

Plastic conveyor chains for the beverage and packaging industries – Low weight, low noise and low maintenance

Munich, Germany, March 2010. Iwis Drive Systems offer plastic conveyor chains for the beverage, packaging and food processing industries. The flat top chains and modular belts are made of low contamination synthetic materials and meet the industry demand for energy efficient, low noise and low maintenance conveying systems.

At least 75 percent of all products in the supermarket were conveyed with flat top chains and modular belts in the course of their production and packaging. Precision chain manufacturer Iwis now offers a new range of plastic flat top chains and modular belts. The chains, which are sold under the Flexon brand name, can be used for most conveying tasks that require a flat transport surface. Typical applications include conveying of glass and plastic bottles, cans, cases, casks and barrels in bottling and packaging plants, conveying foodstuffs in the food industry, and conveying small and medium-sized goods in various industrial plants.

Flat top chains consist of plates that are connected to each other with single and double hinged joints. This design allows the construction of chains with a width of up to 305 mm for both straight-line and curved tracks, onto which the products can be directly placed. Modular belts have multiple hinged joints. A special characteristic of this design is that several chain links can be placed side-by-side to construct a flat conveying surface with widths of up to 1700 mm.

In many applications, plastic modular belts can have decisive advantages over their stainless steel counterparts: Their noise level in conveying systems is up to 80 percent lower and the synthetic elements are up to 40 percent lighter, which reduces the required drive power or increases the belts' conveying capacity. Because of their better resistance to chemicals, they can be cleaned with agents that are either unsuitable for metal chains or would require intensive maintenance. The FDA-approved plastic has excellent mechanical load carrying capacity, is dimensionally stable, even in humid conditions, and is low friction. With its new synthetic modular belts, Iwis meets the industry demand for energy-efficient, low-contamination and low-maintenance conveying systems.

Flexon flat top chains are available in various plastic versions as well as stainless steel, for both straight and curved conveying sections. Flexon plastic modular belts include versions for both linear and curved running belts. All Flexon chains are made of low-contamination materials, require low maintenance and offer long service life. They boast excellent workmanship and evenness and have an especially low coefficient of friction for high energy efficiency. With their low friction and outstanding wear resistance, the modular belts achieve excellent performance even without lubrication and are therefore ideal for use in environments with stringent hygiene regulations, such as in the food, beverage and packaging industries.

The new range of chains comprises about 300 different flat top chains and more than 1,000 different modular belt variants. With the new range, Iwis' product line-up now covers all drive and conveying applications. The Iwis group's full product program includes chains for industrial applications such as precision and high-performance roller chains, conveyor chains, maintenance-free and corrosion-resistant chains, power and free conveyor chains, special-purpose conveyor chains and chains for agricultural machinery, as well as timing drive systems for the automotive industry.

Picture:

Different types of Flexon plastic conveyor chains.

Company information:

The Iwis group, headquartered in Munich, Germany, is a leading manufacturer of precision chain systems for power transmission and product conveying applications.

The Iwis group comprises three divisions:

- Iwis Motorsysteme GmbH & Co KG provides engine timing drives for the automotive industry.
- Iwis Antriebssysteme GmbH & Co KG supplies a wide range of precision roller and conveyor chains for industrial applications, including machine and plant engineering, material handling systems, the packaging, printing and food industries and other applications.
- Iwis Antriebssysteme GmbH, formerly Flexon GmbH, specialises in roller, flyer and special-purpose chains as well as chains for agricultural machinery and accessories.

Still run as a family business, now in its fourth generation, Iwis today employs about 1,000 people at its three production sites in Munich and Landsberg, both in Germany, and Strakonice in the Czech Republic. With subsidiaries in the United Kingdom and Switzerland and further sites in France, the USA, Brazil and China, the Iwis group has a global presence.

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