



DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF SET-UP FOR GREASE FILLING MACHINE

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ABSTRACT

An engineer is always focused towards challenges of bringing ideas and concepts to life. Therefore, sophisticated machines and modern technique have to be constantly developed and implemented for economical manufacturing of products. At the same time, we should take care that there has been no compromise made with quality and accuracy.

In the age of automation, machine became an integral part of human being. By the use of automation, machine proves itself that it gives high production rate than manual production rate. In competitive market everyone wants to increase their productivity & make the machine multipurpose.

The engineer is constantly conformed to the challenges of bringing ideas and design into reality. New machines and techniques are being developed continuously to manufacture various products at cheaper rates and high quality.

This paper discusses about making a set up for maintenance of LHB Roller Bearing which can be used in future as fully automated for lubrication purpose. The basic objective is it should be simple to maintain and easy to operate.

Keywords: Grease filling, LHB, Lubrication, Roller Bearing, Sophisticated.

I. INTRODUCTION

LINKE HOFMANN BUSCH (LHB) is a railway Coach Manufacturing unit situated at Germany. The coaches manufactured by LHB are called LHB coaches. These coaches are now being manufactured at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurtala after getting the Transfer of technology from Germany. These LHB coaches are superior to the conventional Integral Coach Factory (ICF) as described in table 1.



Table 1 Difference between LHB Coaches with ICF Coaches

DESCRIPTION	LHB	ICF
Speed Potential (km/h)	160	140
Wheel Base (mm)	2560	2896
Wheel Dia. (mm)	915	915
Wheel Dia. Worn (mm)	845	814
Axle Box Guidance	Articulated	Rigid
Dampers-Primary	Hydraulic	Dashpot
Bogie Frame	Without Headstock	With Headstock
Length Over Buffers,(M)	24	22.28

The process of maintenance for LHB bearings is not done in Western Railway Workshop at Lower Parel, Mumbai. Hence a lot of time is consumed in the transportation for maintenance work. Another issue is of manual grease filling process which leads to inaccuracy in distribution of grease on Cartridge Taper Roller Bearing (CTRBs). In order to overcome from these problems, we are designing & making the set-up for grease filling machine in Western Railway Workshop.

It will be beneficial for the maintenance of LHB bearing which was earlier done by external vendors. By means of this project the overall maintenance cost is reduced. Normally for refurbishment of CTRB's time taken is of 20-25 days by bearing manufacture company which will be reduced to 2-3 days by implementing this project. The major benefits are reduction in maintenance cost & time required for maintenance.

II. NEED OF LUBRICATION FOR BEARINGS

The life of any bearing depends to a great extent on the proper lubrication of the bearing. Lubricants aid in carrying away heat, protecting bearing surfaces from corrosion and reducing friction.

Statistics show that nearly 50 percent of all bearing damage can be attributed to inadequate lubrication. Although a very broad term, inadequate lubrication can be classified into eight basic categories:

- Over-filling,
- Under-filling,
- Incorrect grease,
- Mixing greases,
- Incorrect lubrication systems and intervals,
- Wornout grease,
- Water contamination, and
- Debris contamination.

The two categories which can appear due to improper grease filling are discussed here.

2.1 Over-Filling-

Over-filling a bearing with too much grease can cause excess churning of the grease during operation and high temperatures, resulting in overheating and excess grease purging. Overheating occurs because the heat

generated cannot dissipate correctly, continually building until damage occurs. As the operating temperature of the bearing rises, the oxidation rate of the grease sharply increases – doubling every 18° F.

During initial start-up, it is common for a properly lubricated bearing to purge a small amount of grease. A slight grease purge is often recommended by original equipment manufacturers, as it acts as a barrier seal to help keep out external debris contamination. Always original equipment manufacturers' recommendations regarding grease purging and correct replenishment amounts should be followed.

An overfilled bearing may also purge grease during initial start-up. However, over time and as temperature rises, excess grease will continue to purge from an overfilled bearing and have a darkened color.

Grease undergoing heavy oxidation often has a very distinguishable black color and burned odor. In addition, it gets stiffer in composition.

2.2 Under-Filling-

Under-filling a bearing with grease can also have adverse consequences. As in overfilling, heat can be generated but for different reasons. When the grease amount is low, a grease starvation condition may be created, causing heat generation or excessive metal wear during operation. If a bearing suddenly becomes noisy and/or the temperature increases, excessive wear may be taking place.

