General Information on BERNSTEIN Magnetic Switches

Electromechanical and electronic variants

BERNSTEIN has extended its range of electromechanical magnetic switches with electronic versions which operate according to the Hall and magnetoresistive principle.

Electromechanical and electronic magnetic switches have special properties which ensure optimum use in their respective environments.

The electronic versions are characterised by their enhanced mechanical properties (extremely high resistance to vibration, shock or impact) and are not prone to wear in operation.
Thanks to the use of only one single "active" component (reed contact), "traditional" electromechanical magnetic switches are extremely reliable in operation. The universal current capability and low procurement costs allow these switches to be used in a wide range of applications.
The matrix below highlights the main features of each functional principle and helps you to decide on which magnetic switch to use for your application.

Technical features and applications

More detailed information on the technical features and applications relating to the different functional principles are provided in the following sections.

Feature	Electromechanical magnetic switches	Electronic magnetic switches
Downsizing; large sensing distances with compact design		●
High vibration resistance		●
Encapsulated design, high protection classes	●	●
Improved pressure resistance	●	●
High switching frequency		●
Multi-voltage capability (AC/DC)	●	
2-wire multi-voltage versions	●	
Short-circuit proof and polarity reversal protection		●
Alternative for inductive sensors (3-wire technology)		●
Plastic, stainless steel and brass enclosures	●	●
Low-cost versions	●	

Electromechanical Magnetic Switches

Special features of electromechanical magnetic switches

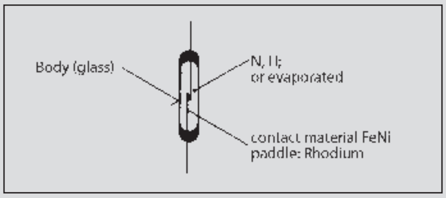
- ⌘ Reliable under extreme ambient conditions such as dirt, humidity, gas, dust, etc.
- ⌘ Protection class up to IP 67
- ⌘ Stable switching point, reproducible switching point accuracy of approx. 0.1 mm
- ⌘ Can be operated from several directions
- ⌘ Can be mounted in any position
- ⌘ High operational reliability ensured by the use of only one single component
- ⌘ Easy to install
- ⌘ Long electrical service life (depending on the load to be switched) more than 10^8 switching cycles if contacts are suitably protected
- ⌘ Special versions available for extreme temperatures from −40 °C to +150 °C
- ⌘ Can be connected to direct and alternating voltage sources

Design, function and operating principle of an electromechanical magnetic switch

The basic elements of this type of switch are the components which change their electrical characteristics in response to the approach of an actuating magnet. The contact paddles assume opposing polarity (north and south pole) under the influence of a magnetic field.

The approach can be made by either permanent magnets or electromagnets; the sensitivity of the switch and the field strength of the magnet determine the distance between the switch and magnet. Opening and closing of the contact studs is determined by the magnet correspondingly approaching or moving away from the switch. Normally-closed, normally-open and changeover contacts as well as bistable versions are included in our range of products.

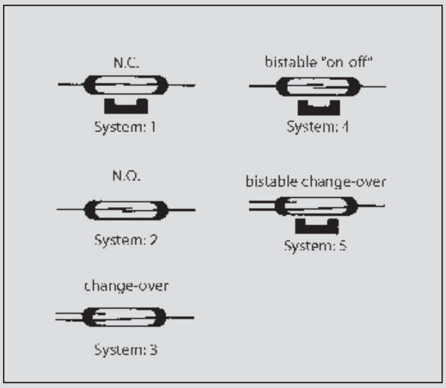
The magnetically influenced parts and their auxiliary components (resistor, diode, triac, output stage, etc.) are cast in high quality insulating material or casting compound to increase the vibration / impact strength and guarantee a protection class up to IP 67. Metal versions (stainless steel, aluminium and brass) as well as standard plastic versions are available for use under extreme ambient conditions such as wider temperature ranges.



Design of a reed contact

Biasing (bistable)

Bias magnets energise or hold the contact closed. The contact of the bistable normally-open or normally-closed contact is held closed until a stronger magnet with opposite polarity neutralises the biasing.



