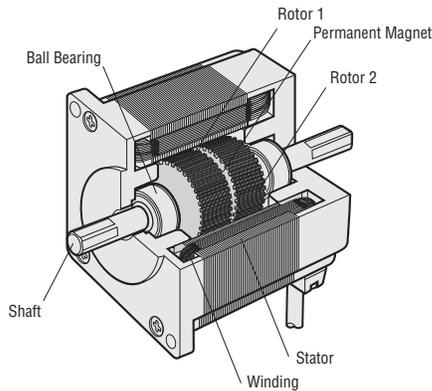


Stepper Motors

Structure of Stepper Motors

The figures below show two cross-sections of a 0.72° stepper motor. The stepper motor consists primarily of two parts: a stator and rotor. The rotor is made up of three components: rotor 1, rotor 2 and a permanent magnet. The rotor is magnetized in the axial direction so that, for example, if rotor 1 is polarized north, rotor 2 will be polarized south.



Motor Structural Diagram: Cross-Section Parallel to Shaft

The stator has ten magnetic poles with small teeth, each pole being provided with a winding.

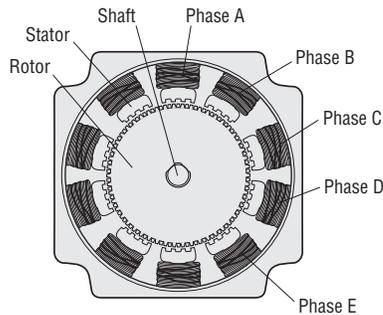
Each winding is connected to the winding of the opposite pole so that both poles are magnetized in the same polarity when current is sent through the pair of windings. (Running a current through a given winding magnetizes the opposing pair of poles in the same polarity, i.e., north or south.)

The opposing pair of poles constitutes one phase. Since there are five phases, A through E, the motor is called a "0.72° stepper motor." With a 1.8° or 0.9° stepper motor, there are two phases, A and B. These 2 phase motors are called 1.8° and 0.9° stepper motors. There are 50 small teeth on the outer perimeter of each rotor, with the small teeth of rotor 1 and rotor 2 being mechanically offset from each other by half a tooth pitch.

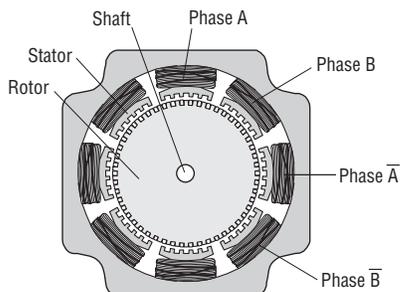
Excitation: To send current through a motor winding

Magnetic pole: A projected part of the stator, magnetized by excitation

Small teeth: The teeth on the rotor and stator



0.72° Stepper Motor Structural Diagram: Cross-Section Perpendicular to Shaft



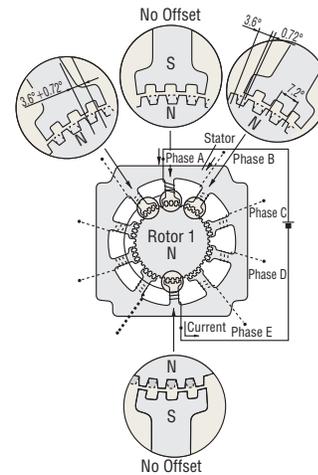
1.8° Stepper Motor Structural Diagram: Cross-Section Perpendicular to Shaft

Stepper Motor's Principle of Operation

Following is an explanation of the relationship between the magnetized stator small teeth and rotor small teeth.

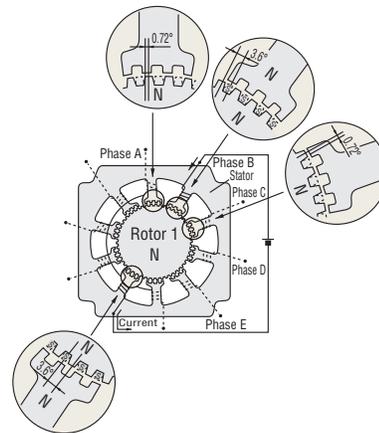
When Phase "A" is Excited

When phase A is excited, its poles are polarized south. This attracts the teeth of rotor 1, which are polarized north, while repelling the teeth of rotor 2, which are polarized south. Therefore, the forces on the entire unit in equilibrium hold the rotor stationary. At this time, the teeth of the phase B poles, which are not excited, are misaligned with the south-polarized teeth of rotor 2 so that they are offset 0.72°. This summarizes the relationship between the stator teeth and rotor teeth with phase A excited.



When Phase "B" is Excited

When excitation switches from phase A to B, the phase B poles are polarized north, attracting the south polarity of rotor 2 and repelling the north polarity of rotor 1.



