

F16C

SHAFTS; FLEXIBLE SHAFTS; ELEMENTS OR CRANKSHAFT MECHANISMS; ROTARY BODIES OTHER THAN GEARING ELEMENTS; BEARINGS

Definition statement

This place covers:

The elements of Subclass [F16C](#) are various general mechanical engineering elements or units which have in common that they all relate to:

- conducting (transmitting) or supporting (guiding) load (force, torque) in combination with
- controlled relative movement.

In general Subclass [F16C](#) it encompasses:

- elongated mechanical engineering elements for transmitting rotary or linear or combined movement in combination with actuating or driving;
- mechanical engineering elements to support relatively moving elements (rotating, pivoting or linear movement);
- construction of rotating bodies in view of load due to movement (centrifugal load).

The elongated elements to transmit linear, rotary or combined movement, e.g. push-pull type movement, comprise:

- Flexible shafts conveying rotary movement (torque);
- Shafts (torque), telescopic shafts, crankshafts;
- Cranks, eccentrics;
- Mechanical means for transmitting movement in a flexible sheathing, e.g. Bowden cables;
- Connecting-rods or links pivoted at both ends with similar function.

The supporting elements allowing relative rotary, linear or combined motion comprise:

- Axles (to support a rotating body);
- Crossheads;
- Crankshaft bearings;
- Connecting rod bearings;
- Pivots;
- Rolls, drums, discs;
- Bearings.

Since the individual mechanical engineering elements of Subclass [F16C](#) are not a coherent group they will be defined individually in more detail below.

General distribution of subject-matter in Subclass [F16C](#) (index):

Flexible Mechanical elements for transmitting movement / force [F16C 1/00](#):

Rotary/Torque	Linear - Push/Pull
Flexible shafts F16C 1/02	Mechanical in a flexible sheathing: F16C 1/10
Shafts, Axles, Cranks, Eccentrics	F16C 3/00
Crossheads	F16C 5/00
Connecting rods	F16C 7/00
Resisting rotary force	F16C 15/00

Support elements allowing relative displacement between parts:

Bearings for crankshafts/connecting rods, F16C 9/00	Pivots F16C 11/00
Bearings for rolls, drums discs F16C 13/02	Rolls, discs F16C 13/00

Bearings

Bearings with sliding or rolling contact:

For rotary parts F16C 17/00 - F16C 27/08	For parts moving only linearly F16C 29/00
Aligning, Positioning	F16C 23/00 ; F16C 29/001
Wear / Play	F16C 25/00 ; F16C 29/12
Resilient	F16C 27/00 ; F16C 29/002

For parts which both rotate and move linearly [F16C 31/00](#)

Other bearings ([F16C 32/00](#))

Magnetic	F16C 32/04
Hydrostatic	F16C 32/06 ; F16C 29/025

Details or accessories of bearings:

Details or parts thereof	F16C 33/00
Lubrication	F16C 33/10 ; F16C 33/66
Sealing	F16C 33/72 ; F16C 29/08
Resilient support	F16C 27/00 ; F16C 29/002
Rigid Mounting; Housings	F16C 35/00 ; F16C 29/004
Cooling	F16C 37/00
Relieving load	F16C 39/00
Accessories	F16C 41/00
Assembling	F16C 43/00

Bearings are general mechanical engineering elements which support or guide and are adapted to position one part moving with respect to another part of an arrangement, i.e. to allow constrained relative motion between the two parts. One of the parts supports the load imposed thereon by the other part. The bearing is intended to reduce friction between the two relatively moving parts, which are typically larger than the bearing itself.

It is noted that apart from bearings many other objects, such as vehicle wheels, conveyor rollers etc., also meet the above criteria. These objects are classified elsewhere.

Further it is noted here that in general the expression "bearing" is also used for supports between parts which are (quasi) stationary.

Due to the lack of relative movement such bearing are not bearings in the sense of this section of Subclass [F16C](#).

Apart from the bearings per se the section "bearings" also covers:

- the direct surrounding of the bearing, i.e. the interaction of the bearing with the two relatively moving parts;
- the individual parts of the bearing, such as sleeves, rolling elements, races, separators, cages;
- materials suited for these parts;
- methods specific for making the parts, as far as they are not covered by other groups;
- details involving the proper functioning of the bearing such as sealings, lubrication, cooling, damping means, monitoring;
- parts, although not required for the bearing function, which are integrated in the bearing as far as the way they are integrated is of relevance.

Bearings are distinguished and classified in the respective groups and groups according to

- the type of movement they allow;
- principle of operation;
- suitability for load direction.

Movement between the two parts:

- rotary motion (e.g. of a shaft or axle);
- linear motion (e.g. cross head, linear bearing);
- oscillating respectively spherical movement;
- combined movements, e.g. helical.

Principle of operation, i.e. the means to reduce friction.

