

Documentation and Validation of EveryCalc's Belt Calculator

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Abstract

Belts are pretty easy to use and calculate the appropriate distances for. When this center distance is calculated and manufactured properly, they should not require adjustment.

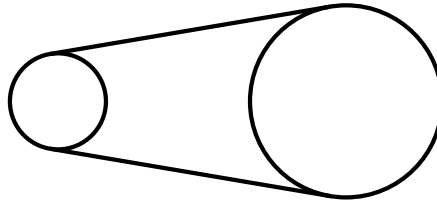


Figure 1: Belt and Sprockets

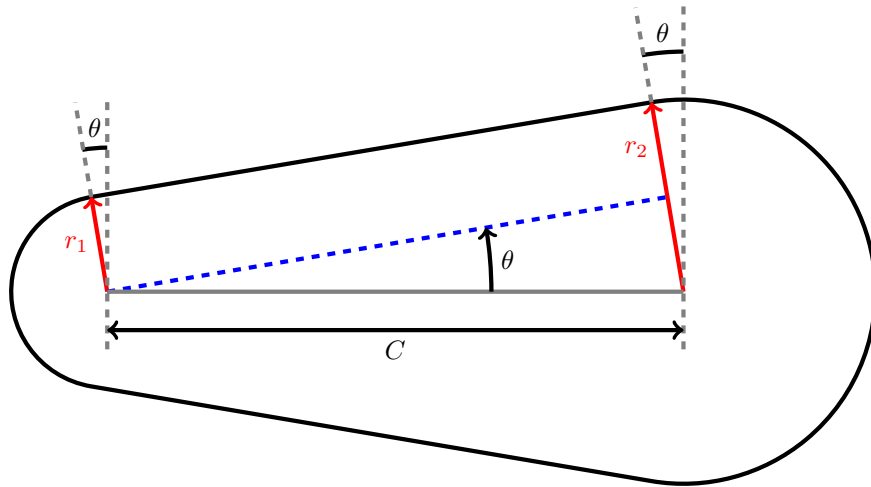


Figure 2: Belt Dimensions, Labeled

Quickly, the pitch radii and diameters of the pulleys are:

$$d_1 = 2r_1 \tag{1}$$

$$d_2 = 2r_2 \tag{2}$$

$$\sin(\theta) = \frac{r_2 - r_1}{C} \tag{3}$$

The total length of the pulley L can be expressed as:

$$L = 2 \langle \text{straight segment} \rangle + \langle \text{arc for pulley 1} \rangle + \langle \text{arc for pulley 2} \rangle$$

$$L = 2 \frac{C}{\cos(\theta)} + r_1(\pi - 2\theta) + r_2(\pi + 2\theta) \quad (4)$$

The trig identity for the cosine of an arcsine will be helpful:

$$\cos(\arcsin(x)) = \sqrt{1 - x^2} \quad (5)$$

Putting this all together lets us determine the total belt length in terms of pitch diameters d_1 , d_2 , and the center-center distance C :

$$L = \frac{2C}{\sqrt{1 - (\frac{d_2 - d_1}{2C})^2}} + \frac{d_1}{2}(\pi - 2\theta) + \frac{d_2}{2}(\pi + 2\theta) \quad (6)$$

This equation isn't easy to analytically solve for C in terms of d_1 , d_2 , and L . WolframAlpha yields a solution, though it is quite atrocious. I found that it's best to use a numeric algorithm (such as bisection, which my calculator uses).

The same approach can be taken with a crossed drive belt (which is used in order to reverse direction of rotation).

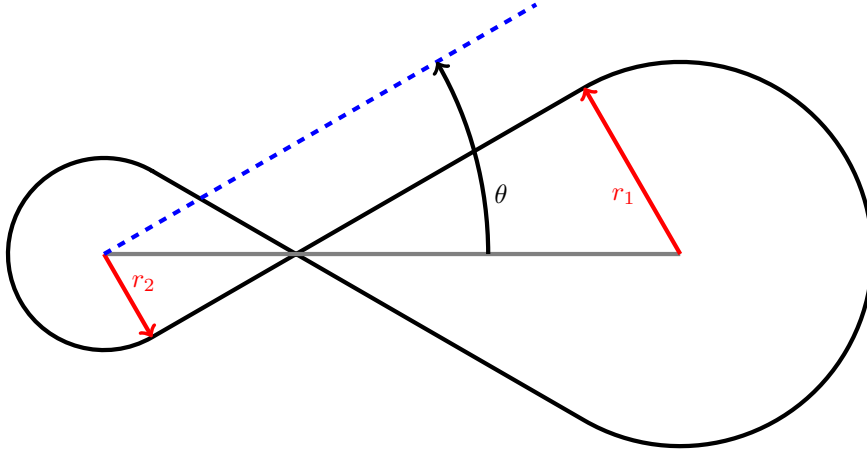


Figure 3: Belt Dimensions, Labeled

The belt angle now is

$$\sin(\theta) = \frac{r_2 + r_1}{C} \quad (7)$$

$$L = 2 \frac{C}{\cos(\theta)} + r_1(\pi + 2\theta) + r_2(\pi + 2\theta) \quad (8)$$

Resulting in:

$$L = \frac{2C}{\sqrt{1 - (\frac{d_2 + d_1}{2C})^2}} + \frac{d_1 + d_2}{2}(\pi + 2\theta) \quad (9)$$

Belt Strength Calculation

Belt strength is calculated from the tables in the Gates Light Power and Precision Manual.