In other words, when excitation switches from phase A to B, the rotor rotates by 0.72° . As excitation shifts from phase A, to phases B, C, D and E, then back around to phase A, the stepper motor rotates precisely in 0.72° steps. To rotate in reverse, reverse the excitation sequence to phase A, E, D, C, B, then back around to phase A. The high resolution of 0.72° is inherent in the mechanical offset between the stator and rotor, accounting for the achievement of precise positioning without the use of an encoder or other sensors. High stopping accuracy of ± 3 arcminutes (with no load) is obtained, since the only factors affecting stopping accuracy are variations in the machining precision of the stator and rotor, assembly precision and DC resistance of windings. The driver performs the role of phase switching, and its timing is controlled by a pulse-signal input to the driver. The previous example shows the excitation advancing one phase at a time, but in an actual stepper motor an effective use of the windings is made by exciting four or five phases simultaneously.

Basic Characteristics of Stepper Motors

An important point to consider in the application of stepper motors is whether the motor characteristics are suitable to the operating conditions.

The following sections describe the characteristics to be considered in the application of stepper motors.

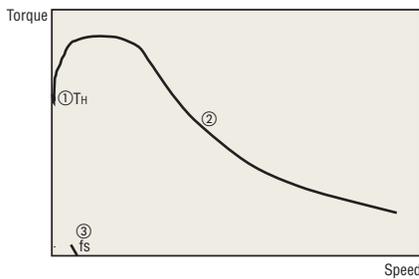
The two main characteristics of stepper motor performance are:

• Dynamic Characteristics:

These are the starting and rotational characteristics of a stepper motor, mainly affecting the machinery's movement and cycling time.

• Static Characteristics:

These are the characteristics relating to the changes in angle that take place when the stepper motor is in standstill mode, affecting the machinery's level of precision.



Speed - Torque Characteristics

• Dynamic Characteristics

◇ Speed - Torque Characteristics

The figure above is a characteristics graph showing the relationship between the speed and torque of a driven stepper motor. These characteristics are always referred to in the selection of a stepper motor. The horizontal axis represents the speed at the motor output shaft, and the vertical axis represents the torque. The speed - torque characteristics are determined by the motor and driver, and are greatly affected by the type of driver being used.

① Maximum holding torque (T_H)

The maximum holding torque is the stepper motor's maximum holding power (torque) when power is supplied (at rated current) when the motor is not rotating.

② Pullout torque

The pullout torque is the maximum torque that can be output at a given speed.

When selecting a motor, be sure the required torque falls within this curve.

③ Maximum starting frequency (f_s)

This is the maximum pulse speed at which the motor can start or stop instantly (without an acceleration/deceleration time) when the stepper motor's friction load and inertial load are 0.

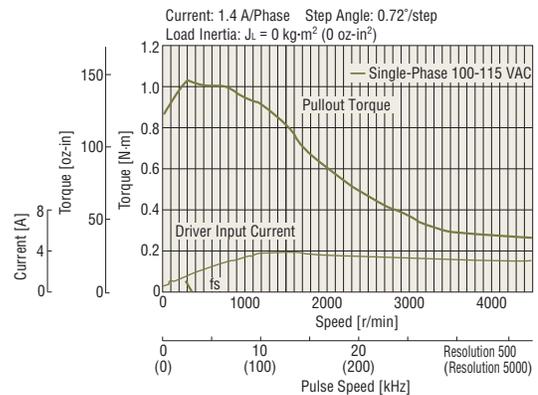
Driving the motor at a pulse speed in excess of this rate will require a gradual acceleration or deceleration. This frequency will decrease when an inertial load is added to the motor.

Refer to the inertial load - starting frequency characteristics below.

Maximum response frequency (f_r)

This is the maximum pulse speed at which the motor can be operated through gradual acceleration or deceleration when the stepper motor's friction load and inertial load are 0.

The figure below shows the speed - torque characteristics of a 0.72° stepper motor and driver package.

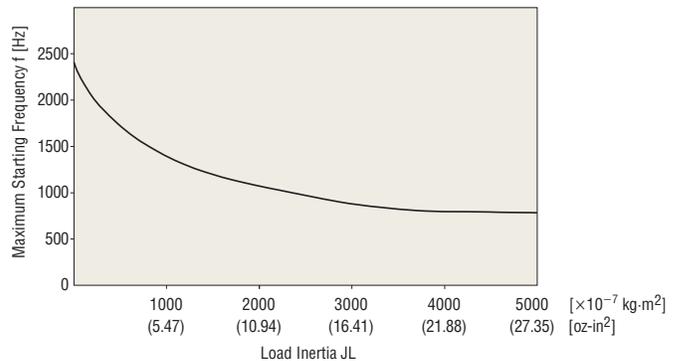


◇ Inertial Load - Starting Frequency Characteristics

These characteristics show the changes in the starting frequency caused by the load inertia.

Since the stepper motor's rotor and load have their own moment of inertia, lags and advances occur on the motor axis during instantaneous starting and stopping. These values change with the pulse speed, but the motor cannot follow the pulse speed beyond a certain point, so that missteps result.

The pulse speed immediately before the occurrence of a misstep is called the starting frequency.