Sliding contact, e.g. plain bearings (bushings, journal bearings, sleeve bearings) including:

- dry operated sliding bearings relying on material selected to reduce friction (rubbing contact, solid lubricants);
- lubricated sliding bearings with lubricant separating parts;
- more particular bearings with pressurised fluid (gas or liquid) in the gap between the parts, i.e. making use of low viscosity:
- pressurised by hydrodynamic effect (wedges, pressure generating grooves);
- hydrostatically pressurised by external means;
- rolling contact, e.g. with rolling elements such as balls or rollers rolling between the parts or rocking motion;
- fields such as electromagnetic field, magnetic bearings.

Loads:

- radial load;
- axial load;
- combined radial and axial load;
- lateral loads (linear bearings).

Combination of principles can be used within a bearing or bearing arrangement, e.g. to support different load directions or to take account of various operating conditions, e.g. speed.

Relationships with other classification places

Subclass [F16C](#) is a general function-orientated place.

The elements defined in [F16C](#) (shafts, connecting rods, pivots, rolls, bearings) are typical examples of function-oriented elements which are used in a wide variety of applications throughout all sections of the IPC.

Relationships with other classification places

Subclass [F16C](#) as part of Class [F16](#) relates to "Engineering Elements or units". This limits the elements classified in [F16C](#).

Further the elements in [F16C](#) are also strongly correlated to:

- the materials or the half-products (Section [C](#), Chemistry; Metallurgy) from which they are made, respectively
- the processes used in their manufacture (Section [B](#), Performing Operations).

Further it is noted that there is a strong correlation with the neighbouring Subclasses in Class [F16](#) relating to other mechanical engineering elements.

Accordingly:

- First it has to be established whether the relevant technical information relates to an engineering element or unit as defined in [F16C](#).
- Further, whether the relevant technical information is or could (also) be relevant for another Subclass.
- Forwarding the document to one or more other technical fields, when the relevant technical information could be relevant for that field.

References

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Bearings for rotary parts (groups [F16C 17/00](#) - [F16C 27/00](#))

Bearings of rotating parts specially adapted for agricultural purposes	A01B 71/04
Bearings for threshing machines	A01F 12/58
Tomographs	A61B 6/03
Mounting or supporting mixing devices	B01F 35/40
Adaptation of roll bearings for rolling mills	B21B 31/07
Movable or adjustable work or tool supports with a mechanism with rotating pairs only	B23Q 1/50
Swash plate in percussive tool	B25D 11/062
Portable power tools	B25F 5/00
Vehicle wheel hubs with ball or roller bearings	B60B 27/00
Arrangement of bearings of torque transmitting axles in axle units	B60B 35/18
MacPherson strut	B60G 15/068
Arrangements of mountings for shafting of transmissions in vehicles	B60K 17/24
Bearings for connecting-rods for driving wheels of railway locomotives	B61C 17/10
Axle boxes with bearings of rail vehicles	B61F 15/00
Bearings specially adapted for steering heads	B62K 21/06
Bearings for mounting spindles in spinning arrangements for imparting permanent twist	D01H 7/12
Bearings of bridges	E01D 19/04
Turntables in dredgers for soil-shifting	E02F 9/121
Bearings specially adapted for roller shutters or for roller blinds	E06B 9/174 , E06B 9/50
Bearing, sealing, lubricating of drives used in bore holes (in earth drilling)	E21B 4/003

Application-oriented references

Details of bearings or lubricating of roller bits (drill bits in earth drilling)	E21B 10/22
Arrangement of bearings in rotary-piston machines or engines	F01C 21/02
Arrangement of bearings in non-positive displacement Machines or engines (turbines)	F01D 25/16
Turbochargers (gas turbines)	F02C 6/12
Arrangement of bearings in gas-turbine plants	F02C 7/06
Bearings in wind motors	F03D 80/70
Bearings in pumps (non-positive displacement),	F04D 29/04
Shaft support structure in gearing	F16H 57/022
Refrigeration machines	F25B 9/00
Bearings for gyroscopes	G01C 19/16
Bearings or suspensions for moving parts of measuring arrangements	G01D 11/02
Arrangements of bearings in weighing apparatus	G01G 21/02
Arrangements of bearings in instruments for measuring electric variables	G01R 1/10
Arrangements of bearings for apparatus for measuring time integral of electric power or current	G01R 11/12
Bearings in horology	G04B 31/00
Bearings for HDD (storage discs)	G11B 19/2009
Mounting arrangements for bearing-shields or end plates in electro-dynamic machines	H02K 5/15
Means for supporting bearings or for fitting them in the bearing-shield in electro-dynamic machines	H02K 5/16
Structural association with bearings of dynamo-electric machines	H02K 7/08

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Materials or half products used in [F16C](#)

Layered products essentially comprising metal	B32B 15/00
Shaped ceramic products	C04B 35/00
Organic macromolecular compounds (plastics, resins)	C08L
Lubricating compositions	C10M
Alloys in general	C22C

Methods used in making parts in [F16C](#)