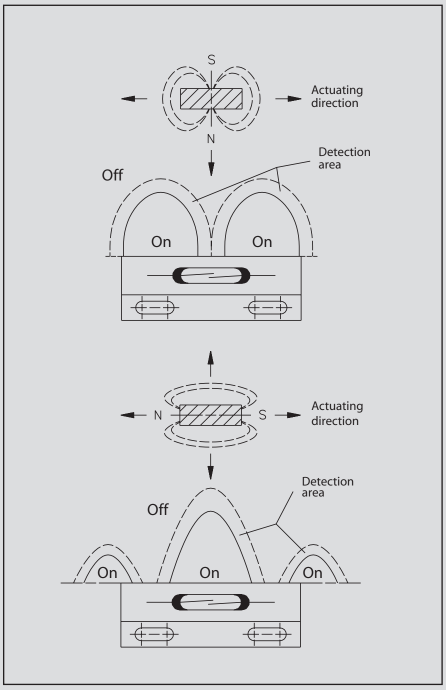
Types of reed contact switches

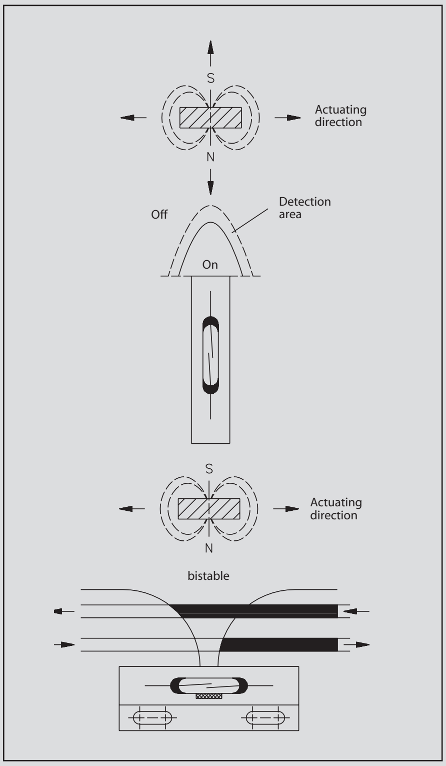
Actuation and switching characteristics

The switching characteristics are principally determined by the approach and polarity of the magnet. The following drawings show typical characteristics. Materials and external dimensions are specified in the product overview. Magnetic switches with reed contact output are identified by an "A" in the second position of the type code (MA...).

Switching frequency

Up to 200 Hz, depending on the size of load to be switched (considerably faster than relays, contactors etc.).





Switching distances

Refer to the tables in this catalogue to identify which switching magnets may be used as well as the minimum achievable switching distance.

Temperature ranges

The standard version may be used in a temperature range from –5 °C to +70 °C. Special types are also available offering an extended operating temperature range from – 40 °C to +150 °C.

Electrical service life

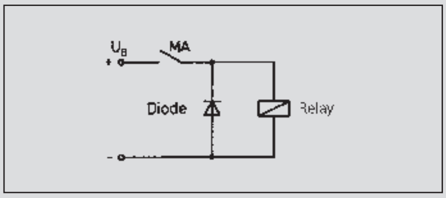
To maintain a long service life of the electrical contacts, it is important to ensure the maximum supply voltage and maximum switching current are not exceeded. Refer to the diagrams on Page 67 for the load values.

Guidelines for reed contact protection

The values for current, voltage and power specified in the catalogue apply only to purely resistive loads. Very often, however, these loads are exposed to inductive or capacitive components. In these cases it is advisable to protect the reed contacts against voltage and current peaks. Whilst it is not possible to recommend a safe contact protection concept that applies to all load ranges (each individual case will require its own evaluation), we would like to present general guidelines on how reed contacts may be connected to different loads in order to avoid premature failure.