Inertial Load - Starting Frequency Characteristics

Selection Calculations

Motors

Linear & Rotary Actuators

Cooling Fans

Service Life

Stepper Motors

Servo Motors

Standard AC Motors

Brushless Motors/AC Speed Control Motors

Gearheads

Cooling Fans

Changes in maximum starting frequency with the inertial load may be approximated via the following formula:

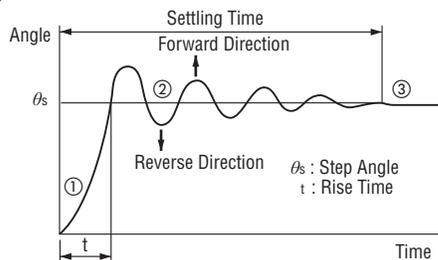
$$f = \frac{f_s}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{J_L}{J_0}}} \text{ [Hz]}$$

- f_s : Maximum starting frequency of motor [Hz]
- f : Maximum starting frequency where inertial load is present [Hz]
- J_0 : Moment of inertia of rotor [kg·m² (oz-in²)]
- J_L : Moment of inertia of load [kg·m² (oz-in²)]

◇ Vibration Characteristics

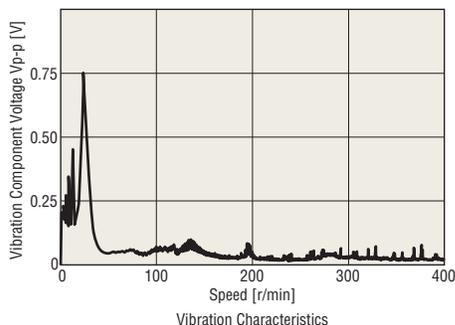
The stepper motor rotates through a series of stepping movements. A stepping movement may be described as a 1-step response, as shown below:

- ① A single pulse input to a stepper motor at a standstill accelerates the motor toward the next stop position.
- ② The accelerated motor rotates through the stop position, overshoots a certain angle, and is pulled back in reverse.
- ③ The motor settles to a stop at the set stop position following a damping oscillation.



1-Step Response

Vibration at low speeds is caused by a step-like movement that produces this type of damping oscillation. The vibration characteristics graph below represents the magnitude of vibration of a motor in rotation. The lower the vibration level, the smoother the motor rotation will be.

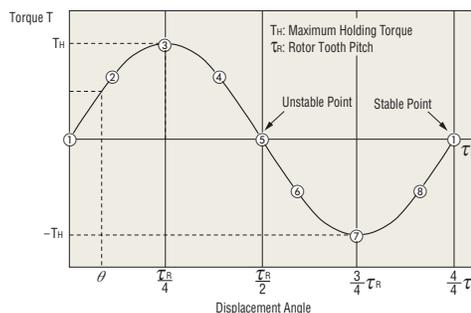


Vibration Characteristics

● Static Characteristics

◇ Angle – Torque Characteristics

The angle – torque characteristics show the relationship between the angular displacement of the rotor and the torque externally applied to the motor shaft while the motor is excited at the rated current. The curve for these characteristics is shown below:



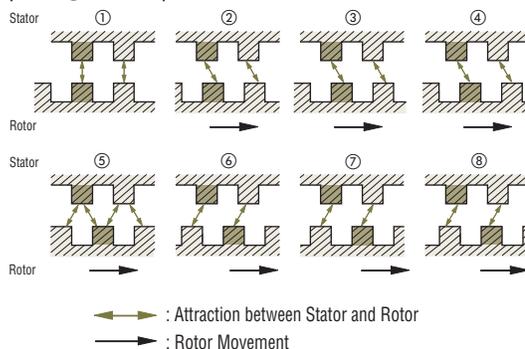
Angle – Torque Characteristics

The following illustrations show the positional relationship between the rotor teeth and stator teeth at the numbered points in the diagram above.

When held stable at point ① the external application of a force to the motor shaft will produce torque T (+) in the left direction, trying to return the shaft to stable point ①. The shaft will stop when the external force equals this torque at point ②.

If additional external force is applied, there is an angle at which the torque produced will reach its maximum at point ③. This torque is called the maximum holding torque TH.

Application of external force in excess of this value will drive the rotor to an unstable point ⑤ and beyond, producing torque T (–) in the same direction as the external force, so that it moves to the next stable point ① and stops.



Stable Points:

Points where the rotor stops, with the stator teeth and rotor teeth are exactly aligned. These points are extremely stable, and the rotor will always stop there if no external force is applied.

Unstable Points:

Points where the stator teeth and rotor teeth are half a pitch out of alignment. A rotor at these points will move to the next stable point to the left or right, even under the slightest external force.

◇ Angle Accuracy

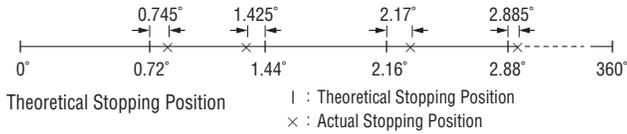
Under no load conditions, a stepper motor has an angle accuracy within ±3 arcminutes (±0.05°). The small error arises from the difference in mechanical precision of the stator and rotor and a small variance in the DC resistance of the stator winding.

