



**International  
Standard**

**ISO 5288**

**Synchronous belt drives —  
Vocabulary**

*Transmissions synchrones par courroies — Vocabulaire*

**Fourth edition  
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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents). ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 41, *Pulleys and belts (including veebelts)*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Synchronous belt drives*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 5288:2017), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The change is as follows:

- Inclusion of [Clause 4](#).

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

# Synchronous belt drives — Vocabulary

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the terms and definitions related to the use of synchronous belt drives for mechanical power transmission and where positive indexing or synchronization is required.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1 General

#### 3.1.1

##### **synchronous belt drive**

system composed of a *synchronous belt* (3.2.1.1) and at least one *synchronous pulley* (3.3.1.1)

Note 1 to entry: Synchronized motion and/or power is transmitted through the engagement of teeth on the belt with *grooves* (3.3.2.1) on the pulleys.

Note 2 to entry: This belt drive has been known in the past by various names such as “timing belt drive”, “positive belt drive” or “gear belt drive”.

#### 3.1.2

##### **centre distance**

$C$

shortest distance between the axes of two *synchronous pulleys* (3.3.1.1) when the belt is under the prescribed measuring force

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 1](#).

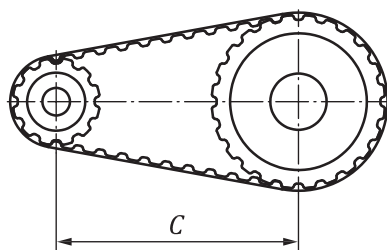


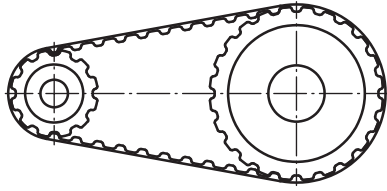
Figure 1

**3.1.3**

**endless synchronous belt drive**

*synchronous belt drive (3.1.1) with applied endless synchronous belt*

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 2](#).



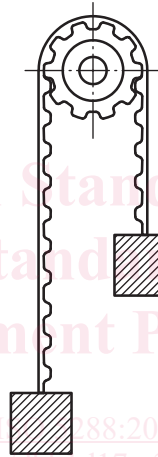
**Figure 2**

**3.1.4**

**open synchronous belt drive**

*synchronous belt drive (3.1.1) with applied open synchronous belt*

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 3](#).



**Figure 3**

**3.2 Synchronous belts**

**3.2.1 General**

**3.2.1.1**

**synchronous belt**

belt with transverse teeth of rectangular or curvilinear cross-section extending from the base at regularly spaced intervals

Note 1 to entry: Consult synchronous belt dimensional standards for the full details of belt profiles.

**3.2.1.2**

**tooth pitch**

$P_b$   
linear distance between the axes of two consecutive teeth in a section of belt loaded to the prescribed measuring force

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 4](#).

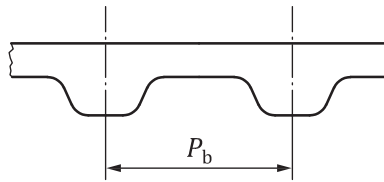


Figure 4

**3.2.1.3  
pitch line**

circumferential line in the belt which keeps the same length when the belt is bent perpendicularly to its base

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 5](#).

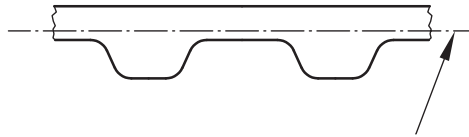


Figure 5

**3.2.1.4  
pitch line differential**

$a$   
<belts> radial distance between the *pitch line* ([3.2.1.3](#)) and the *root line* ([3.2.5.3](#))

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 6](#).



Figure 6

**3.2.1.5  
belt pitch length**

$L_p$   
length of the *pitch line* ([3.2.1.3](#)) of a belt

**3.2.1.6  
width**

$b_s$   
transverse dimension of the back of the belt

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 7](#).