Manufacture by compacting/sintering metallic powder;	B22F 3/00
Composite articles of metallic powder (at least partly)	B22F 7/00
Build-up welding of surfaces	B23K 9/044
Build-up welding using laser beam	B23K 26/34
Connecting metal parts;	B23P 11/00
Grinding and polishing	B24

Injection moulding plastics;	B29C 45/00
Composites with reinforcements	B29C 70/00
Coating metallic material; Coating with metallic material	C23C
Electroplating	C25D 7/00

Parts or elements used in [F16C](#)

Rivets	F16B 19/00
Circlips	F16B 21/10
Screws	F16B 35/00
Springs	F16F 1/00
Suppression of vibration in rotating systems	F16F 15/00
Sealings between relatively-moving surfaces	F16J 15/16
Lubricating	F16N

Special rules of classification

Relation with IPC classification rules

Reference is made to the paper copy of Volume 5 of the Eighth Edition (2006) of the International Patent Classification "Guide to the IPC" respectively the version of 2009 available as PDF-file on the site of the WIPO.

Chapters VIII to XI (paragraphs 75. to 155.) of this publication deal with the general classification rules of the IPC.

Predominant IPC classification rules in [F16C](#):

The IPC-guide refers to "invention information" (cf. paragraphs 77. and 78.). This definition is not followed, since "the addition to the prior art" of most documents at the time of publication is not clear. In Subclass [F16C](#) the criteria for classification derive from the following rules (cf. paragraphs 102. and 133. of the IPC-Guide):

- Establishing relevant technical information from the document classified;
- Classifying this information in a way allowing efficient retrieval.

They apply to the classification of new documents as well as documents reclassified during reorganisation.

Warning: A large number of documents from the back file do not comply with the present criteria.

For efficient retrieval:

Most documents should preferably have two or more classification symbols (EC, Indexing Code not necessarily all in [F16C](#)):

- one symbol to describe the general configuration (preamble type information, field of use), particular of the example(s) given and;
- one or more further symbols are used to identify the special technical features described in the document.

In exceptional cases one symbol could be sufficient, e.g. in small groups specifying both types of information or when the general configuration is defined too broad. In this context reference is made to Chapter IX of the IPC-guide.

Special rules of classification

The technical information is to be classified as specific as possible, i.e. as close as possible to the embodiments described.

For large documents, e.g. WO-publications based on multiple priorities, multiple symbols would be required particularly in view of non-unitary technical content.

However, when too many examples are given a more general classification symbol could be expedient.

Apart from the configuration of the subject to be classified per se, particular attention should be paid to the following topics:

- the materials used,
- the methods and processes used in making,
- the half products and parts used, and
- the field of application.

These topics could, apart from classification in an appropriate [F16C](#) group, also be made retrievable by a symbol in the corresponding Subclass when the technical content is considered relevant enough therefore. References to other Subclasses and groups are given below as relationships to other subject matter areas, limiting references relevant for classification and informative references.

Further since a major part of documents to be classified have no search report the corresponding sections of the IPC-guide are particularly relevant, i.e. IPC-guide paragraphs 124. to 130. combined with the observations in paragraphs 131. to 134.

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

rotary engineering element	any engineering element, other than a rotating element used in gearing, clutches, couplings or brakes, which rotates so far as its features are affected only by the fact that it rotates.
bearing	a component of a machine or mechanism that is positioned between two relatively movable elements of the machine or mechanism and that has a surface formed for sliding or rolling contact with these elements when they move relative to each other for the sole function of reducing the friction that would otherwise result from their relative movement.
connecting-rod or link pivoted at both ends	a reciprocating or oscillating elongated member of a machine or mechanism that is intended to be pivotally connected to and positioned between two relatively movable elements of the machine or mechanism for the purpose of transmitting force or conveying motion between the elements when it reciprocates or oscillates.
axle	an elongated element to support a rotating part, e.g. a wheel or roll. loads are bending moments and radial load. It may be stationary or rotating with the part fixed thereto.
shaft	an elongated element, normally a rod of circular cross-section, that rotates about its longitudinal axis to transmit torque, e.g. by conveying motion from a gear wheel supported by it to another part of a machine or mechanism.
crankshaft	a shaft with one or more cranks for turning reciprocating or oscillating motion into rotary motion.
flexible shaft	an elongated element, that is bendable along its length and rotates about its longitudinal axis to transmit torque or convey rotary motion.

Bowden cable	a control cable consisting of an elongated member enclosed within a housing bendable along its length and shiftable along its longitudinal axis relative to its housing to transmit motion or force.
roll, drum, disc	an element of a machine or mechanism in the form of a roller that has a generally curved surface that contacts work or (linear) moving part and revolves about its axis when the work shifts relative to it.