Generally, the angle accuracy of the stepper motor is expressed in terms of the stop position accuracy, as described on the right.

Stop Position Accuracy:

The stop position accuracy is the difference between the rotor's theoretical stopping position and its actual stopping position. A given rotor stopping point is taken as the starting point, then the stop position accuracy is the difference between the maximum (+) value and maximum (-) value in the set of measurements taken for each step of a full rotation.

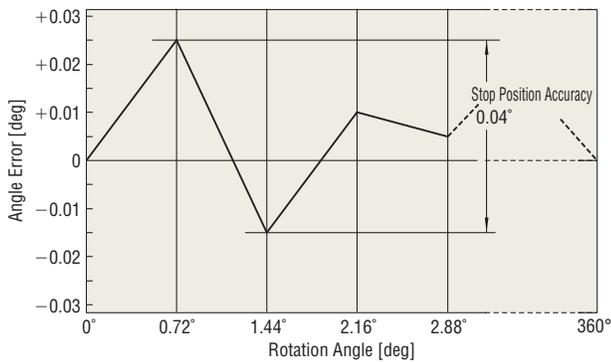
Actual Stopping Position



The stop position accuracy is within ± 3 arcminutes ($\pm 0.05^\circ$), but only under no load conditions. In actual applications there is always the same amount of friction load.

The angle accuracy in such cases is produced by the angular displacement caused by the angle – torque characteristics based upon the friction load. If the friction load is constant, the displacement angle will be constant for uni-directional operation. However, in bi-directional operation, double the displacement angle is produced over a round trip.

When high stopping accuracy is required, always position in the same direction.



Excitation Sequence of Stepper Motor and Driver Packages

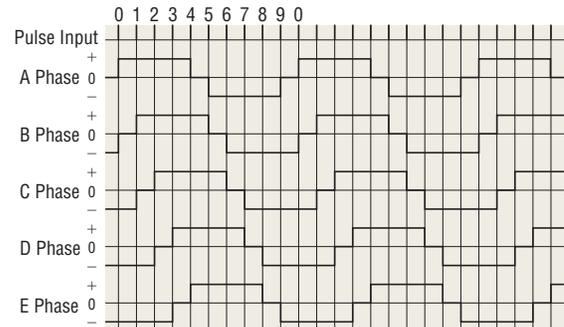
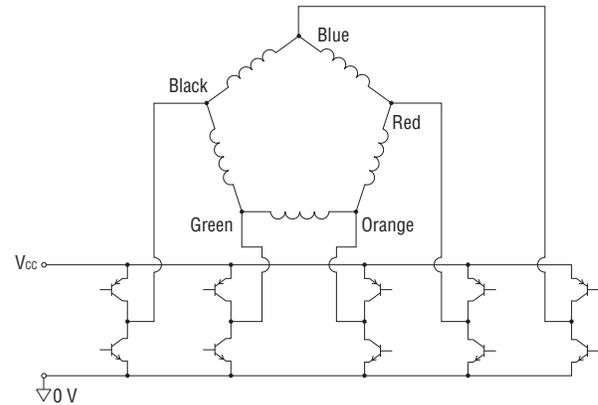
Every 0.72° motor and driver package listed in our catalog consists of a New Pentagon, five-lead wire motor and a driver incorporating a special excitation sequence. This combination, which is proprietary to Oriental Motor, offers the following benefits:

- Simple connections for five leads
- Low vibration

The following sections describe the wiring and excitation sequence.

● New Pentagon, 4-Phase Excitation: Full Step System ($0.72^\circ/\text{step}$)

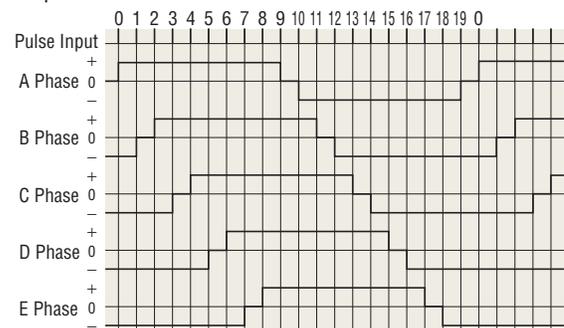
This is a system unique to the 0.72° motor, in which four phases are excited. The step angle is 0.72° . It offers a great damping effect, and therefore stable operation.



New Pentagon, 4-Phase Excitation Sequence

● New Pentagon, 4-5-Phase Excitation: Half-Step System ($0.36^\circ/\text{step}$)

A step sequence of alternating the 4-phase and 5-phase excitation produces rotation at 0.36° per step. One rotation may be divided into 1000 steps.



New Pentagon, 4-5-Phase Excitation Sequence

Selection Calculations

Motors

Linear & Rotary Actuators

Cooling Fans

Service Life

Stepper Motors

Servo Motors

Standard AC Motors

Brushless Motors/AC Speed Control Motors

Gearheads

Cooling Fans

Stepper Motor Drivers

There are two common systems of driving a stepper motor: constant current drive and constant voltage drive.