III. EXISTING BEARING MAINTENANCE PROCESS AT WESTERN RAILWAY WORKSHOP

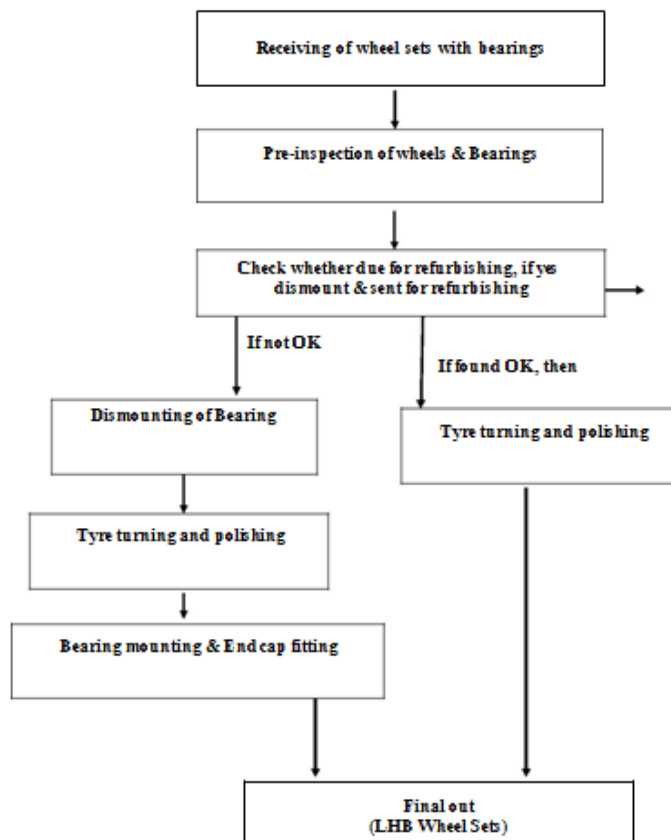


Fig1. Flowchart for LHB Bearing maintenance in Western Railway Workshop



IV. DESIGN CALCULATIONS

Power of Shaft = 17 watt

Power transmitted by shaft,

$$P = (2\pi NT)/60$$

Where, $N = 24$

$$\mathbf{T = 6.76 \times 10^3 \text{ N-mm}}$$

We know that,

$$N_1 = 12 \quad ; \quad N_2 = 36$$

Ratio = $R = 1:3$

Torque on sprocket = $3 \times T$

$$= 20.280 \times 10^3 \text{ N-mm}$$

Diameter Of sprocket,

Periphery = $\pi \times \text{dia. Of sprocket}$

$$36 \times 6.25 = \pi \times D$$

$$\mathbf{D = 72 \text{ mm}}$$

Torque transmitted,

$$T = \text{Force} \times \text{radius}$$

$$20.280 \times 10^3 = F \times 36$$

$$F = 563.33 \text{ N}$$

$$F = 563.33/9.81$$

$$\mathbf{F = 58 \text{ Kg}}$$

Torque transmitted by shaft,

$$T = \pi/16 \times \tau \times d^3$$

Select permissible shear stress (τ) from design data book.

$$\tau = 70 \text{ N/mm}^2$$

$$\text{Therefore, } 20.28 \times 10^3 = \pi/16 \times d^3 \times 70$$

$$\mathbf{D = 12 \text{ mm.}}$$

Taking factor of safety = 1.6

$$D = 1.6 \times 12 = 19.2 = 20 \text{ mm}$$

We select dia. Of shaft = 20mm.

NOMENCLATURE

P = Power of shaft in Watt, N = Rpm of motor shaft

T = Torque transmitted in N-mm

N_1 = No. of teeth (Gear)

N_2 = No. of teeth (sprocket)