Synonyms and Keywords

In patent documents, the following words/expressions are often used as synonyms:

- "sliding bearing", "sliding contact bearing", "slide bearing", "plain bearing", "gliding bearing", "friction bearing", "hydrodynamic bearing" and "fluid dynamic bearing"
- "rolling bearing", "antifriction bearing", "roller bearing", "rolling bearing", "rolling contact bearing", "ball bearing", "needle bearing" and "rolling element bearing"
- "linear bearing" and "linear motion guide"
- "connecting-rod", "conrod", "con rod" and "piston rod"
- "Bowden cable" and "control cable"

F16C 1/00

Flexible shafts (flexible shafts in dental machines for boring or cutting [A61C 1/18](#)); Mechanical means for transmitting movement in a flexible sheathing

Definition statement

This place covers:

There are two distinct groups of elements which, apart from being elongated and flexible, have a different function:

- Flexible shafts conveying rotary motion, respectively
- Flexible means to transmit push-pull movement.

The shaft itself or the transmitting means themselves provide flexibility.

It is noted that:

- flexible shafts are functionally related to shafts (cf. [F16C 3/00](#)) which also convey rotary motion, i.e. are used as drive shaft, whereas
- "Bowden mechanisms" are functionally related to connecting rods (cf. [F16C 9/00](#)) which are also built to transmit push-pull movements, i.e. they are typically used for control-movements.

The two groups of elements are thus related to different fields (see limiting and informative references below).

F16C 1/02

for conveying rotary movements

References

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Control cables for flexible medical endoscopes	A61B 1/005
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Flexible shafts (in surgery instruments)	A61B 17/1631
Endoscopic instruments	A61B 17/320016
Flexible shaft in dental machines	A61C 1/18
Control cables for flexible technical endoscopes	G02B 23/24

F16C 1/10

Means for transmitting linear movement in a flexible sheathing, e.g. "Bowden-mechanisms" (guiding-sheathings [F16C 1/26](#))

References

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Control cables for change-speed gearing control	B60K 20/02
Adjusting rear mirror by cables	B60R 1/068
Control cables for actuating brakes	B60T 7/08
Transmitting braking action using cables	B60T 11/046
Control cables for brake-actuating mechanisms specially adapted for cycles	B62L 3/02
Control cables for gearing speed-change mechanisms specially adapted for cycles	B62M 25/02
Operation of locks by Bowden cable	E05B 53/005
Movement transmitted by a cable in actuating mechanism of change speed or reversing-gearings	F16H 61/36
Control devices or systems insofar as characterised by mechanical features only	G05G

Synonyms and Keywords

Bowden cable	Control cable
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F16C 1/20

Construction of flexible members moved to and fro in the sheathing

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Constructional features of ropes and cables	D07B 1/00
Means for fastening cables or ropes to one another or to other objects	F16G 11/00

F16C 1/26

Construction of guiding-sheathings or guiding-tubes

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Supports for pipes and tubes	F16L 3/00
Tubes and pipes passing through walls	F16L 5/00

F16C 3/00

Shafts (flexible shafts [F16C 1/00](#); marine propeller shafts, paddle wheel shafts [B63H 23/34](#)); Axles; Cranks; Eccentrics

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Flexible shafts	F16C 1/02
Camshafts	F16H 53/02

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Axle units; Parts thereof; Arrangements for lubrication of axles	B60B 35/00
Arrangement or mounting of transmissions in vehicles characterised by arrangement, location, or type of drive shafting, e.g. cardan shaft	B60K 17/22
Propeller shafts or paddle-wheel shafts for ships	B63H 23/34

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Forged or pressed shafts	B21K 1/06
Balancing shafts	F16F 15/322

F16C 3/03

telescopic (axially displaceable couplings [F16D 3/06](#))

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Axially displaceable couplings	F16D 3/06
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F16C 3/04**Crankshafts, eccentric-shafts; Cranks, eccentrics****References****Limiting references**

This place does not cover:

Crank gearings	F16H 21/18
Crank gearings with adjustment of throw	F16H 21/20

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Using cranks in rotary pistons	F01C 17/063
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F16C 3/20**Shape of crankshafts or eccentric-shafts having regard to balancing****References****Informative references**

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Compensation of inertia forces of crankshafts	F16F 15/26
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F16C 3/26**Elastic crank-webs; Resiliently-mounted crank-pins****References****Informative references**

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Elastic connecting-rods	F16C 7/04
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F16C 3/28**Adjustable cranks or eccentrics****References****Informative references**

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Adjustable crank mechanisms	F16H 21/20
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F16C 7/00

Connecting-rods or like links pivoted at both ends (coupling-rods for locomotive driving-wheels [B61C 17/10](#)); Construction of connecting-rod heads (heads rigid with crossheads [F16C 5/00](#))

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Heads rigid with cross heads	F16C 5/00
Inhibiting shift in gearing during unfavourable conditions	F16H 61/16
Pivotal connection of pistons with connecting-rods	F16J 1/14
Piston-rods, i.e. rods rigidly connected to the piston	F16J 7/00

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Coupling-rods for locomotive driving wheels	B61C 17/10
Variable connecting rods in internal combustion engines	F02B 75/045
Varying compression ratio by alteration of piston stroke	F02D 15/02
Piston drive of fuel pumps	F02M 59/10
Actuating brakes by pistons	F16D 65/14
Gearing with links and levers	F16H 21/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Forged or pressed connecting rods	B21K 1/766
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Synonyms and Keywords