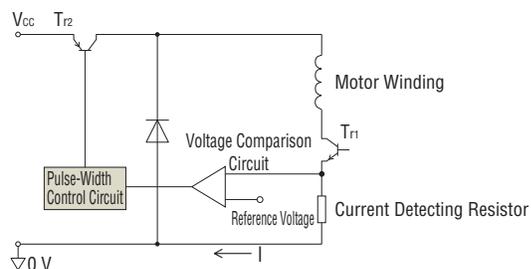
The circuitry for the constant voltage drive is simpler, but it is relatively more difficult to achieve torque performance at high speeds.

The constant current drive, on the other hand, is now the most commonly used drive method, since it offers excellent torque performance at high speeds. All Oriental Motor's drivers use the constant current drive system.

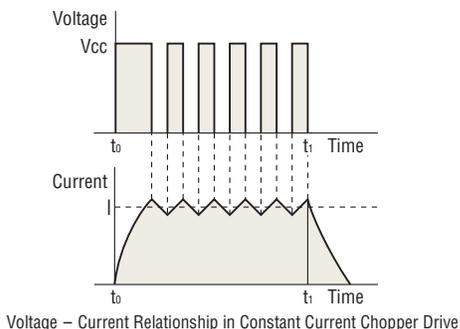
Overview of the Constant Current Drive System

The stepper motor rotates through the sequential switching of current flowing through the windings. When the speed increases, the switching rate also becomes faster and the current rise falls behind, resulting in lost torque.

The chopping of a DC voltage that is far higher than the motor's rated voltage will ensure the rated current reaches the motor, even at higher speeds.



The current flowing to the motor windings, detected as a voltage through a current detecting resistor, is compared to the reference voltage. Current control is accomplished by holding the switching transistor Tr_2 ON when the voltage across the detecting resistor is lower than the reference voltage (when it has not reached the rated current), or turning Tr_2 OFF when the value is higher than the reference voltage (when it exceeds the rated current), thereby providing a constant flow of rated current.

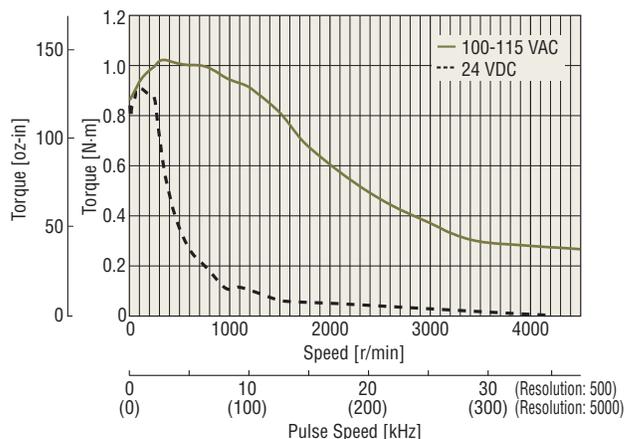


Differences between AC Input and DC Input Characteristics

A stepper motor is driven by a DC voltage applied through a driver. In Oriental Motor's 24 VDC input motor and driver packages, 24 VDC is applied to the motor. In the 100-115 VAC motor and driver packages the input is rectified to DC and then approximately 140 VDC is applied to the motor. (Certain products are exceptions to this.)

This difference in voltages applied to the motors appears as a difference in torque characteristics at high speeds. This is due to the fact that the higher the applied voltage is, the faster the current rise through the motor windings will be, facilitating the application of rated current at higher speeds. Thus, the AC input motor and driver package has superior torque characteristics over a wide speed range, from low to high speeds.

It is recommended that AC input motor and driver packages, which are compatible with a wider range of operating conditions, be considered for applications.



Microstep Technology

Microstep drive technology is used to divide the basic step angle (0.72°) of the 0.72° stepper motor into smaller steps (up to a maximum of 250 divisions) without the use of a speed reduction mechanism.

Features

The stepper motor moves and stops in increments of the step angle determined by the rotor and stator's salient pole structure, easily achieving a high degree of precision in positioning. The stepper motor, on the other hand, causes the rotor speed to vary because the motor rotates in step angle increments, resulting in resonance or greater vibration at a given speed.

Microstepping is a technology that achieves low resonance, low noise operation at extremely low speeds by controlling the flow of electric current fed to the motor coil and thereby dividing the motor's basic step angle into smaller steps.

- The motor's basic step angle (0.72° /full step) can be divided into smaller steps ranging from 1/1 to 1/250. Microstepping thus ensures smooth operation.
- With the technology for smoothly varying the motor drive current, motor vibration can be minimized for low noise operation.

Up to 250 Microsteps based on Basic Step Angle

Thanks to the microstep driver, different step angles (16 steps up to 250 divisions) can be set to two step angle setting switches. By controlling the input signal for step angle switching via an external source, it is possible to switch the step angle between the levels set for the respective switches.

