of the unit. The maximum distance between the support points is shown on the product data pages. The deflection of the unit can also be calculated using the information in the "Additional data and calculations" section.

Direct Drive

Direct drive means that there is no gearing between the motor and the drive shaft of the linear motion system. Instead the motor is connected to the unit directly via a coupling and a bell house adapter flange. Also see "Bell House Flange".

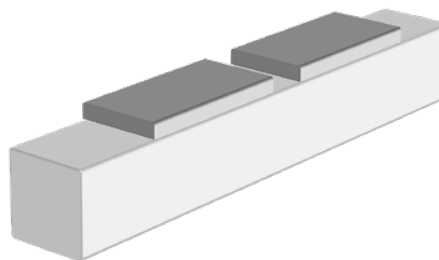
Double Ball Nuts

Using double ball nuts will increase the repeatability of the unit. The ball nuts are installed so that they are pre-tensioned against each other eliminating the play between the nuts and the screw. A double nut unit will have a slightly shorter stroke for a given overall length.



Double Carriages

Double carriage units have two carriages which gives them higher load capabilities than single carriage units. When ordering a double carriage unit the distance between the two carriages needs to be defined. This distance is called LA or Lc depending on the model.



Drive Shaft

The drive shaft is the shaft to which the motor is connected, either directly, via a bell house flange or via a gear box. There are many sizes and types of drive shafts, such as shafts with or without key way or hollow shafts, depending on the type and size of the unit. Belt driven units can often have two drive shafts (same or different type and size), one on each side of the drive station, while screw driven only have one pointing out of the end of the unit. Customized drive shafts are possible, please contact customer service for more information.

Drive Station

The drive station is the mechanical assembly in one of the ends of a belt driven unit where the drive shaft is situated.

Duty Cycle

All units are designed for a 100% duty cycle. However, where the unit runs at extreme load, speed, acceleration and temperature or for long operating periods the expected life time may be reduced.

Encoder Feedback

Encoders provide a digital output signal in the form of a square shaped pulse train that can be used to determine the position of the extension tube. The encoder signal in a servo motor system is connected to the motion control so that it can control the servo drive and hence close the position feedback loop.

End of Stroke Limit Switches

If a unit runs at speed to the ends of its stroke there is a risk of damage. Damage can be prevented by using end of stroke limit switches to detect and engage a brake and/or cut power to the motor when the unit nears the end of the unit. You must ensure that there is sufficient distance between the end of stroke limit switch and the end of the unit, to allow the carriage to come to a complete stop before colliding with the end. The required stopping distance depends on the speed and the load and will have to be calculated for each application. The stopping distance must be taken into account when defining the necessary stroke.

Glossary

G - M

Guides

Guides are in essence a form of linear bearings on which the carriage(s) travel. Thomson uses three main types of guides that all have different characteristics and which to choose depends on the demands of the application. Also see "Ball Guides", "Slide Guides" and "Wheel Guides".

Idle Torque

Idle torque is the torque needed to move the carriage with no load in it by rotating the drive shaft. The idle torque will vary with the input speed and the idle torque tables on the product pages gives a value for some speeds. The value given in the table is for a unit having a single carriage of standard length. If you need the exact value for another speed, multiple carriages or short/long carriages, please contact our customer service.

Inertia

Inertia is the property of an object to resist speed changes and is dependent on the shape and the mass of the object. The inertia is important when sizing and selecting and also when tuning a servo system to optimum performance. Consult customer service for more information.

Input Shaft

The input shaft is the shaft to which the power source (motor) is connected to on a gear box. Primary shaft is another term for this. Sometimes the drive shaft on a linear unit also is referred to as the input shaft.

Input Speed

Input speed is the rotational speed that the drive shaft/input shaft of a linear motion system or a gear box is subjected to.