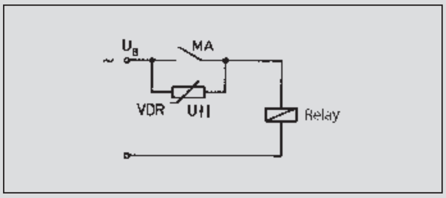
1. Inductive loads

In DC applications, contact protection is relatively easy to realise with the aid of a free-wheeling diode connected in parallel to the load. The diode polarity must be selected so that it blocks when normal operating voltage is applied but will short-circuit the voltage induced after the switch is opened (voltage peaks can significantly exceed the operating voltage).



Suppression of voltage peaks
with a free-wheeling diode

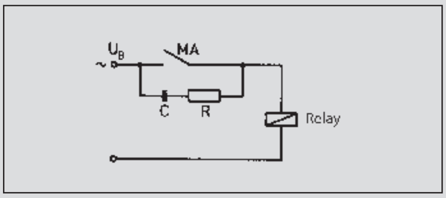
1) Voltage peaks induced by switching off inductive loads are suppressed by connecting a voltage-dependent resistor (VDR) in parallel to the reed contact.



Suppression of voltage peaks with a VDR

2) In AC voltage applications effective protection is achieved with a combination of a resistor and a capacitor (RC element).

Generally, the RC element is connected parallel to the contact and therefore in series to the load (vice versa is also possible).



Suppression of voltage peaks with RC element

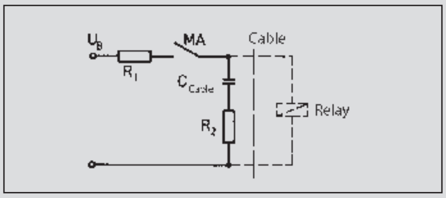
2. Capacitive loads

In contrast to inductive loads, an increase of making currents can occur in connection with capacitive loads and lamp loads that could damage and even weld contacts closed. When capacitors are switched (e.g. cable capacitance) a very high peak current occurs with its intensity depending on the capacitance and length of the cable leading to the switch.

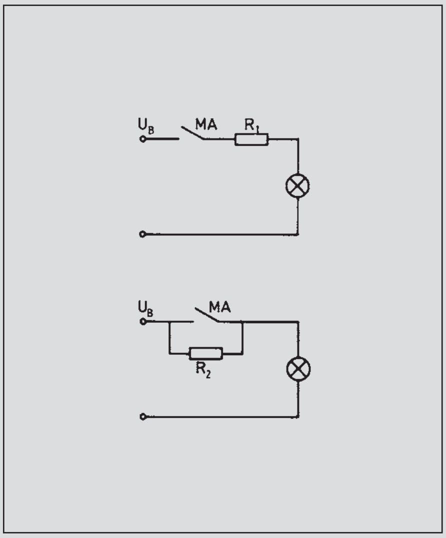
A resistor connected in series to the contact will reduce this current. The size of the resistor is determined by the characteristics of the corresponding electric circuit.

It should, however, be as large as possible to reduce the current to a permissible value, thus ensuring reliable contact protection.

Contact protection with resistors for limiting current:



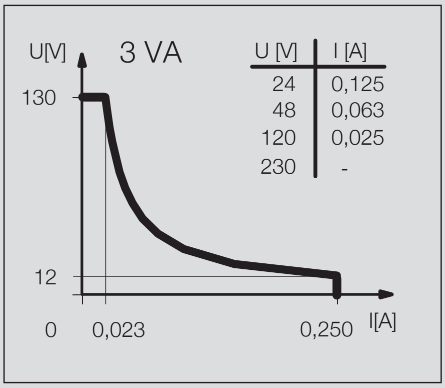
Capacitive load



Lamp load

Altech Corp.®
by BERNSTEIN

Performance diagrams for electromechanical magnetic switches



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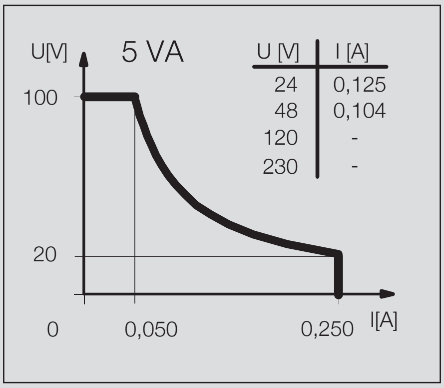