Connecting-rod	conrod, con rod, piston rod
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F16C 9/02

Crankshaft bearings

References

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Crankshaft bearings fitted in the crankcase	F02F 7/0053
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F16C 9/045

{the bearing cap of the connecting rod being split by fracturing}

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Breaking machines for rings, i.e. pre-cutting and subsequent breaking	B23D 31/003
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F16C 9/06

Arrangements for adjusting play in bearings, operating either automatically or not

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Bearings adjustable for play in general	F16C 25/00
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F16C 11/02

Trunnions; Crank-pins (fastening crank-pins to webs, crank-pins integral with cranks [F16C 3/06](#), [F16C 3/22](#))

References

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Fastening crank-pins to webs of crankshafts	F16C 3/06
Crank-pins integral with cranks	F16C 3/22

F16C 11/04

Pivotal connections (hinges for doors, windows or wings [E05D](#))

Definition statement

This place covers:

Articulated joints which are primarily designed to introduce push-pull movements to an elongated mechanical engineering element, such as connecting rods (cf. [F16C 7/00](#)) and "Bowden-cables" (cf. [F16C 1/10](#)).

Relationships with other classification places

Hinges (for mounting plate like objects such as lids) are not pivotal connections as part of Subclass [F16C](#) (to mount end parts of rods or push-pull cables). Joints for transmitting torque are to be classified in [F16D](#).

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Hinges for doors, windows, or wings	E05D
Devices for moving wings into open or closed position	E05F
Yielding couplings, i.e. with means permitting movement between the connected parts during the drive	F16D 3/00
Rubber springs with stiff outer sleeve and inner sleeve or pin	F16F 1/38
Hinges of laptops	G06F 1/1616
Hinges of mobile phones	H04M 1/0206

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Joints in manipulators	B25J 17/00
Pivoted suspension arms	B60G 7/00
Arrangement of steering linkage connections	B62D 7/16
Pivots in dredgers for soil-shifting	E02F 9/006
Centre pivot of rocking arms	F01L 1/18
Pipe joints with hinge	F16L 27/0849
Stands with attachment allowing pivoting	F16M 11/06
Hinges for spectacles	G02C 5/22

F16C 11/06

Ball-joints; Other joints having more than one degree of angular freedom, i.e. universal joints (universal joints in which flexibility is produced by means of pivots or sliding or rolling connecting parts [F16D 3/16](#))

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Universal joints in which flexibility is produced by means of pivots or sliding or rolling connecting parts	F16D 3/16
Supports for apparatus with ball-joint heads	F16M 11/14

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Bellows	F16J 3/042
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F16C 13/00

Rolls, drums, discs, or the like (guide rollers in feeding webs [B65H 27/00](#); calender rolls, bearings therefor [D21G 1/02](#); rotary drums or rollers for heat-exchange or heat-transfer apparatus [F28F 5/02](#)); Bearings or mountings therefor

Definition statement

This place covers:

Rotary bodies shaped substantially as a body of revolution, i.e. axisymmetrical bodies respectively bodies having rotational symmetry, with an outer or inner functional surface such as:

- rolls
- drums
- discs.

The rotary body allows relative movement of another part or product tangentially along the rotary body, particularly along a linear path, i.e. it is used to support, transport and/or treat another part or product which moves relatively along the functional surface.

Relationships with other classification places

Rolls are only classified in group [F16C 13/00](#) when the general built up of the roll itself is of relevance.

Most rolls, particularly those for treating material, are specifically designed for that purpose and are therefore to be classified in the appropriate field of application (see the references relevant to classification below).

Wheels which support vehicles to move along a path come within the ambit of the above definition of rolls, discs or the like in group [F16C 13/00](#). However, wheels as dedicated complete systems, do not qualify as "engineering elements or units" in the sense of [F16](#).

Vehicle wheels and castors are to be classified in Subclass [B60B](#).

References

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Treatment of products moving tangentially relatively to a roll

Shape or construction of rollers of roller mills	B02C 4/30
Rollers or balls co-operating with rings or discs for disintegrating	B02C 15/00
Using rollers to apply liquids	B05C 1/08
Rollers for hand tools for applying liquids	B05C 17/02
Rolls used in rolling of metal	B21B 27/00
Backing rolls acting on rolls to inhibit deflection of same under load	B21B 29/00
Adaptation of roll neck bearings of rolls used in rolling of metal	B21B 31/07
Deflection control of rolls used in rolling of metal	B21B 37/30
Bending sheet metal by drawing procedure making use of forming-rollers	B21D 5/08
Making tubes by bending sheet metal making use of forming-rollers	B21D 5/12
Rolls used in continuous casting of metals	B22D 11/1287

