

Direct Vs. Traditional Drive Motor

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Tech Note

January | 2024



The term "direct drive" refers to an electric motor that powers the load without the need for couplings, gears, belts, or chains. This differs from conventional motors, which employ these components to transmit power from the motor to the load.

At **Gevasol Motion Division**, we specialize in designing and manufacturing direct drive motors for single- and dual-axis systems. Our motors are utilized across a wide range of industries, including semiconductors, aerospace, antennas, and more.

Direct drive motors offer several advantages over traditional motors, including:

- Higher efficiency: They eliminate the power losses associated with gears and other transmission components.
- Greater precision: They have no backlash, which is the amount of play between gears.
- Quieter performance: They have reduced noise levels due to fewer moving parts.
- Minimized maintenance needs: They demand less maintenance owing to their fewer moving parts, which are prone to wear and failure.

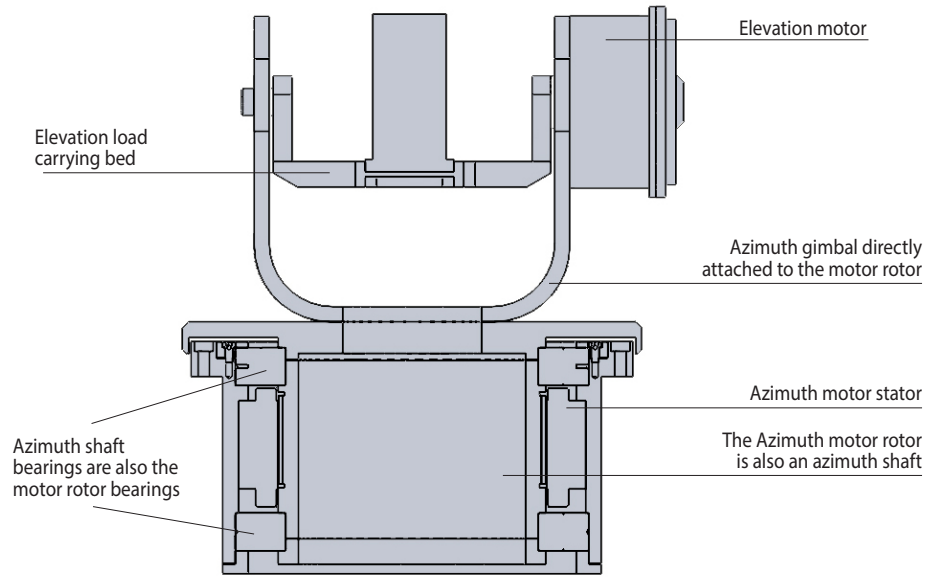
Integrating a frameless motor directly into the system and thereby reducing component counts provides the following benefits:

- Reduced system component count.
- Improved reliability.
- Enhanced endurance and reduced maintenance due to the limited number of components subjected to mechanical contact and wear.
- Simple system assembly.
- High rigidity and better high-frequency response.
- Simplified Bill of Materials (BOM) and streamlined logistics by reducing the number of suppliers.

Direct Vs. Traditional Drive Motor

Disadvantages of direct drive motors include:

- **Greater initial investment:** Direct drive motors often come with a higher upfront cost as they are typically customized or built to specific requirements.
- **Reduced torque-to-weight ratio (specific torque):** Direct drive motors typically exhibit a lower specific torque output than traditional drives incorporating gear reduction.

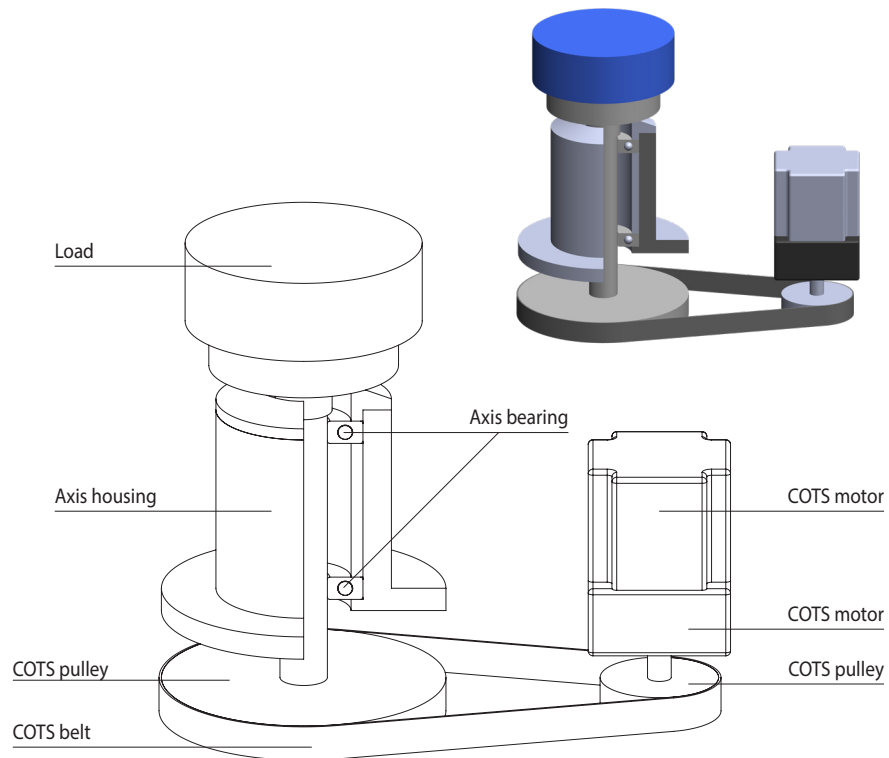


A two-axis turret construction with direct drive motors. The cross-section shows the azimuth axis with a direct drive motor integrated into the axis. The elevation motor is also a direct drive type.

Traditional Drive

Traditional drive refers to an electric motor that employs gears, belts, or chains to transfer power from the motor to the load. This mechanism enables the motor to attain higher torque output at lower speeds.

While traditional drives are less efficient and less precise in comparison to direct drive motors, they are also more cost-effective and offer higher torque output.



The single-axis rotary table is assembled mostly of catalog, off-the-shelf (COTS) items

Applications

Direct drive motors are often used in applications where high efficiency, precision, and quiet operation are important. Some examples include:

- Robotics
- Machine tools
- Medical devices
- Semiconductor manufacturing equipment
- Aerospace and defense applications

Traditional drives are often used in applications where high torque output is important, and the cost is a major factor. Some examples include:

- HVAC systems
- Industrial automation
- Conveyors
- Pumps
- Fans

Which Type to Select?

The best type of motor for a given application depends on several factors, including the required torque output, speed, precision, efficiency, noise level, and cost.

Direct drive motors are a good choice for applications where high efficiency, precision, and quiet operation are important. However, they are typically more expensive than traditional motors and have lower torque output.

Traditional drives are a good choice for applications where high torque output is essential and the cost is a significant factor. However, they are less efficient and less precise than direct drive motors.