

A Glossary of Telebelt® Terms



Don Matthews, our resident expert on Putzmeister Telebelts, has been in the concrete placing industry for 35 years, placing concrete and/or materials in every state except Alaska and South Dakota, and in at least a dozen foreign countries such as Korea, China, and Iraq.

Don became specifically involved with Telebelts in 1982 when the product was incorporated into the pumping fleet where he worked as an area manager. In 1987, Don joined the service department at Rotec, who manufactured these conveyors prior to the 1997 Putzmeister acquisition of the product line. At that point, Don joined the Putzmeister Customer Support team and today helps service (and promote) Telebelts.

One would think Don has seen it all. Yet Don claims “every day is different”, and he gladly shares all his Telebelt tricks through helping to publish these quarterly Tricks of the Trade bulletins. Tongue in cheek, he’s put together the following list of technical and slang terms to better assist in-the-field communications.

Bang-Bang ... A control that is either on or off; not variable. The opposite of proportional.

BAR ... 1) Metric unit of pressure measurement. A BAR equals approximately 14.7 PSI. 2) A place where many operators will end the day. For operational critiques, see BS.

Base ... The main (first) boom section.

Bear ... A difficult task.

Belt Card ... Computer card with black face located in the upper left section of the Telebelt combi-box. There are two cards and they control the speed of the main and feeder belts.

Blivett ... Ten pounds of material in a five pound container.

BS ... Conduct an important discussion.

CCW ... Counterclockwise.

CG ... Center of Gravity.

CW ... Clockwise.

Cable Remote ... Control box and cable (cord), used as backup for the radio remote. Cable remotes are usually stored, and forgotten, in the wettest cabinet of the unit. If they are ever needed, they have often corroded beyond recognition. In late 2005, proportional cable remote controls will become standard.

Circuit Breaker ... An automatic switch that stops the flow of electric current at the worst possible time.

Combi-box ... Electrical control cabinet. On Telebelts, they are conveniently located in the first compartment behind the cab or step box, on the driver’s side.

Crud ... Glock, glop or goo that has baked on.

Dings ... Little bitty dents you can hardly see, but you can feel.

Feather ... To control a remote function and cause slow movement by “bumping” or “quick clicking” the remote switch. Proportional controls are feathered by varying the movement of the function control stick.

Feed or Feeder ... Feed conveyor where concrete or material is discharged.

Fin Fish ... Large, crescent shaped chunks of set concrete that come from ready mix trucks. See HOPPER GRATE.

Flashlight ... Cylindrical object used to store dead batteries prior to their disposal.

Flow ... Quantity of fluid movement versus time, usually expressed in Liters Per Minute (LPM) or Gallons Per Minute (GPM) - affects the speed of a function.

Fly ... Last boom section or discharge end of a conveyor. Can also be referred to as the “head” or “tip”.

Function(s) ... Any controlled movement, such as Swing Right, Telescope In, Main On, etc.



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GPM ... Gallons Per Minute. See FLOW.

Glick ... Messy *runny* stuff.

Goo ... Messy *sticky* stuff.

Grease Worms ... Critters that eat all traces of the grease that the operator swears he/she applied, and replaces it with rusty, scaly crud.

Grout ... Gray, slimy, sticky stuff that gets hard. Concrete pump operators need this stuff to get started. Conveyor operators find it all over the place if they don't take care of the scrapers.

Head ... See FLY.

Heel ... End opposite the head or end of the boom sections closest to truck.

Hopper Grate ... Fin fish trap.

Inner Mid ... The first telescoping boom section, counting from the base section toward the tip section.

Jake Brake ... Jacobs Engine Brake. A device that alters engine valve timing to allow engine compression to act as a brake. A Jake Brake is enabled by the driver, but automatically disengages if the clutch or brake are depressed.

LED ... Light Emitting Diode.

LPM ... Liters Per Minute. See FLOW.

Main ... Refers to the main conveyor or base boom section.

Nonproportional ... A control that is either on or off; commonly referred to as "Bang-Bang".

Outer Mid ... The second telescoping boom section counting from the base section toward the tip section.

Pits ... 1) Like dings, but rougher and more like a mini crater. 2) Distasteful situation, "This is the pits!"

Pressure ... Force applied to a fluid, usually measured in BAR, or Pounds Per Square Inch (PSI); affects the strength of a function.

Proportional ... Variable. A proportional control applies more oil flow as displacement of the control lever increases. The opposite of a nonproportional or a "Bang-Bang" control.

PSI ... Pounds Per Square Inch.

PTO ... Power Take-Off.

Rubber(s) ... Any rubber component used to contain concrete flow. Would you think anything else?

Scraper Bounce ... Head scrapers are tensioned with springs. Obstructions that break scraper contact with the belt can cause the scraper to "bounce" or "hop". This condition is not desirable as scrapers must maintain full contact with the belt.

Segment(s) ... Working sections of a stack valve. One segment controls a single function in both directions.

Skirt(s) ... A rubber used at the transfers to channel material flow onto the next conveyor.

Spool ... The internal piece of a valve segment that directs oil flow. The name comes from the fact that it resembles a sewing thread spool.

Stack or Stack Valve ... An assembly usually consisting of an inlet section, single or multiple valve segments and an outlet section. Stack valves are often held together by means of tie-rods and nuts. See SEGMENT.

Stake(d) Bolts ... A machinist's term for a method to keep certain types of bolts from working loose. Telebelts stake flathead bolts that do not use lock nuts; i.e. telescope sheave retainers. These bolts are staked by center punching alongside the edge of the bolt head. The resulting punch mark extrudes the metal of the bolt head and retainer and causes a locking effect.

Tail ... See HEEL.

Test Light ... A probe type device that lights up under certain circumstances. Sold in automotive and other novelty stores, it is used for troubleshooting electrical circuits and other witchcraft.

Tip ... See FLY.

Torque Tube ... The lower structure weldment. The "spine" of the unit that contains the hydraulic tank and water tank. The turntable bearing and outriggers mount to the torque tube.

Training Pin ... A part of the boom's roller cradles that pushes the center of the V-roller to the rear, causing the belt to train to the center of the rollers.

Transfer ... An area or assembly where concrete/material transfers from one conveyor to another.

UFO ... Unidentified Foreign Object that you don't want to place.

Unpumpable Mix ... Does not translate into Telebelt terms.

WYSIWYG ... (Pronounced "wizzy wig")
What You See Is What You Get.

Special Note:

The Telebelt Quick Start Series, which illustrates information about setup, operation, maintenance, cleanup, and a general overview is being updated and fully revamped. It will be incorporated into one convenient DVD and debut the end of 2005.