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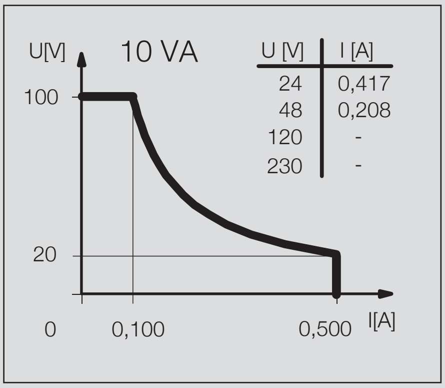

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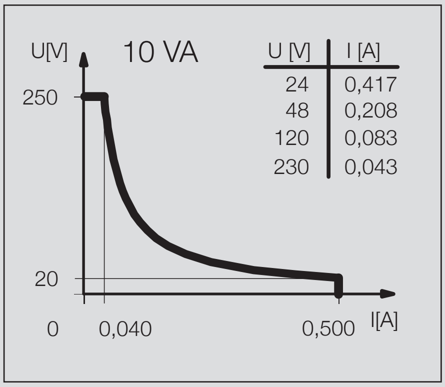

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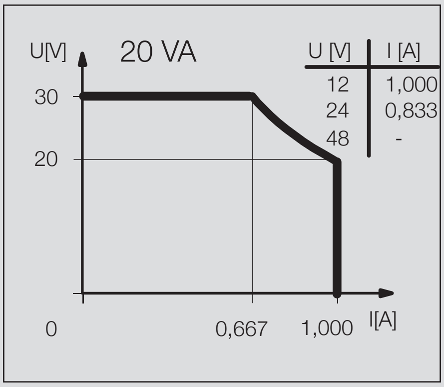

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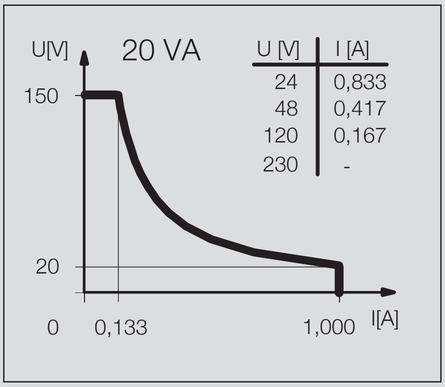

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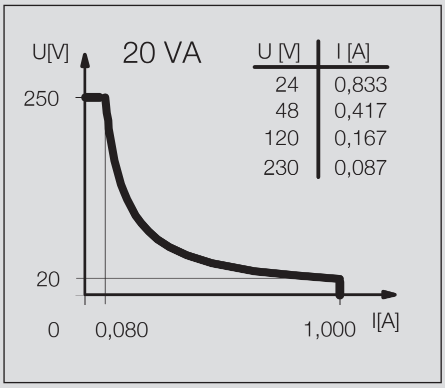

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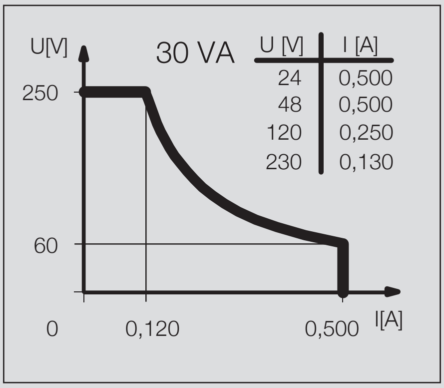

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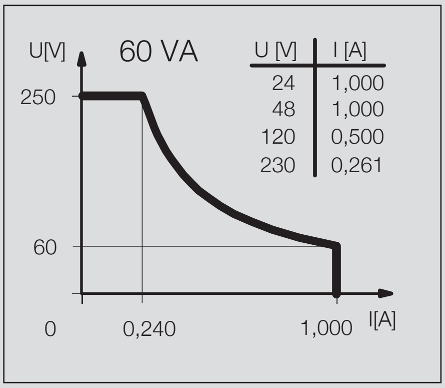

