

Slip Rings for Rotary Index Table Applications

The Rotary index table of today has a growing list of responsibilities. Tables with more than two stations and or being used in a single direction need provisions in place to allow for access to air, electric power, communications or a combination of the three. In the situations where tooling fixtures require pneumatics, a simple single or multi-port air union can be implemented. When utilizing a pneumatic valve bank, the single port air union can be a simple yet cost effective method to bring compressed air to individual fixtures. If signal communication is all that is required to operate your valve bank, electrical slip rings can be purchased with low voltage flying leads. This is a very low cost solution to operating a valve bank mounted on top of a rotary index table. If some type of communication protocol is necessary, most electrical slip rings have the ability to transmit numerous forms of communication: be it Ethernet or Profinet, Profibus, Device Net or CanBus. Motion Index Drives offers a wide variety of standard slip rings that can transmit the above mentioned communication protocols.



It is important when choosing a slip ring with communication capabilities such as Ethernet that the connecting wires landed in the slip ring are twisted pairs. Twisted pairs in a slip ring reduce the probability of outside noise interference that can interrupt communications and cause unnecessary faults and downtime. A rotary index tables with the provision to run wires and hose through a central housing while providing a stationary center column for mounting is ideal for slip ring applications. This provides a compact package, reduced overall footprint and avoids the need to mount slip rings and air unions from overhead or externally. Motion Index Drives RT and TMF series index tables are offered in many sizes and all models have center stationary columns to mount slip rings and rotary unions, making them an industry staple for over 40 years.

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