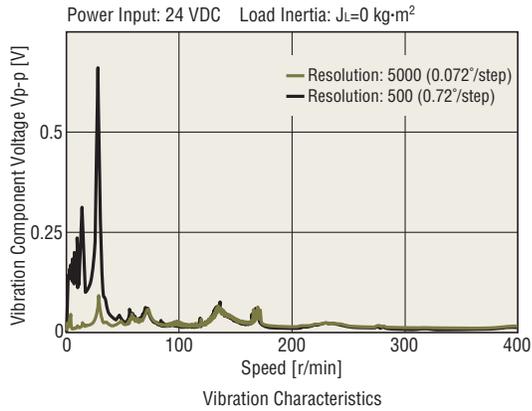
Features of Microstep Drive

• Low Vibration

Microstep drive technology electronically divides the step angle into smaller steps, ensuring smooth incremental motion at low speeds and significantly reducing vibration.

While a damper or similar device is generally used to reduce vibration, the low vibration design employed for the motor itself – along with the microstep drive technology – minimizes vibration more effectively.

Anti-vibration measures can be dramatically simplified, so it is ideal for most vibration sensitive applications and equipment.



• Low Noise

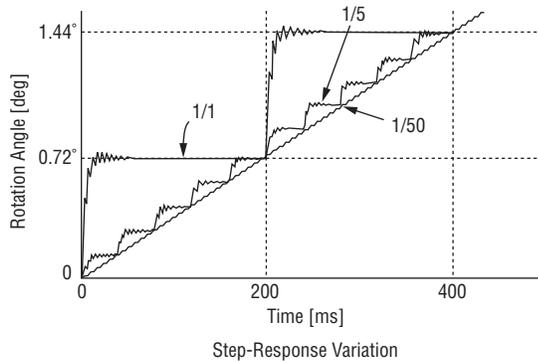
Microstep drive technology effectively reduces the vibration related noise level at low speeds, achieving low noise performance.

The motor demonstrates outstanding performance in even the most noise sensitive environment.

• Improved Controllability

The New Pentagon microstep driver, with its superior damping performance, minimizes overshoot and undershoot in response to step changes, accurately following the pulse pattern and ensuring improved linearity.

In addition, shock normally resulting from the motions of starting and stopping can be lessened.



Selection Calculations

Motors

Linear & Rotary Actuators

Cooling Fans

Service Life

Stepper Motors

Servo Motors

Standard AC Motors

Brushless Motors/AC Speed Control Motors

Gearheads

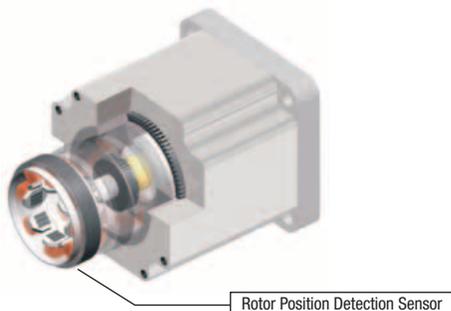
Cooling Fans

Closed Loop Stepper Motors α STEP

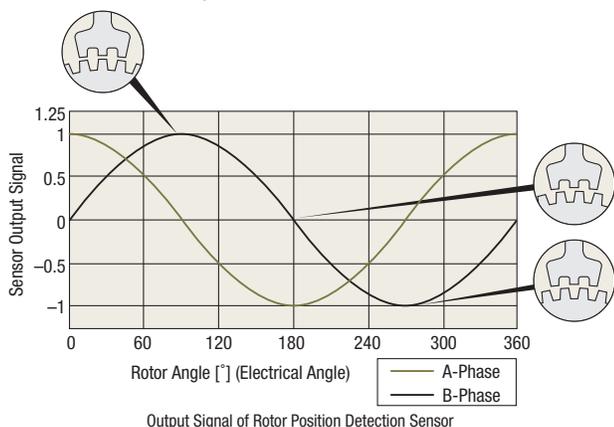
Overview of the Control Method

Built-in Rotor Position Detection Sensor

A built-in rotor position detection sensor is provided on the back shaft side of the motor.



The sensor windings detect the change in magnetic reluctance due to the rotor's rotation position.

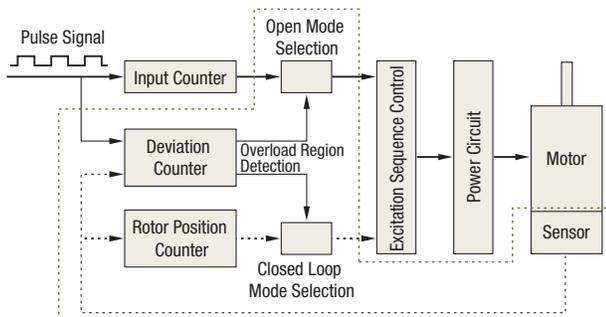


Featuring Innovative Closed Loop Control

A deviation counter calculates the deviation (time lag/advance) of the actual rotor's rotation position relative to the command position specified by the pulse signal.

