

pewag hero friction welded chain

A new era of chains.

For decades, chains have been produced using the same method: by cutting wire rod or rod steel, bending the round steel to the desired link shape and welding the links together using energy-intensive processes like resistance or flash-butt welding.

The limiting factors of this conventional technology are the shape of the chain links (round) as well as the weldability of the steel grade, which very much depends upon the carbon content and alloying elements.

pewag hero, an innovative friction-welded chain, goes beyond these limits and opens the door to a new world of chains.

Friction welding is a well-established "joining technology" which has been used by aviation and automotive industries for decades. pewag is the first chain producer to apply and refine the friction welding process for the production of the next generation of chains.

Friction-welded chains are produced from forged steel components, unlike round steel chains that start from drawn steel wire or rolled bars. The use of forged components offers the ability to increase the section modulus in areas of high stress or wear and eliminates the risk of tension cracks, which can occur during the bending process of round steel chains.

Friction welding is not a welding process in the traditional sense. Heat is generated through mechanical friction between the chain link components until the material plasticises. Lateral force is applied to exactly fuse the components to a whole chain link.

For more details, please refer to our website hero.pewag.com!



Forged chain components



Finished friction-welded chain



Tensile test

Advantages of friction welding & pewag hero chain.

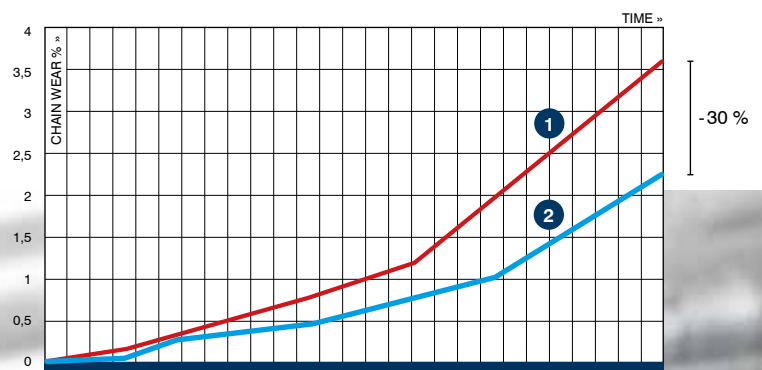
- **Melt-free technique**
 - no grain-growth.
 - very small heat-affected zone (near zero residual stresses).
- **Clean joining**
 - Impurities between the contact surfaces are removed by the plasticised working mass and are forced out during the joining of the forged components.
- **No material limits**
 - even conventionally non-weldable steel grades, for example a 50CrV4 steel which offers excellent wear resistance, can be joined.
- **No shape limits**
 - every chain application has its special demands – the use of forged components can address critical factors like adding wear volume in the interlink section or legs of the link to drastically improve wear life of the chain.
- **No pairing process needed**
 - Due to the high production quality every strand has the same length with a very small tolerance.
 - Each strand with the same number of links can be installed parallel to each other.
 - Production tolerance of 0.05% for matched chains.
- **Longer chain strands are possible**
 - Because of the friction welding process, the pewag hero chain can be delivered with longer chain strands compared to conventional round link chains.
 - For example, the standard length of pewag hero chain is double the standard length of round link chains.
- **Longer lifespan & easy change**
 - Case hardened and in many different dimensions, the pewag hero is running over all different types of toothed and plain wheels, which are also used for round link chains. This has the advantage that changing from round-steel chain to pewag hero chain – for example at existing installations – is quite easy and also cost effective.
 - The bigger wear volume leads to a significantly longer lifespan compared to round link chains.
 - This results in: lower maintenance costs, lower operating cycles and lower downtime costs.

The friction welded pewag hero chain can be used for different applications such as conveyors or bucket elevators.



- A Reduced surface pressure
- B Geometric shape depending on application. Increased interlink wear volume

Reduced surface pressure



- Cement bucket elevator:
- 1 round steel chain 26 x 100, E 10
 - 2 pewag hero chain 26 x 100, E

pewag hero friction welded chain

Friction welding – form follows function.

Friction welding is a tried-and-tested 'joining technology' that has been used by the aviation and automotive industries for decades. The method also allows for the joining of lightweight construction materials such as aluminium with high-strength steels.

With conventional welding techniques, the joining of materials with highly different welding points is not possible, which is why mechanical joining methods have to be applied to achieve this goal. With friction welding, such materials can be joined without any problems and without having to compromise when it comes to weld stability or having to accept a higher weight.

pewag is the first chain manufacturer worldwide to have taken up the innovative technology of friction welding and refined it for the manufacture of the next generation of chains. Unlike conventional round-steel chains, the friction-welded chain does not start out as wire rod or rod steel, but consists exclusively of forged parts. By using forged components, the risk of tension cracks, which are a typical byproduct of the cold-bending welding process of round-steel chains, is eliminated. As such, friction welding is not a conventional welding technique. In friction welding, heat is generated through mechanical friction between the links to be joined, which causes the material to plasticise.

A defined lateral force is applied to fuse the components to a whole chain link with precise pitch and strand lengths. Therefore the pairing operation is not longer required.

Compared to round-link chains, the pewag hero chains offer the following advantages thanks to their design.

220% wear volume – 30% longer life.

The load-specific geometry of the pewag hero chain has an increased interlink contact area and more than twice the wear volume of a conventional chain. This leads to significantly reduced contact and maximum stress, better performance and an approximately 30% longer lifespan.



wear volume round steel chain (100%)



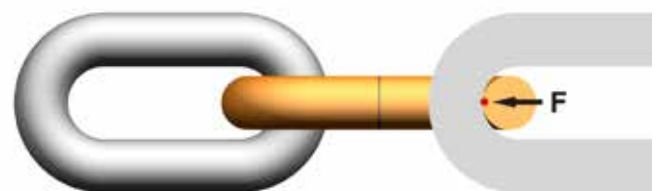
wear volume pewag hero (220%)

220% wear volume – 30% longer life

Reduced surface pressure.

The geometry of traditional round steel chains provides a small interlink contact area and subsequent high stresses

- evenly distributed force
- less force per mm²
- lower maintenance cost
- longer operating cycles
- lower downtime cost



Reduced surface pressure