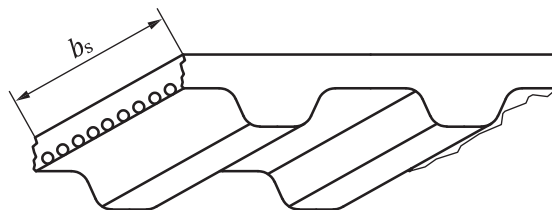


Figure 7

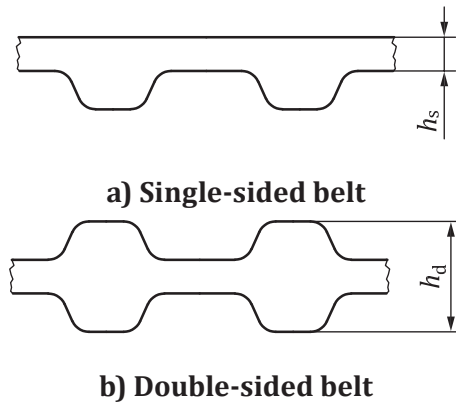
3.2.1.7

**height**

$h_s/h_d$

total height of a single-sided or double-sided belt

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 8](#).



**Figure 8**

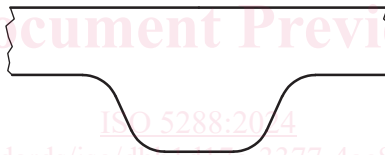
3.2.2 **Tooth profile**

3.2.2.1

**trapezoidal profile**

transverse *tooth* (3.2.5.1) profile formed by a *tooth flank* (3.2.5.5) and tip with only straight lines

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 9](#).



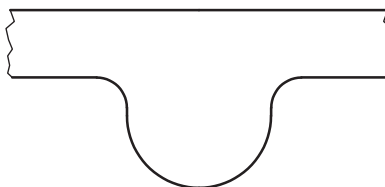
**Figure 9**

3.2.2.2

**curvilinear profile**

transverse *tooth* (3.2.5.1) profile formed by a *tooth flank* (3.2.5.5) or tip that contains curved lines

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 10](#).



**Figure 10**



### 3.2.3 Type of belt drive

#### 3.2.3.1

##### **endless synchronous belt**

closed *synchronous belt* (3.2.1.1)

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 11](#).

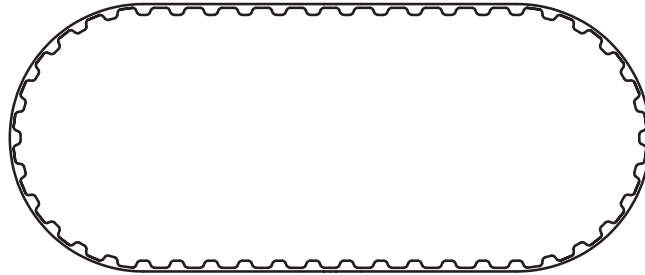


Figure 11

#### 3.2.3.2

##### **open synchronous belt**

*synchronous belt* (3.2.1.1) with two ends

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 12](#).



Figure 12

### 3.2.4 Structure

#### 3.2.4.1

##### **single-sided synchronous belt**

*synchronous belt* (3.2.1.1) with teeth located inside of the *pitch line* (3.2.1.3) at regularly spaced intervals

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 13](#).