The calculation result is used to detect an "overload region" and operate the motor by switching between open mode and closed loop mode.

- Normally, the motor is operated in the open mode.
- Under an overload condition, the motor is operated in the closed loop mode.



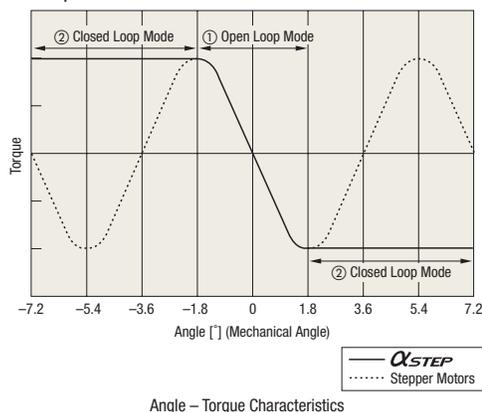
Unique Control Section of α STEP

Rotor Position Counter: It indicates the excitation sequence that would generate the maximum torque for a given rotor position.

Control Diagram of α STEP

In the closed loop mode, the excitation state of motor windings is controlled so that the maximum torque is generated for the given rotation position of the rotor.

This control method eliminates unstable points (overload region) in the angle – torque characteristics.



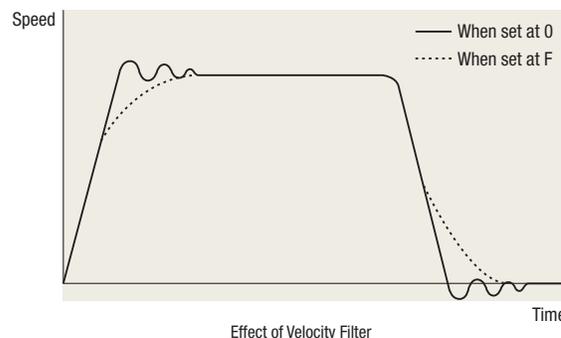
Features of α STEP

Improved Stepper Motor Performance

- The Torque Characteristics in the High-Speed Range are Easy to Use.

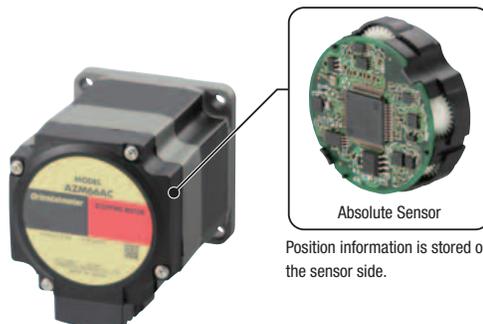
Unlike conventional stepper motors, the α STEP operation are free of the following restrictions:

- Restrictions on Starting Pulse Speed
High-speed operation can be achieved with ease by utilizing the slew region.
- Adjustable Responsiveness at Start/Stop Using Velocity Filters
Responsiveness at start/stop can be adjusted with 16 settings without changing the controller data (starting pulse speed, acceleration/deceleration rate).
This feature is intended to reduce shock to the work and vibration during low speed operation.



Mechanical Multi-Turn Absolute Sensor

Absolute sensors mechanically detect the position and store it on the sensor side. By storing the position information on the sensor side, an absolute system is established in which position information can be retained even when the power supply is shut down. Also, it no longer requires a battery that was needed to back up position information, and therefore, the position information will not be lost even if the motor cable is disconnected.

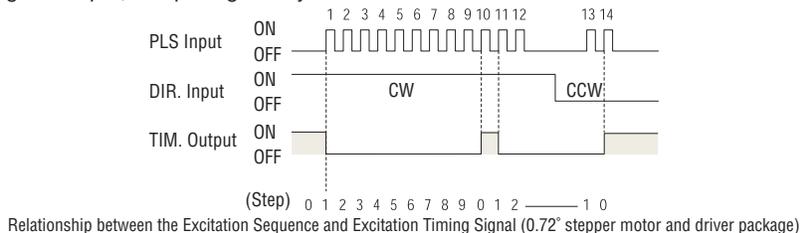


Position information is stored on the sensor side.

