Offset, or swivel lead, is the perpendicular distance between the vertical centerlines of the kingpin and the axle of a swivel caster. Larger offsets afford easier swiveling, shorter offsets greater strength. Swivel Radius - the horizontal distance from the centerline of the caster kingpin to the outer edge of the wheel (a measure of clearance required to swivel a caster 360°).

Overall Height - the vertical distance from the top of the caster mounting plate to the bottom of the wheel.

Caster Size - a loose term for classifying casters, based on the nominal diameter of the wheel. For example, a "6 inch caster" is any caster having a 6 inch diameter wheel.

This shop cart contains machined swivel caster top-plates that are awaiting the mating yoke bases (second shelf). The artistic arrangement highlights the "guaranteed-forlife" integral forged steel kingpins.



Capacity - the maximum recommended load per caster or wheel based on intermittent operation over smooth floors at speeds not exceeding 3 m.p.h., with no shock loading or adverse environmental conditions. (Gross weight should be divided by the number of casters or wheels on which it is distributed.)

Component Thrust - designates side forces exerted on a swivel caster and properly counteracted by the secondary load bearing.

Direct Thrust - designates those downward forces exerted on a caster by the load, and counteracted by the main load bearing.

Durometer - a measure of the hardness of resilient tread wheels.

Face (Tread Width)-

the width of the wheel tread cross-section, measured at the base of the tread rather than at the point of floor contact.

Reference

An industry "Guide to Understanding and Specifying Industrial Casters and Wheels" is available postpaid by sending \$5.00 to the Institute of Caster Manufacturers, 600 S. Federal St., Suite 400, Chicago, IL 60605.

Rig - a swivel or rigid caster assembly less wheel, that may or may not include axle, nut or spanner bushing.

Raceway - a surface in which bearing balls or rollers rotate.

Retaining Washer - a steel washer pressed into the hub ends of some roller bearing wheels to hold the bearing in place.

Rollability - ease of starting and rolling, measured by drawbar pull. This is determined by load, floor conditions, and type and size of wheels and bearings. **Mounting Plate** - the flat base, usually with four bolt holes, that forms the top of a caster and permits attachment by bolting or welding to a flat surface.

> Main Load Bearing -the row of steel balls or rollers that swivels the horn base in relation to the mounting plate of a swivel caster, and counteracts direct thrust.

> > **Horn** -the caster part which is comprised of legs plus a base (horn base of swivel caster or mounting plate of rigid).

Yoke -alternate term for horn.

Standard Bolt Axle

Lube Axle

Spanner Bushing -a non-rotating sleeve of seamless steel tubing that fits over the axle in many casters. Serves the dual purpose of providing a smooth inner raceway for the wheel bearings, and strengthening the caster by permitting the legs to be tightened against it.

Secondary Load Bearing

(Precision) - a precision self contained bearing, usually a tapered roller bearing, operating between the horn base and the kingpin of a swivel caster. Constitutes the most efficient means of assisting swivel action by counteracting component thrust.

Secondary Bearing

Thrust Washer - a steel

washer between the hub

ends of the wheel and the

inside of the caster legs.

Kingpin-A rivet, or threaded stud or bolt with nut, that holds the mounting plate and horn assembly of a swivel caster together. Forged as an integral part of mounting plate on higher quality casters for maximum rigidity and strength.

Horn Base -the flat part at the top of the horn from which the legs extend. Serves as lower raceway for main load bearing, and may provide a seat or upper raceway for secondary load bearing.

Lubrication Fitting

Legs -the axle-support brackets extending down from the horn base of a swivel caster, or from the mounting plate of a rigid caster.

Axle Nut

Secondary Load Bearing (Commercial) - the row of steel balls that rides in the raceway between the horn base and secondary bearing retainer of a swivel caster to counteract component thrust. It is this bearing that characterizes the popular "double ball race" caster.

Cupped Grease Retainer

Cotter Pin

Kingpin Nut - the nut on the bottom of a threaded kingpin or bolt that permits the disassembly or adjustment of swiveling components; a maintenance feature of better casters not found with rivet-type kingpins.