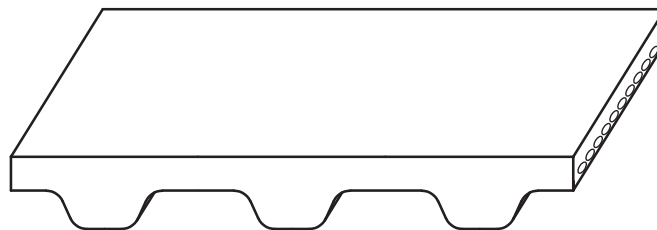


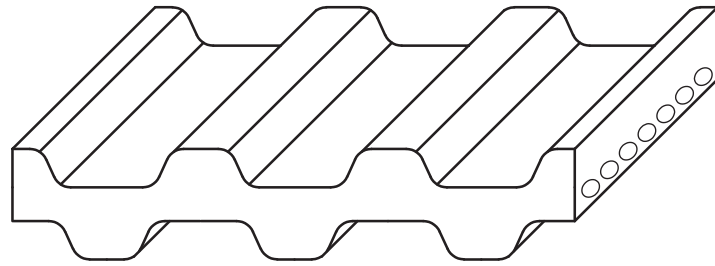
Figure 13

#### 3.2.4.2

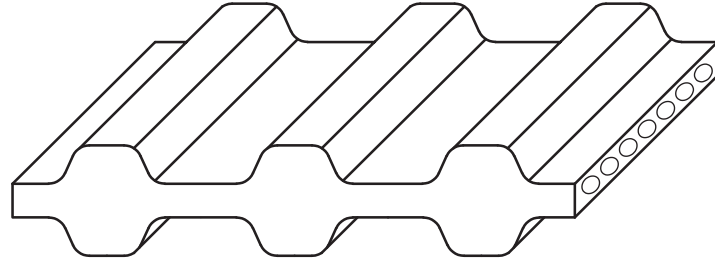
##### **double-sided synchronous belt**

*synchronous belt* (3.2.1.1) with teeth located on both sides of the *pitch line* (3.2.1.3) at regularly spaced intervals

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 14](#).



a) Staggered double-sided synchronous belt



b) Symmetrical double-sided synchronous belt

Figure 14

### 3.2.5 Teeth

#### 3.2.5.1 tooth

generally transverse element protruding from the root of the belt which have the profile necessary to mesh with the *grooves* (3.3.2.1) in a *synchronous pulley* (3.3.1.1)

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 15](#).

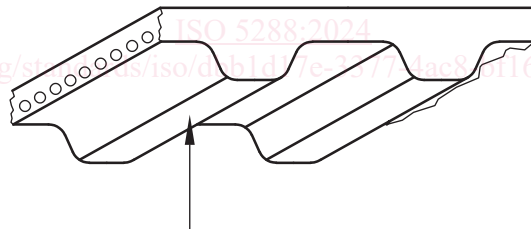


Figure 15

#### 3.2.5.2 tip line

line joining the tips of the belt teeth

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 16](#).



Figure 16

3.2.5.3

**root line**

line joining the roots between the belt teeth

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 17](#).



Figure 17

3.2.5.4

**tooth height**

$h_t$

distance between the *tip line* (3.2.5.2) and the *root line* (3.2.5.3)

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 18](#).



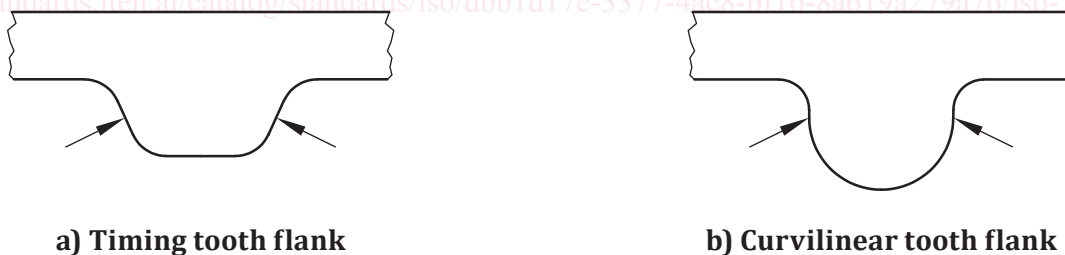
Figure 18

3.2.5.5

**flank**

area defined by the *width* (3.2.1.6) of the belt *tooth* (3.2.5.1) and the portion of the tooth section contained between the tooth tip radius and the tooth root radius or, if there is no tooth tip radius, contained between the *tip line* (3.2.5.2) and the tooth root radius

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 19](#).



a) Timing tooth flank

b) Curvilinear tooth flank

Figure 19

3.2.5.6

**working flank**

<teeth> *flank* (3.2.5.5) of a belt *tooth* (3.2.5.1) in contact with the pulley groove flank when it is transmitting power

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 20](#).