These tables list allowable pulley torque $T(\omega, N)$ as a function of RPM ω and pulley teeth N . Note that 6 teeth should be in engagement. 2-D interpolation is used to determine values on the in-betweens. Tabulated values outside the bounds are extrapolated. Omitted values are presumed to be zero. The multiplier factors are used to determine strength of different width belts.

Validation

Results of my EveryCalc belt tool have been compared to West Coast Products' Belt Calculator.

Case A

Belt Calculator

5mm HTD/GT2

Pulley 1		Pulley 2		Center Distance	
Number of Teeth	24	Number of Teeth	18	Desired Center	5
Outer Diameter	1.4589	Outer Diameter	1.0830	Center Add	0.005
Pitch Diameter	1.5038	Pitch Diameter	1.1279	Ratio	1.3333

Smaller Belt		Larger Belt	
# of Teeth	70	# of Teeth	80
Center Distance	4.8241	Center Distance	5.8090
P1 Teeth in Mesh	12.2978	P1 Teeth in Mesh	12.2473
P2 Teeth in Mesh	8.7767	P2 Teeth in Mesh	8.8146

Figure 4: Case A: WCP Calculator

☒ Timing Belt ☐ Polybelt

Pitch: 5 [mm]

Pulley 1		Pulley 2		Center	
# Teeth	24	18	Desired C-	5	
OD	1.5471	1.1712	Center Add	0.005	
PD	1.5038	1.1279	Ratio	0.7500	

Belting Option Source: Increment 10 Teeth

	Smaller	Larger
# of Teeth	70.0000	80.0000
Length	13.7795	15.7480
Center-Center	4.8240	5.8089
P1 Teeth in Mesh	12.2978	12.2473
P2 Teeth in Mesh	8.7767	8.8146

Strength calculated as per the [Gates Light Power & Precision Drive Design Manual](#)

Belting Series	HTD	9mm	width
RPM	100	133.333	[RPM]
Torque	20	15.000	[in-lbf]
Torque Capacity	37.168	25.664	[in-lbf]
Factor of Safety	1.711		

Figure 5: Case A: EveryCalc

		WCP	EveryCalc
Smaller	Number of Teeth	70	70
	Center-Center	4.8241	4.8240
	P1 Teeth Mesh	12.2978	12.2978
	P2 Teeth Mesh	8.7767	8.7767
Larger	Number of Teeth	80	80
	Center-Center	5.8090	5.8089
	P1 Teeth Mesh	12.2473	12.2473
	P2 Teeth Mesh	8.8146	8.8146

Table 1: Case A: Comparison of results

No issues here other than minor rounding errors.

Case B

Belt Calculator

3mm HTD/GT2

Pulley 1		Pulley 2		Center Distance	
Number of Teeth	10	Number of Teeth	42	Desired Center	18
Outer Diameter	0.3460	Outer Diameter	1.5492	Center Add	0.005
Pitch Diameter	0.3760	Pitch Diameter	1.5792	Ratio	0.2381

Smaller Belt		Larger Belt	
# of Teeth	180	# of Teeth	N/A
Center Distance	9.0794	Center Distance	N/A
P1 Teeth in Mesh	4.7889	P1 Teeth in Mesh	N/A
P2 Teeth in Mesh	21.8865	P2 Teeth in Mesh	N/A

Figure 6: Case B: WCP Calculator

EveryCalc 0.5 Inches

☒ Timing Belt ☐ Polybelt

Pitch: 3 [mm]

Pulley 1		Pulley 2		Center	
# Teeth	10	42	Belt Teeth	180	
OD			Center Add	0.005	
PD	0.3760	1.5790	Ratio	4.2000	

# of Teeth	180.0000
Length	21.2598
Center-Center	9.0795
P1 Teeth in Mesh	4.7890
P2 Teeth in Mesh	21.8864

Strength calculated as per the [Gates Light Power & Precision Drive Design Manual](#)

Belting Series	GT2	6mm	width
RPM	100	133.333	[RPM]
Torque	20	15.000	[in-lbf]
Torque Capacity	4.690	30.409	[in-lbf]
Factor of Safety	0.235		

Figure 7: Case B: EveryCalc

	WCP	EveryCalc
Number of Teeth	180	180
Center-Center	9.0794	9.0795
P1 Teeth Mesh	4.7889	4.7890
P2 Teeth Mesh	21.8865	21.8864

Table 2: Case B: Comparison of results

No issues here other than minor rounding errors.