Application-oriented references

Rollers for making articles of indefinite length in compression moulding	B29C 43/46
Rollers used in pressing for surface shaping	B29C 59/04
Producing rollers or cylinders	B29D 99/0035
Presses characterised by the use of rotary pressing members, e.g. rollers, rings, discs	B30B 3/00
Embossing paper	B31F 1/07
Cylinders of printing machines	B41F 13/08
Construction of inking rollers in printing machines	B41F 31/26
Shells for rollers of printing machines	B41N 7/00
Rollers in drafting machines or arrangements (spinning or twisting)	D01H 5/74
Roll for heating or cooling yarn, thread, cord, rope, or the like	D02J 13/00
Rolls for calendering, pressing, ironing, glossing or glazing textile fabrics	D06C 15/08
Rolls, e.g. as guiding mechanism, in wet end of machines for making continuous webs of paper	D21F 1/00
Rolls, e.g. pressure rolls or suction rolls, in wet presses of the press section of paper making machines	D21F 3/00
Cylinders in dryer section of paper making machines	D21F 5/00
Rolls or their bearings in calenders	D21G 1/02
Rolls, e.g. for developing or fixing, in apparatus for electrographic processes	G03G 15/00
Rollers as part of ohmic resistance heating devices	H05B 3/00
Heated rollers with induction heating apparatus	H05B 6/14

Rollers used in supporting, transporting, respectively feeding or conveying

Balls as rolling elements in ball bearings	F16C 33/32
Rollers or needles as rolling elements in roller bearings	F16C 33/34
Rollers or wheels for sliding drawers	A47B 88/487 , A47B 88/493 , A47B 88/497
Wheels for roller skates	A63C 17/22
Rollers for supporting or handling sheets in typewriters or printers	B41J 13/02
Rolls used in conveying	B65G 39/00
Rollers for feeding articles separated from piles; Feeding articles to machines	B65H 5/06
Feed or guide rollers for handling thin or filamentary material	B65H 27/00
Construction of conveyor rollers for transporting hot glass sheets or ribbons	C03B 35/18
Rollers or pulleys in means for varying tension of belts, ropes, or chains	F16H 7/08
Rollers as cam followers	F16H 53/06
Toothed wheels	F16H 55/17
Chain wheels	F16H 55/30
Pulleys	F16H 55/36

Conveyor rollers in furnaces	F27D 3/02
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Application oriented places for drums

Closed drums for drying solid material	F26B 11/02
Rolls, drums, cylinders of long length for drying material with progressive movement	F26B 13/14
Rotary drum furnaces	F27B 7/00
Rotary drums or rollers for heat-exchange or heat-transfer apparatus	F28F 5/02

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Making wheels or the like from sheet metal	B21D 53/26
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F16C 15/00

Construction of rotary bodies to resist centrifugal force (flywheels, correction weights [F16F 15/30](#), [F16F 15/32](#))

References

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Flywheels	F16F 15/30
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F16C 17/00

Sliding-contact bearings for exclusively rotary movement ([F16C 32/06](#) takes precedence; adjustable bearings [F16C 23/00](#), [F16C 25/00](#))

Relationships with other classification places

Hydrostatic bearings are to be classified in [F16C 32/06](#).

Other fluid bearings (hydrodynamic) are to be classified in the appropriate place in [F16C 17/00](#) and/or [F16C 33/10](#).

Not all sliding elements are part of a sliding-contact bearing.

Also other sliding parts, e.g. parts of pistons and cylinders (cf. groups [F16J 1/00](#) - [F16J 10/00](#)), sliding-seals (cf. group [F16J 15/34+](#)), valves (cf. subclass [F16K](#)) and toothed gear wheels (cf. subclass [F16H](#)) are sometimes referred to in a generalised way as sliding element, e.g. in the claims.

In such cases the description is to be checked to apply the correct subclass.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Bearing surfaces of pistons	F16J 1/02
Particular materials of piston rings	F16J 9/26

F16C 19/02

with bearing balls essentially of the same size in one or more circular rows

Definition statement

This place covers:

Ball bearings whereby all of the following requirements are met:

- only balls are provided as load supporting rolling elements,
- the balls are of essentially the same size,
- the balls are provided in rows, and
- the row(s) of balls are circular, i.e. the balls move along a full circle.

F16C 19/22

**with bearing rollers essentially of the same size in one or more circular rows,
e.g. needle bearings**

Definition statement

This place covers:

Roller bearings whereby all of the following requirements are met:

- only rollers are provided as load supporting rolling elements,
- the rollers are of essentially the same size,
- the rollers are provided in rows, and
- the row(s) of rollers are circular, i.e. the rollers move along a full circle.

F16C 19/50

Other types of ball or roller bearings

Definition statement

This place covers:

Other types of rolling bearings include e.g. rolling bearings whereby:

- the size of balls or rollers of one row differ substantially in size with respect to those of another row,
- the balls or rollers are provided in an irregular array,
- the balls or rollers are stationary but rotatable with respect to one of the relatively moving members, e.g. rollers giving local support at two or more points (cf. [F16C 13/04](#)),
- the balls or rollers are provided in a partial circular row, i.e. with only partial enclosure of the member to be borne, e.g. with recirculation
- the balls or rollers move along a helical path.