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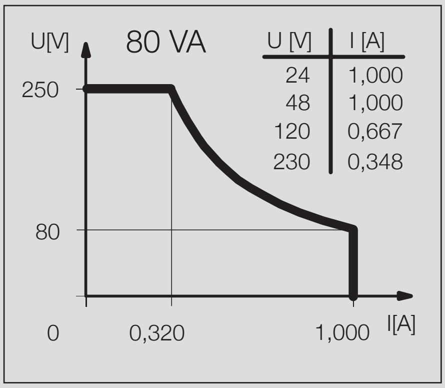

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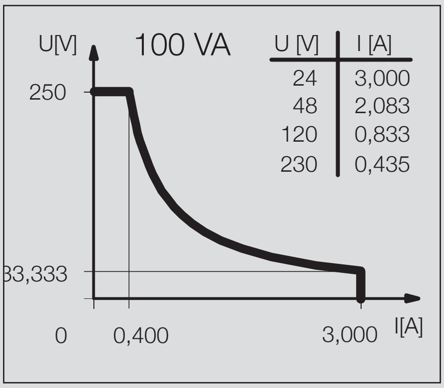

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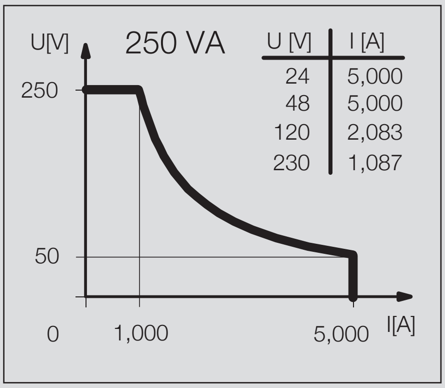

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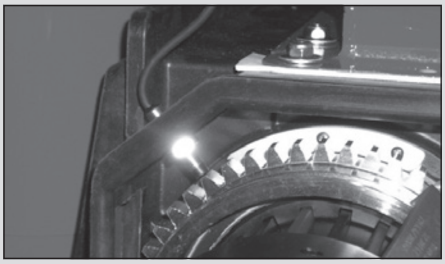
Electronic Magnetic Sensors

Thanks to their special properties, electronic magnetic switches with magnetoresistive or Hall elements are ideal for use in many different applications. They are used to detect position, angle and / or speed and are immune to shock, impact, vibration and wear. High switching frequencies, long switching distances, a broad temperature range and excellent reproducibility are other advantageous features of this technology which in many cases make them the technically superior alternative to electromechanical reed contacts.



The fact that many non-magnetic metals allow magnetic fields to pass unhindered also extends the fields of application for magnetic sensors. This makes it possible to encapsulate sensors in a sturdy pressure-proof metal enclosure. Sensors can, however, also be mounted in tubing or concealed behind non-magnetic metal surfaces.

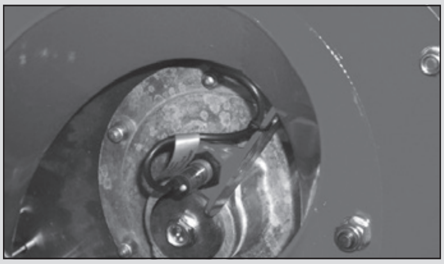
Advantages of electronic magnetic sensors over electromechanical reed contacts

- Reliable and immune to vibration
- Bounce-free switching
- Unlimited service life
- High repeat accuracy
- Short response times
- High sensitivity
- Thermal stability

Select the sensor and the technical principle that best meet your requirements from the comprehensive BERNSTEIN range of magnetic sensors: Hall sensors with minimum circuitry, standard Hall sensors with integrated sensor electronics or magnetoresistive sensors. Round, square or metric bodies in plastic, brass, brass / plastic or stainless enclosures.

Fundamentals of Hall sensor technology

The BERNSTEIN range of magnetic sensors is based on a modular system comprising an encapsulated Hall element with the EMC protective circuitry. These sensors therefore conform to the requirements of EN-60947-5-2 for non-mechanical magnetic proximity switches. Sensors of various designs are available for a wide variety of applications.



