

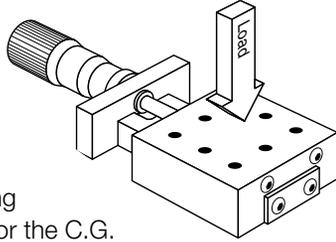
Travel

The travel listed is the total travel of the positioner from hard stop to hard stop.

Bearing Load Capacity

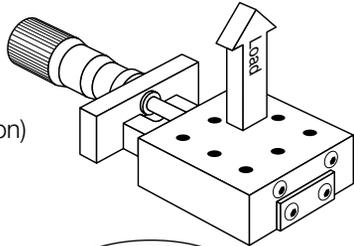
Normal Load

This is the maximum downward (compression) load or force which can be applied to the positioner perpendicular to the mounting surface. The center of force or the C.G. of the load must be located in the center of the mounting surface. For loads which are offset from this position, refer to moment loads.



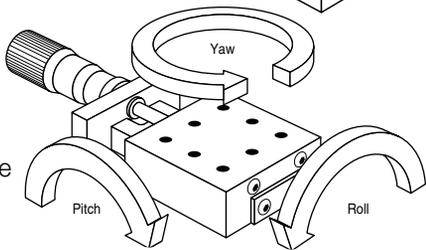
Inverted Load

Same as a normal load except in an upward (tension) direction.



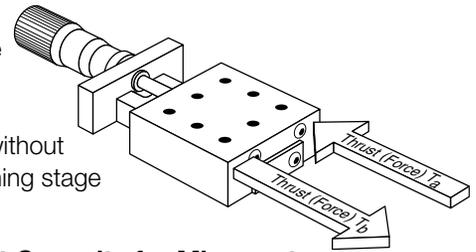
Moment Load

This refers to forces which are offset (cantilevered) from the bearing centers and therefore producing uneven loading on the bearings. This uneven loading means that some bearings are supporting more of the load than others. For this reason it is very important to determine if the moment loading for a given positioner is within acceptable limits. These moment forces are categorized by the direction they act in Pitch, Roll or Yaw; see diagram at left. When loading results in moments acting in only one of the moment directions (pitch, roll or yaw) it is called a single direction moment. Examples of this type of loading are shown below. How to calculate the maximum allowable moment load is discussed on the following page.



Thrust Capacity

Thrust capacity is the maximum force or load which can be applied in the direction of travel without damage to positioning stage components.



T_a and T_b Thrust Capacity for Micrometer, Fine Screw and Differential Screw Drives

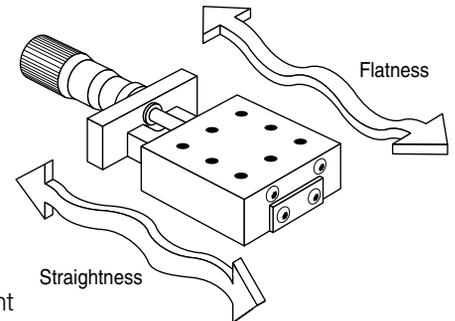
With these types of drives the mounting surface or stage carriage is pressed against the drive mechanism by means of a spring. Because of this the maximum thrust which the stage assembly can maintain is different when pressing toward the spring or away from it. When pressing toward the spring, the force is taken up by the drive mechanism (i.e. micrometer). While pulling away, the force is being held in place by the spring. Stages with this type of mechanism have two thrust capacity specifications (T_a and T_b). T_a refers to the load capacity against the micrometer and T_b is the spring load capacity. Refer to specific product drawings for load direction.

Screw Drive Thrust Capacity

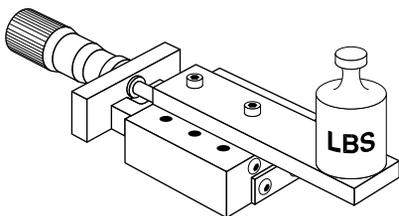
Stages which use screw drive assemblies will only have one thrust capacity rating. This rating is for either direction of travel.

