MATERIALS AND FINISHES

- High carbon and alloy steel materials provide excellent strength and endurance life in most applications. The standard coating of zinc phosphate and oil provides adequate protection from humidity and occasional moisture. More effective protective finishes are available, but these tend to wear off in dynamic applications.

- Electroplated finishes should always be avoided. Hydrogen embrittlement poses too great of a risk in highly loaded Discs having a hardness over HRC 40.

- Austenitic stainless steel is a very good choice for static and low cycle applications. It provides high forces and excellent corrosion resistance. This material will continue to work harden with use so cycle life is limited, but creep resistance is good.

- For dynamic applications where corrosion protection is required, precipitation hardening stainless steels are recommended. These steels are nearly as strong as the standard Disc materials and very corrosion resistant.

- At temperatures over approximately 200°F (100°C), standard Disc materials can begin to creep, or take a set. Between 300°F - 400°F (150°C - 200°C) the materials lose their strength and are no longer considered viable. Stainless steels are a bit more temperature resistant, but only up to 575°F (300°C).

FATIGUE LIFE

- Fatigue life can be improved by increasing preload and reducing maximum deflection. This will likely require additional Discs in series, but will extend life.

- Shot peening induces favorable compressive stresses on the Disc surface. This reduces the likelihood of fatigue failure due to tensile stresses which generally start on the surface.

- Presetting is defined as a single or repeated compression of a heat treated Disc to the flat condition. The strains induced give rise to plastic deformation, the spring thereby loses height. The remaining free conical height \(h_o\) results from the residual stresses being at an equilibrium of forces and moments. The Disc will no longer plastically deform during subsequent loading. This allows for higher load stresses and longer fatigue life.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

SIZING AND SELECTION

- Select the Disc with the largest outside diameter \(D_o\). This reduces the stresses at a given force \(F/\) deflection \(s\) ratio and thus enhances fatigue life. An outside \(D_o\) to inside diameter \(D_i\) of 1.7 to 2.2 also enhances performance and longevity.

- Select a Disc that achieves the maximum force required at less than 75% of its deflection. Deflection of 75% of cone height \(h_o\) should be the design maximum. Reducing deflection increases fatigue life.

- Force/deflection curves can be changed by varying the cone height \(h_o\) to thickness \(t\) ratio. Curves for Discs may be plotted with the force/deflection data provided on pages 10-15 at 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% of deflection.

- Thicker Discs have greater damping (hysteresis) characteristics.

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ORIENTATION

- Shorter stacks are more efficient. This is particularly important under dynamic loading. Discs at the moving end of the stack are overdeflected whereas Discs at the opposite end are underdeflected. This results from the friction between the individual Discs as well as the Discs and the guiding mandrel or sleeve. Use of the largest practical outside diameter Discs will reduce the number of individual Discs and total stack height. It is recommended that total stack height not exceed three times the external Disc diameter \(D_o\) or ten total Discs.

- When Discs are used in parallel, the following factors should be considered:
  1. In dynamic applications, the generation of heat;
  2. The relationship between loading and unloading forces due to friction;
  3. Hysteresis, the increased damping resulting from friction between the Discs; and
  4. Lubrication – A must in parallel Disc applications.

- Lubrication is required for the efficient use and extended life of Discs. In moderate applications, a solid lubricant such as molybdenum disulfide will generally suffice. In severe and corrosive applications, an oil or grease lubricant housed in a chamber may be required.

- Hardened thrust washers will alleviate surface damage/indentation when Discs are used in conjunction with soft materials.
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