Installation and Service Manual

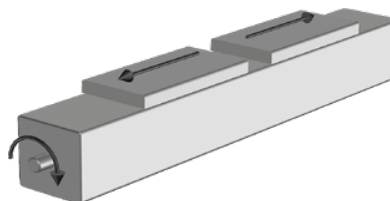
Each linear motion system has an installation and service manual to answer typical questions about mounting and servicing the unit.

Lead Accuracy

Lead accuracy is a measure of how accurate the lead of a ball screw is. For a ball screw with a lead of 25 mm, the screw should in theory move the nut 25 mm per each revolution. In reality there will be a deviation between the expected traveling distance and what is actually achieved. The deviation is typically for a ball screw 0,05 mm per 300 mm of stroke. Contact customer service for more information.

Left/right Moving Carriages

Units with left/right moving carriages have two carriages moving in opposite directions when the drive shaft is rotated. This type of unit has a ball screw where half of the screw has a left hand thread and the other half a right hand thread.



Lifetime Expectancy

When determining the lifetime for a linear motion system it is necessary to evaluate all forces and moments that are acting on the unit. The data and formulas given in this catalogue serve as a basis for this. For a more detailed lifetime calculation please use our sizing and selection software. Please contact us for further guidance.

Linear Lifting System

A linear lifting system is in essence a linear motion system specially designed for vertical lifting applications. Some units can be used in horizontal applications as well under certain criteria. Please contact us if you plan to mount a lifting unit in any other position than vertically with the load carrying plate pointing down.

Linear Motion System

A linear motion system is a mechanical assembly that translates the rotating motion of a motor to the linear motion of a carriage that travel along a load supporting beam/profile. Other names for linear motion systems are linear units, linear drive units and rodless actuators among others.

Load Rating

There are many types of load ratings that all needs to be considered. Normally when you speak about the load you refer to the load that the carriage will move; which is the dynamic load. But there may also be static, side, moment and forces from acceleration, deceleration, gravity and friction that are all equally important. For some units the load and load torque values are given for both the complete unit and the guiding system. The values for the complete unit are the values under which the unit can operate. The values for the guiding system should only be used when comparing different units and do not describe the actual performance of the complete unit.

Maintenance

Most units require lubrication. General lubrication requirements can be found in the general specifications table on the product data pages. The lubrication intervals, grease qualities and specific lubrication instructions can be found in the installation and service manual of each unit. No other regular maintenance is needed except for normal cleaning and inspection. Units with a cover band may also require irregular cover band replacement due to wear. The belt in belt driven units should not require re-tensioning under normal operating conditions.

Manufacturers Declaration

All Thomson linear motion systems comes with a manufacturers declaration to prove that it is built according to the CE regulations.

Mounting

Most units can be mounted in any direction. Any restrictions on mounting positions are shown on the product presentation pages at the beginning of each product category chapter. Even where units may be mounted in any direction there are some considerations. None of the units are self-locking which means that a vertical unit will drop the carriage/load if no

Glossary

N - Sc

external brake (such as a brake in the motor, etc.) is applied to the drive shaft of the unit. In the case of belt driven units care must be taken as the carriage/load will drop immediately in the case of a belt breakage. This is particularly important in vertical applications. All ball screw driven units are equipped with a safety nut to prevent the carriage/load being released in case of ball breakage.

Non-driven Linear Motion Systems

A non-driven linear motion system has no drive shaft or any type of transmission. In reality a non-driven linear motion system is a guide that has the same look and outer dimensions as the driven version. Normally a non-driven unit is used together with a parallel working driven unit that are mechanically linked where the non-driven unit help to share to load with the driven one.

Non-guided Linear Motion Systems

A non-guided linear motion system has a drive shaft and a ball screw but no guides. In reality a non-guided linear motion system is a enclosed ball screw assembly with a carriage that has the same look and outer dimensions as the driven version. Using a non-guided unit requires some kind of external guide to which the carriage can be attached.

Operation and Storage Temperature

Operational temperature limits can be found in the performance tables on the product data pages. Units can be stored or transported within the same temperature range. Please contact us if the unit will be exposed to higher/lower temperatures than recommended during storage or transportation.

