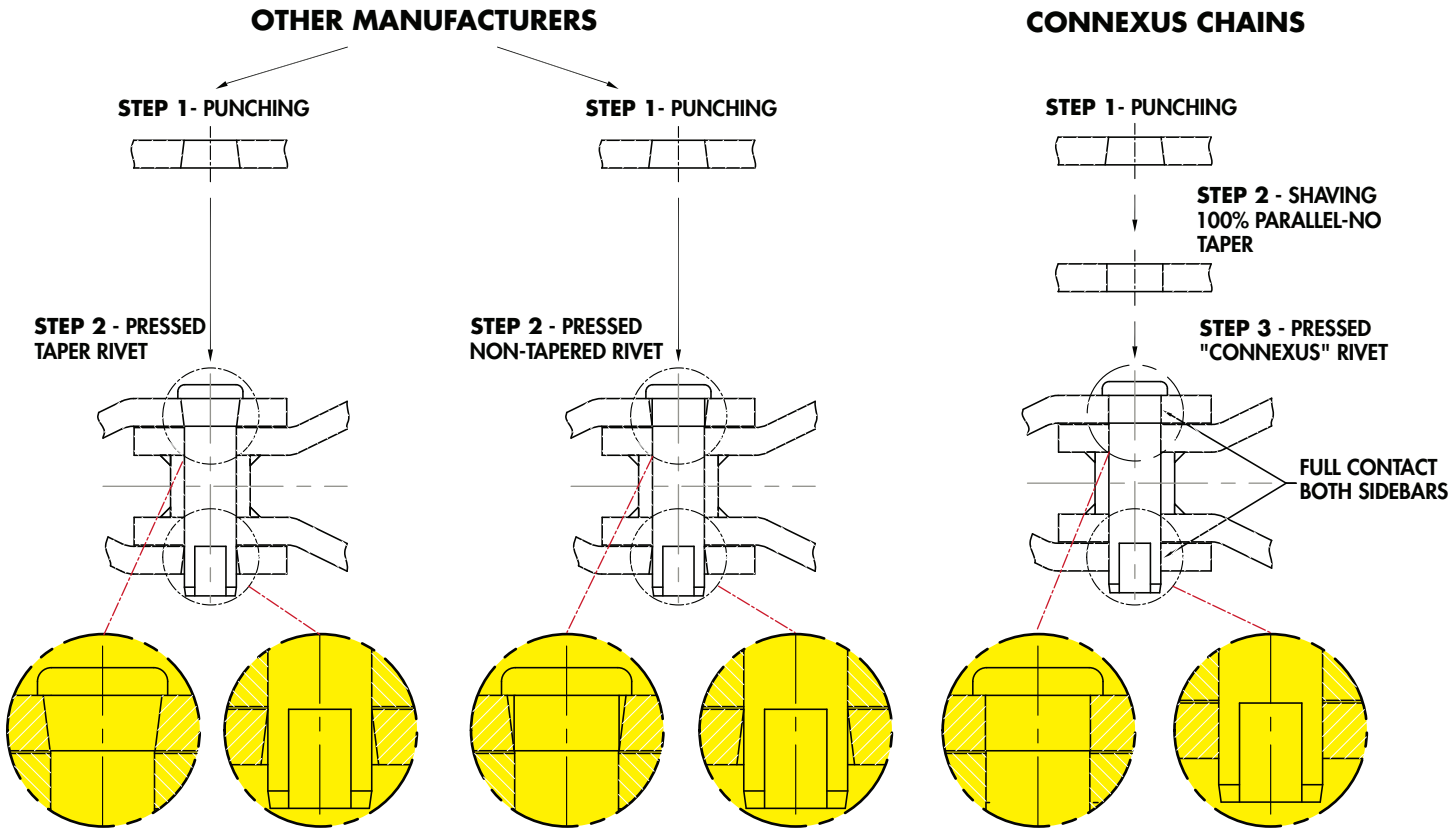
CONNEXUS INDUSTRIES INC
Chain & Industrial Manufactured Solutions

Is Greater Welded Chain Uptime Just a Wish?

"True-Fit" Sidebars & Pins REALLY Do Make a Difference...



Not All Press Fit Rivet/Sidebars Are The Same

- Are welded steel chains with the same model number not the same and any will do? No, there can be many variations of the same model chain. Although they may well fit the sprocket your operation uses, it does not mean they will operate to minimize your downtime, run longer between replacements or ultimately increase productivity.

- Many factors can affect chain life including but not limited to: running the chain in the correct direction, proper chain sag adjustment, sprocket alignment, sprocket wear and understanding correct chain replacement time (due to elongation).

This paper discusses maximizing chain life by decreasing premature elongation due to pin-sidebar wear.

Two Key Issues to Increase Chain Uptime

The major benefit of press-fit pins on an industrial chain is that they do not rotate in the sidebar. Due to the pins not rotating, they do not create a friction point to wear out the chain quickly. This allows the chain to withstand both unloading and loading resulting in the benefit of longer life.

Two main issues exist which will shorten the life of a press-fit chain:

1. Stop repairing or assembling the chain without a chain press!!!

A very common practice in the world or chain maintenance is to grind out the sidebar holes or reduce the diameter of the pin. This is done to permit an easier through fit while assembling. The problem this creates is that the pin now has the ability to spin in the sidebar. Is this a bad thing? Yes! A chain with a loose pin could only last half the standard life. The other possible outcome is that the chain breaks at the point of the loose pin. Either result creates downtime and lost productivity…both being the enemy.

2. Design and manufacture of the press-fit pin/sidebar contact hole

Many welded chain sidebar designs call for a single step punched hole. While this may save in the cost of the manufacturing of the chain, it may not save your operation in the long run. The reason is that when the hole punches through the back side of the bar it flares out the hole. Once the pin is pressed in it leaves an uncontacted surface. This eventually leads to premature elongation of the hole, causing rotation of the pin. The result: shorter chain life and possible breakage…and lost productivity.

Connexus welded steel chain uses a two step process to create a full interference fit, or a "Tru-Fit" design (see illustration on page 1). The benefit is longer chain life due to slower elongation of the hole, less chance of debris entering the hole to grind the hole out and less chance of premature break failure.

The conclusion: better productivity through longer chain life.

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