Straight Line and Flatness Accuracy

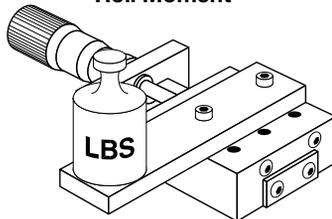
This is the amount of error a linear positioner deviates from an ideal straight line. The straight line accuracy is the error in the horizontal plane while flatness is the error in the vertical plane. Both the straight line and the flatness accuracy are measured at the moving carriage surface center.



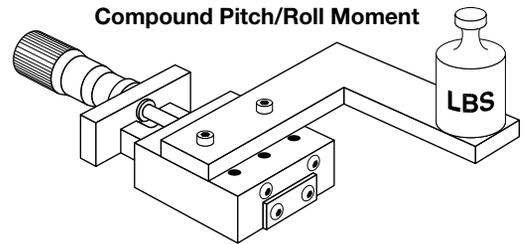
Pitch Moment



Roll Moment



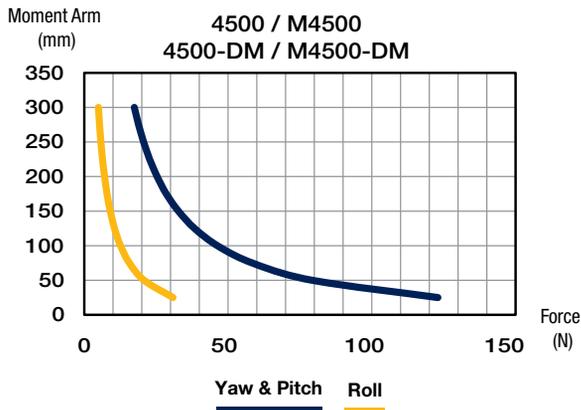
Compound Pitch/Roll Moment



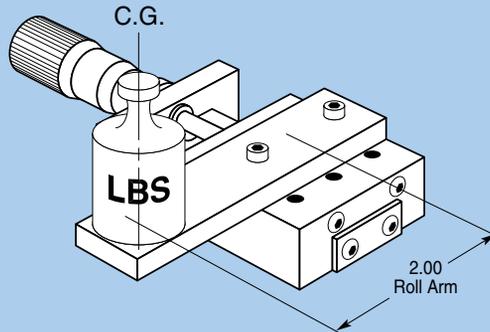
Calculating Maximum Allowable Moment Loads on Linear Slides and Stages

To determine if a load or force is within acceptable moment load ranges follow the steps below:

1. Calculate maximum load and or force which will be applied to the positioner. Include brackets and other axes which are mounted to the positioner.
2. Locate the center of gravity of the load.
3. Determine if there is a single or compound moment.
4. Measure the distance from the center of force or C.G. to the center of the linear stage carriage. This is the moment arm length and is designated A_S for single direction moments and A_C for compound moments.
5. Locate the moment load graph for the positioner you are interested in (located in back of individual product section, see example below). The X axis of the graph is the Force, the Y axis is the allowable moment arm A_S for single direction moments.
6. Locate the moment curve(s) which your load is acting in (pitch, roll or yaw).
7. Locate your load force on the X axis of the graph.
8. Draw a vertical line from the Force location on the X axis parallel with the Y axis.
9. Find the moment arm distance on the Y axis. Draw a horizontal line from this point parallel with the X axis until the vertical and horizontal lines intersect.
10. If the intersection point is below the moment curve in question then the stage is within acceptable limits. If the intersection point is above the moment curve, a positioner with a larger normal load capacity should be selected and the above steps repeated.



Example #1: Single Direction Moment Load



A 2 pound load is mounted to a single axis linear stage. The diagram shows the load's position in reference to the positioner carriage center. This shows that the load is offset 2 inches from the carriage center creating a roll moment.

The selected positioner is a 4502 ball stage. (The moment load curve for the 4502 is shown below.) First, find 2 pounds on the X axis and draw a vertical line. Next, draw a horizontal line starting at the 2 inches position on the A_S axis (single direction moment). Mark the intersection point.

In this example the intersection point is below the roll moment curve, indicating that the stage is acceptable for this application.