Output Shaft

The output shaft is the shaft on a gear box that is connected to object being driven by the gear box. Another term for output shaft is secondary shaft.

Packages and Multi Axis Kits

Thomson can offer complete pre-defined packages (linear motion system, gear and servo motor assembled and shipped with servo drive and cables) as well as mounting kits for the creation of two and three axis systems. Please contact us for further information.

Positioning Accuracy

Positioning accuracy is the error between the the expected and actual position and is the sum of all factors that will reduce the accuracy (i.e. repeatability, backlash, resolution, screw/belt accuracy, and the accuracy of the motor, drive and motion control system). Some of these factors, such as backlash and lead accuracy, can sometimes be compensated for in the software of the motion control system being used. Also see "Accuracy".

Position Feedback

The position of the carriage/rod/lifting profile can be obtained in many ways. The most common way is to equip the unit with an encoder or to use a motor which has a built in feedback device (encoder, resolver, etc.). To many units there are encoders or/and encoder mounting kits available. See the accessory chapter.

Repeatability

Repeatability is the ability for a positioning system to return to a location when approaching from the same distance, at the same speed and deceleration rate. Some of the factors that affect the repeatability are the angular repeatability of the motor, drive and motion control system, system friction and changes in load, speed and deceleration.

Resolution

Resolution is the smallest move increment that the system can perform. Some of the factors that affect the resolution are the angular repeatability of the motor, drive and motion control system, system friction, the drive train reduction, the lead/type of the ball screw/belt and changes in load, speed and deceleration.

Resolver

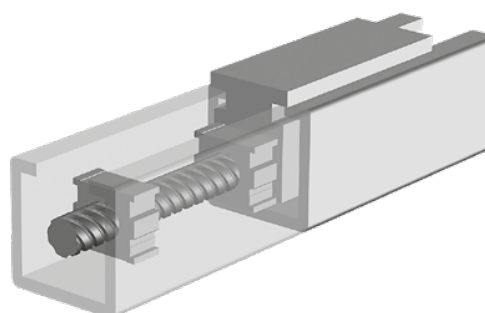
A resolver is basically a type of rotary electrical transformer used for measuring degrees of rotation and are commonly used on AC servo motors as a feedback device to control the commutation of the motor windings. The resolver is mounted to the end of motor shaft and when the motor rotates the resolver will transmit the position and direction of the rotor to the servo drive which then can control the motor. Most servo drives for AC servo motors on the market today can convert the resolver signal in to a pulse train (encoder signal simulation) which can be used by a motion control to determine and control the position of the motor. Also see "Encoder Feedback".

RoHS Compliance

The RoHS directive stands for "the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment". This directive bans the placing on the EU market of new electrical and electronic equipment containing more than agreed levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyl (PBB) and polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) flame retardants. All linear motion systems and accessories sold in the EU are RoHS compliant.

Screw Supports

Screw supports allow screw driven units to travel at high speed even when stroke becomes longer. The supports reduce the unsupported length of the screw, that otherwise would be subjected to vibrations. Screw supports come in single (one screw support on each side of the carriage) or double (two supports on each side) versions. Screw support units will have a slightly shorter stroke for a given overall length.

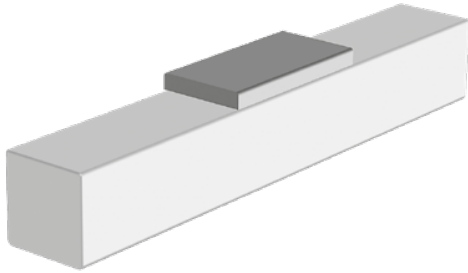


Glossary

Si - W

Single Carriage

Single carriage units have one carriage. Some linear motion system models also have the option of long or short single carriages. The long carriages handle higher loads but will have a longer overall length for a given stroke.