Definition statement

The other types of ball and roller bearings have in common that the following requirements of groups [F16C 19/02](#) and [F16C 19/22](#) (cf. corresponding definition statements above) do not apply, i.e. that:

- the rolling elements are of essentially the same size,
- the rolling elements are provided in rows,
- the rows are circular, i.e. the rolling elements run in a full circle.

F16C 19/52**with devices affected by abnormal or undesired conditions****Definition statement**

This place covers:

Measures taken in view of conditions which are not normal, i.e. not relating to the proper functioning of the bearing at its operating speed, and which are not already covered by other groups. A few examples are:

- starting or stopping
- Brinelling;
- creeping of rings, fretting;
- corrosion.

Examples of groups dealing with a variety of undesired conditions:

- Misalignment (cf. [F16C 23/00](#))
- Load or preload; Play; Thermal expansion (cf. [F16C 25/00](#))
- Vibration/Noise (cf. [F16C 27/00](#))
- Thermal load (cf. [F16C 37/00](#))

References**Informative references**

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Force sensors associated with a bearing	G01L 5/0009
Testing of bearings	G01M 13/04

F16C 21/00**Combinations of sliding-contact bearings with ball or roller bearings, for exclusively rotary movement ([F16C 17/24](#), [F16C 19/52](#) take precedence)****References****Application-oriented references**

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Hooke's joint with ball or roller bearings	F16D 3/41
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F16C 23/00

Bearings for exclusively rotary movement adjustable for aligning or positioning (F16C 27/00 takes precedence {; hydrostatic bearings F16C 32/067})

References

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Arrangements for adjusting play in crankshaft bearings	F16C 9/03
Arrangements for adjusting play in connecting-rod bearings	F16C 9/06

F16C 25/00

Bearings for exclusively rotary movement adjustable for wear or play (F16C 27/00 takes precedence)

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Measuring play on bearings	G01B 7/144
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F16C 27/00

Elastic or yielding bearings or bearing supports, for exclusively rotary movement (shock-damping bearings for watches or clocks [G04B 31/02](#))

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Elastic hydrostatic bearings	F16C 32/067
Shock-damping bearings for watches or clocks	G04B 31/02

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Centrifuges	B04B 9/12
Squeeze film damping	F16F 15/0237

F16C 27/06

by means of parts of rubber or like materials ([F16C 27/08](#) takes precedence; with sliding surfaces of rubber or synthetic rubber [F16C 33/22](#))

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Bearings with sliding surfaces of rubber or synthetic rubber	F16C 33/22
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Construction of units comprising rigid inner and outer members with rubber or the like between them	F16F 1/38
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F16C 29/00

Bearings for parts moving only linearly ([F16C 32/06](#) takes precedence; incorporated in flexible shafts [F16C 1/28](#) {; parts of bearings in general and special methods for making bearings or parts thereof in general [F16C 33/00](#)})

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Complete systems such as railways and conveyor systems are similar to linear bearings ([F16C 29/00](#)) but do not qualify as "engineering elements or units" in the sense of Class [F16](#). They are dealt with in the appropriate parts of "Transporting" in Section [B](#), particularly in Subclass [B61](#) ("Railways") and [B65](#) ("Conveying; ...").

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Slides or guides for drawers in furniture	A47B 88/40
Arrangement of ways in the general build-up of a machine tools	B23Q 1/017
Movable or adjustable work or tool supports	B23Q 1/25
With sliding pairs only	B23Q 1/56
Slide constructions in car seats	B60N 2/07
Fluid actuated devices	F15B 15/00
Optics	G02B 7/003
Apparatus for microlithography	G03F 7/70
Positioning in chip manufacture	H01L 21/68

F16C 29/08

Arrangements for covering or protecting the ways {(protective coverings for parts of machine tools [B23Q 11/08](#))}

References

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Protective coverings for parts of machine tools	B23Q 11/08
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F16C 29/10

Arrangements for locking the bearings

References

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Means for securing sliding members in any desired position	B23Q 1/28
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Preventing relative movement between machine parts in general	F16B
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F16C 31/00

Bearings for parts which both rotate and move linearly

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Screw mechanisms, e.g. with balls or rollers	F16H 25/20
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Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Movable tool or work supports with sliding pairs and rotating pairs	B23Q 1/48
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F16C 32/00

Bearings not otherwise provided for

Definition statement

This place covers:

Details for all types of bearings, i.e. they are not limited to rotary sliding contact or rolling element bearings but, as far as applicable, they also cover the other bearing types (e.g. linear, magnetic, hydrostatic etc.).

