



Synchronous Belt Noise Problems

PA NOTE

Depending upon drive variables, synchronous belt drives can generate noise. For the most part, this noise - usually a whine of varying frequency and pitch - is not objectionable and oftentimes it is of a lower volume than the surrounding equipment noise.

Unfortunately, on rare occasions, the noise generated in these drives can be of a significant level. Sound levels on a few drives have been sufficiently loud that individuals were unable to be exposed to the noise for a reasonable period of time without affecting their hearing.

At the present time, the potential for noise problems is not readily predictable. It appears that certain HTD® belt drives have a greater possibility of generating high noise levels. While small in number, some of these drives are extremely loud when the proper combination of conditions are present.

We recently attempted to evaluate a problem drive in the laboratory. We were able to reproduce the noise on the dynamometer, but were not able to resolve the problem.

In our opinion, it is better to evaluate these problems in the field where the actual drive conditions can be observed. In order to assist us in quantifying this potential problem, we need to know about any synchronous belt drive (our's or competition's) that is experiencing significant noise problems. If you have encountered such a drive, be sure to let us know, giving us all of the drive details.