Return to Mechanical Home Operation Using Excitation Timing Signal

Excitation Timing Signal

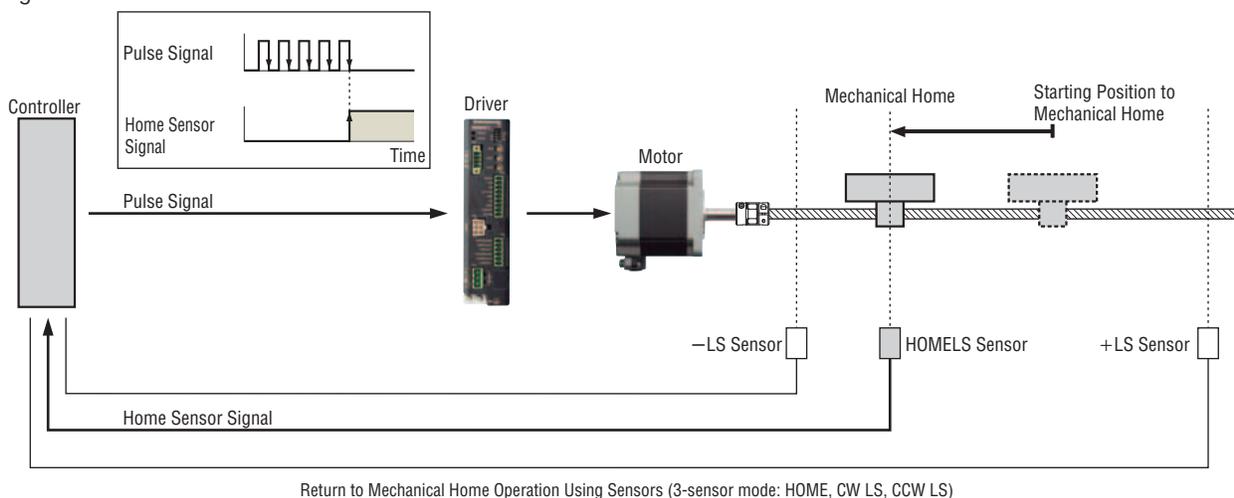
The excitation timing (TIM.) signal is output when the driver is initially exciting the stepper motor (step "0"). Oriental Motor's 0.72° stepper motor and driver packages perform initial excitation when the power is turned on, and advance the excitation sequence each time a pulse signal is input, completing one cycle when the motor shaft rotates 7.2°.



Use these timing signals when it is necessary to perform highly reproducible return to mechanical home operation. The following sections describe stepper motor return to mechanical home operation and the use of timing signals.

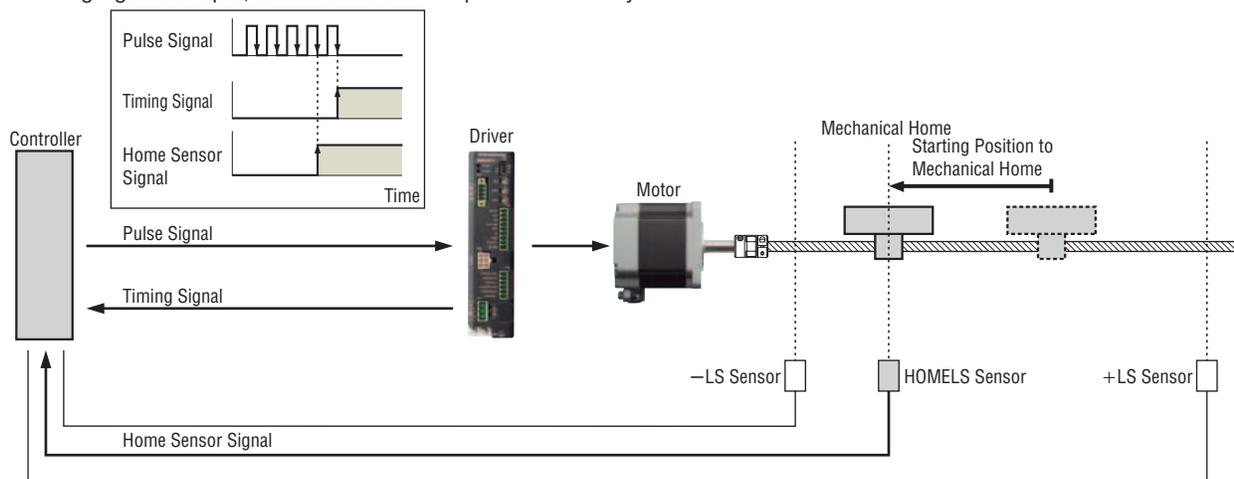
Return to Mechanical Home Operation for Stepper Motors

When turning on the power to start automated equipment or restarting the equipment after a power failure, it is necessary to return stepper motors to their standard position. This operation is called the "return to mechanical home operation." The return to mechanical home operation for stepper motors uses home sensors to detect the mechanical component used for the positioning operation. When the detected signals are confirmed, the controller stops the pulse signal, and the stepper motor is stopped. The accuracy of the home position in such a return to mechanical home operation depends on the detection performance of the home sensors. As the detection performance of the home sensors varies according to factors such as the ambient temperature and approach speed of the mechanism detection area, it's necessary to reduce these factors for applications that require a highly reproducible mechanical home position detecting.



Improved Reproducibility Using Excitation Timing Signal

A method of ensuring that the mechanical home position does not vary due to variations in the detection performance of the home sensors, is to stop the pulse signal by logically multiplying with the timing signal. As the timing signal is output at initial excitation. If the pulse signal is stopped when the timing signal is output, the mechanical home position will always be determined at initial excitation.



Selection Calculations

Motors

Linear & Rotary Actuators

Cooling Fans

Service Life

Stepper Motors

Servo Motors

Standard AC Motors

Brushless Motors/AC Speed Control Motors

Gearheads

Cooling Fans