F16C 32/04

using magnetic or electric supporting means

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Magnetic levitation devices	H02N 15/00
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Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Blood pumps	A61M 60/00
Magnetic suspension or levitation of vehicles	B60L 13/04
Railway systems with sliding or levitation systems	B61B 13/08
Vacuum pumps	F04D 19/04
Fluid pumps with magnetic bearings	F04D 29/048
Pumps for elastic fluid with magnetic bearings	F04D 29/058
Flywheel systems;	F16F 15/30
Electro-motor with magnetic bearings	H02K 7/09

F16C 33/00

Parts of bearings; Special methods for making bearings or parts thereof

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Materials

Making alloys by powder metallurgy	C22C 1/04
Alloys based on copper	C22C 9/00
Alloys based on tin	C22C 13/00
Alloys based on nickel or cobalt	C22C 19/00

Informative references

Alloys based on aluminium	C22C 21/00
Making ferrous alloys by powder metallurgy	C22C 33/02
Ferrous alloys (steel)	C22C 38/00

Methods used in making parts of bearings

Flanging or other edge treatment, e.g. of tubes by action of pressing tools	B21D 19/08
Making parts of bearings by working or processing of sheet metal or metal tubes, rods or profiles without essentially removing material or punching	B21D 53/10
Making cages for bearings by working or processing of sheet metal or metal tubes, rods or profiles without essentially removing material or punching	B21D 53/12
Making rings for balls or roller bearings by rolling metal	B21H 1/12
Making balls, rollers, cone rollers, or like bodies for bearings by rolling metal	B21H 1/16
Upsetting (working sheet metal);	B21J 5/08
Riveting (working sheet metal)	B21J 15/00
Making balls or rollers for bearings by forging or pressing	B21K 1/02
Making ball races by forging or pressing	B21K 1/04
Making cages by forging or pressing	B21K 1/05
Casting using a mould or core of bearing shells	B22D 15/02
Treating or finishing surfaces mechanically, e.g. smoothing or roughening of bearings	B23P 9/00
Producing bushes for bearings from plastics or from substances in a plastic state	B29D 33/00
Heat treatment, e.g. annealing, hardening, quenching, tempering, adapted for rings or bearing races	C21D 9/36
Heat treatment, e.g. annealing, hardening, quenching, tempering, adapted for rings or bearing races	C21D 9/40
Changing the physical structure of non-ferrous metals or alloys by heat treatment or by hot or cold working	C22F 1/00
Electroplating of bearings	C25D 7/10

Other

Lubrication in general	F16N
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F16C 33/22

**Sliding surface consisting mainly of rubber or synthetic rubber
([F16C 33/24](#) - [F16C 33/28](#) take precedence)**

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Elastic or yielding bearings whereby rubber is of interest apart from the surface itself	F16C 27/063
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F16C 33/72

Sealings

Definition statement

This place covers:

Bearings with details of the sealing arrangements.

Seals specifically constructed to be incorporated in or which are directly associated with bearings.

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Sealings in general	F16J 15/00
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F16C 35/00

Rigid support of bearing units; Housings, e.g. caps, covers ([F16C 23/00](#) takes precedence)

Definition statement

This place covers:

Mounting of a bearing to surrounding parts in a fixed way.

Housings such as bearings shields which can be handled as a unit together with the bearing.

Relationships with other classification places

Mounting of bearings which is not rigid, i.e. in such a way that they are adjustable for position, alignment, wear or play with respect to the housing or with resilient support, are to be classified in the appropriate places for rotary bearings in groups [F16C 23/00](#), [F16C 25/00](#) and [F16C 27/00](#) respectively for linear bearings in [F16C 29/00](#).

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Hand tools for inserting or withdrawing sleeves or bearing races	B25B 27/06
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Devices for fastening in general	F16B
Attachment of a member on a shaft	F16D 1/06

F16C 37/00

Cooling of bearings

Definition statement

This place covers:

Means to remove heat from the bearing area, i.e. by radiation, conduction or heat exchange, excluding cooling lubricant or by means of lubricant (cf. groups [F16C 33/10](#) and [F16C 33/66](#)).

F16C 39/00

Relieving load on bearings

Definition statement

This place covers:

Means exerting a force on the relative moving part directed against the load and cooperating in the load direction with the actual bearing which attains the desired position.

Means providing a preload on the bearing, which could be considered as negative relief, actually serve to reduce play and are e.g. to be classified in the appropriate groups (e.g. [F16C 25/00](#), [F16C 29/12](#), [F16C 32/067](#)).

F16C 41/00

Other accessories, {e.g. devices integrated in the bearing not relating to the bearing function as such}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Elements which are not directly related to the bearing function, i.e. parts mounted to or integrated with the bearing but providing an additional functionality such as speed sensors, as far as there integration in the bearing is of relevance.

Load-equalizing elements.

Elements involved in protecting the bearing when not in use.

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Means for measuring angular speed mounted in bearings	G01P 3/443
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F16C 43/00

Assembling bearings

Definition statement

This place covers:

Joining of the parts of a bearing, optionally simultaneously with mounting. It also embraces joining bearing parts which are split.

For a slide bearing this involves typically joining bearing bushes, shells and washers; optionally providing other parts such as seals.

For a rolling element bearing this involves typically providing rolling elements between the races, optionally providing other parts such as cages and seals.

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Machines or tools for assembling parts	B23P 19/04
Devices for fastening in general	F16B