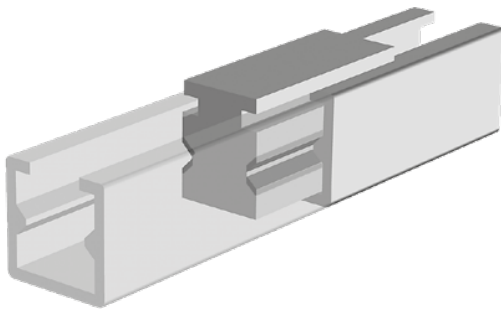


Sizing and Selection

This catalog can give you an overview of what Thomson can offer you and an indication of which products that may suit your application. But in order to get the best solution it is necessary to know your specific application and to carry out detailed sizing and selection calculations. Please contact customer service for further help.

Slide Guides

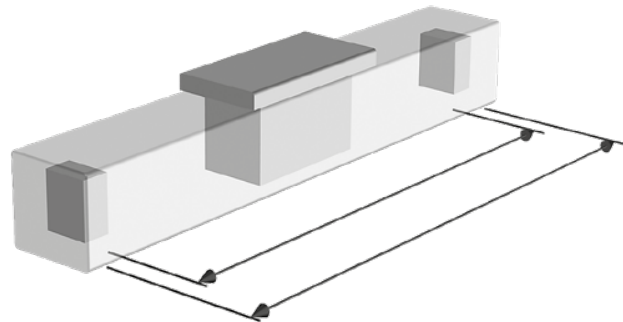
A slide guide consists of a guide attached to the inside of the profile and a slide bushing attached to the carriage. The guide can be made of different materials (e.g. polished hardened steel, anodized aluminum) while the bushing is made of a polymer material. There are two types of bushings, fixed and prism. Prism bushings can move in relation to the guide which results in longer life and higher load capabilities. Slide bushings are silent, simple, reliable and robust and can be used in dirty and dusty environments. They are also resistant to shock loads, have a long life expectancy and require little or no maintenance.



Stroke

The theoretical maximum stroke (S_{max}) is the length that the carriage can travel from one end of the unit to the other. However, using the maximum stroke means that the carriage will collide with the ends of the profile. The practical stroke is therefore shorter. We recommend that you specify a unit that have at least 100 mm longer stroke than the maximum stroke you need so that the unit can stop before colliding with

the ends and also allow for some adjustment of the unit position at the mounting.

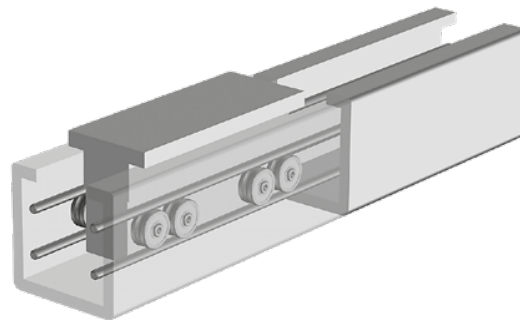


Tension Station

The tension station is the mechanical assembly situated in the opposite end of the drive station on a belt driven unit. The tension station has a mechanism that allows the belt pulley position to be adjusted thus changing the tension of the belt. Adjustment of the belt tension is normally only necessary when replacing a broken or worn out belt with a new.

Wheel Guides

A wheel guide consists of ball bearing wheels that run on a hardened steel rail. Wheel guides are a simple and robust guiding method offering high speeds, high loads and medium accuracy.



Working Environment

All units are designed for use in normal industrial environments. Units which have an open profile (i.e. have no cover band) are more sensitive to dust, dirt and fluids. These units require some kind of cover if they are used in environments where dust, dirt or fluids are present. Wash down or enhanced wash down protection can be ordered for our closed profile units. Please refer to the accessory pages. In all cases where a unit will be exposed to aggressive chemicals, heavy vibrations or other potentially harmful processes we recommend that you contact us for further advice.

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