R = Ratio = (N_1/N_2), D = Diameter of sprocket in mm

F = Force in Kg

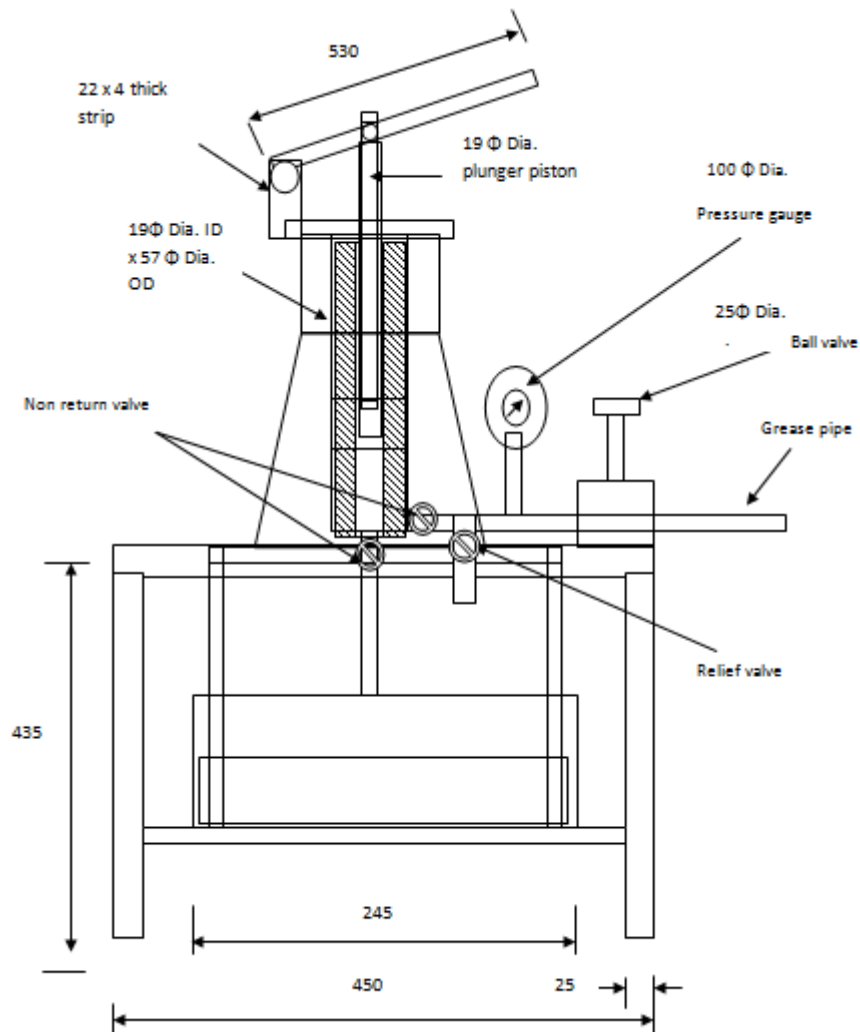


Fig2. Schematic Diagram of Grease Filling Machine

5.1 Components

Main cylinder:- It is the vertical cylinder of thick cross section wall designed enough to with stand the bursting pressure safely. It is smoothly finished from inside by honing and lapping process enough up to mirror finishing. The plunger type of piston reciprocates inside the cylinder vertically with the application of lever.

Frame:- It is manufactured from mild steel angles in the form of a robust structure enough to hold the total assembly along with the grease containing tank and of such a strength that it will with stand the impact loading received due to continuous operation of the lever actuation mechanism. The frame is coated with the red oxide followed by colour coating to make it environmentally nonreactive with the oxidation and rusting.

Tank:- It is manufactured from the mild steel sheets. Its corners and joints are sealed properly to make it leak proof. It is applied with the red oxide coating followed by colour painting. The M.S. sheets used are 3 mm thick sheets.

Pipes:- The pipes used for conveying grease from the tank to the cylinder and from the cylinder to the valve and pressure gauge installation header pipe itself are galvanized iron pipes of C-class type having better



anticorrosive properties and suitable strength for usual installation and removal of the valves and the pressure gauges frequently.

5.2 Working

As the piston of the power cylinder is operated using the lever operating mechanism, due to the advantage of leverage the piston is reciprocated inside the vertical cylinder. During the upward motion of the piston, the partial vacuum is created inside the cylinder to fill up this vacuum non-return valve installed at the bottom of the cylinder will open towards the inside in the cylinder and the grease is sucked in the cylinder. During downward motion of the piston the massive pressure is exerted on the surface of the grease. As the grease is incompressible, its pressure will increase. As the pressure of grease exceeds the spring tension of the non-return valve no2 and valve no3 which opens out of the cylinder, it will open and pressurized grease is allowed to flow in the header pipe on which the valves and the pressure gauge are installed. This high pressure grease will enter the valve and pressure gauges and fill the grease in required position.

Here the piston will pressurize the grease in the pipe on the either sides of the cylinder maximum up to the pressure of 25 bar and will fill grease at required point on machine.

Lubrication technicians need to know the output per stroke of the grease from nozzle in order to know how much grease is added each time a piece of equipment is lubricated.

VI. CONCLUSION

In following ways, the set up will be beneficial for the in-house maintenance of LHB bearing which was earlier done by external vendors.

- Maintenance of single bearing can be done.
- Less time consumption.
- Manually grease filling process can be replaced by automatic grease filling machine.
- Maintenance, transportation & labor cost also reduced.
- It required no manually operation being power operated.
- Its efficiency is more as for the less operation of lever the pressure developed is too large.
- It has greater mechanical advantage.
- It is portable and can be conveyed to any remote place.
- It required very little maintenance as compared to other hence it's running cost is negligible.

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