- Output circuitry NPN, NO contact or bistable
- Voltage range 4.5 – 24 V DC
- Polarity reversal protected
- Switching frequencies up to 20 kHz
- Size ranging from 6 mm diameter to 50 x 25 x 10 mm
- Unipolar version

Standard range of Hall sensors

In contrast to the more basic BERNSTEIN Hall sensors, the functionality and modularity have been enhanced in these Hall sensors by integrating comprehensive sensor electronics. In this segment BERNSTEIN also offers a complete modular system that can be adapted to suit your specific needs.

- Output circuitry PNP, NC or NO contact or bistable
- Voltage range 10 – 39 V DC
- Output current 400 mA, short-circuit proof
- Polarity reversal protected
- Switching frequencies up to 10 kHz
- Size ranging from M10 diameter to 50 x 25 x 10 mm
- Unipolar version

Single-channel speed sensors with high frequency range

BERNSTEIN offers a high performance series of gearwheel sensors designed as electronic magnetic sensors with Hall elements that detect the rotation of near-engine ferromagnetic gearwheels with sensing distances of up to 2 mm. A specific feature of these single-channel speed sensors is their high switching frequency. Based on the BERNSTEIN modular range of magnetic sensors, switching frequencies of up to 20 kHz can be realised. Switching frequencies up to 10 kHz can be achieved in the standard range. The sensors are available in M12 and M18 versions. The characteristic versatility of Hall sensors is fully utilised in these applications:

Outstanding immunity to shock, impact, vibration, non-wearing and silent, high switching frequencies, broad temperature range, exceptional repeat accuracy.

Technical data

- Output circuitry PNP or NPN
- Voltage range 10 – 36 V DC
- Switching frequencies up to 20 kHz
- Sensing distance 0 – 2 mm on ferromagnetic material

Standard range of magnetoresistive sensors

Magnetoresistive sensors are more sensitive than Hall-effect sensors by a factor of 10. Not only can they be very small but they can also detect especially low field strengths.

In addition to their high measuring accuracy even at high ambient temperatures, these sensors are also characterised by a high degree of reliability and by the fact that they occupy little space. Since they are designed to be independent of polarity, the countermagnet does not need to be mounted with pole orientation. With corresponding encapsulation, BERNSTEIN magnetoresistive sensors have proven effective even in demanding environments such as lift construction or agricultural technology.

- ⌘ Output circuitry PNP, NC or NO contact
- ⌘ High sensitivity (up to sensing distance of 60 mm)
- ⌘ Voltage range 10 – 39 V DC/10 – 30 V DC
- ⌘ Output current 400 mA/200 mA, short-circuit proof
- ⌘ Polarity reversal protected
- ⌘ Polarity independent
- ⌘ Size 6 mm diameter to M18

Microsensors

Ever more complex and above all more compact measuring and control configurations require components that occupy even less space. In line with this trend, BERNSTEIN has expanded its comprehensive range of sensors for determining position, angle and / or speed in industrial applications in two branches of development: Compared to the previous smallest model (RD = 6 mm), the diameter in this series of magnetoresistive sensors has been further reduced by 30 % yet the smallest model RD = 4 mm or 5 x 5 mm still achieves the parameters of the larger sensors. As part of the second development stage, the basic and standard range of electronic magnetic sensors has been expanded to include the latch functionality (bistable switching characteristic) which utilises the magnetic field only for the corresponding switching operation. As a result, this functionality has been added to a wide range of enclosure variants in the current modular range.

Sensing distances of electronic magnetic sensors

Since the sensing distances of magnetic sensors are influenced by the combination of sensor and magnet, it is appropriate to consider them as a complete system. The overview below shows the expected sensing distances (Sn) when using different magnets from the BERNSTEIN range.

Magnet	Size	Article number	Sn of Hall sensors	Sn of magneto-resistive sensors
T 75	Ø 5 mm	6301175057	5 mm	10 mm
T 06	Ø 6 mm	6301106065	5 mm	15 mm
T 61	Ø 20 mm	6301261035	10 mm	35 mm
T 62	Ø 23 mm	6301262039	17 mm	45 mm
T 67	Ø 20 mm	6301167054	15 mm	40 mm
T 69	Ø 31 mm	6301269031	20 mm	60 mm