

# Torque and angular acceleration of a flywheel

Material: Cast nodular iron.

$$\rho := 7300 \cdot \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3} \quad R := 190 \cdot \text{mm} \quad h := 15 \cdot \text{mm} \quad \text{Mass} := \rho \cdot \pi \cdot R^2 \cdot h = 12.419 \text{ kg}$$

Note: Mass distribution and moment of inertia are  $I_m := \frac{1}{2} \cdot \text{Mass} \cdot R^2 = 2.242 \times 10^5 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{mm}^2$  not appropriate for a Norton 750 flywheel.

Torque required when spinning the flywheel from 2500 rpm to 7500 rpm in 10 seconds, assuming constant angular acceleration:

$$\Delta t := 10 \cdot \text{sec} \quad n_1 := 2500 \cdot \text{min}^{-1} \quad n_2 := 7500 \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$$

$$\omega_1 := 2 \cdot \pi \cdot n_1 = 261.799 \frac{1}{\text{s}} \quad \omega_2 := 2 \cdot \pi \cdot n_2 = 785.398 \frac{1}{\text{s}}$$

$$\text{Average angular acceleration:} \quad \alpha := \frac{\omega_2 - \omega_1}{\Delta t} = 52.36 \frac{1}{\text{s}^2} \quad T := I_m \cdot \alpha = 11.737 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Kinetic rotational energies at} \quad E_{k1} &:= \frac{1}{2} \cdot I_m \cdot \omega_1^2 = 7.682 \times 10^3 \text{ J} \\ \text{begin and end of acceleration:} \quad E_{k2} &:= \frac{1}{2} \cdot I_m \cdot \omega_2^2 = 6.914 \times 10^4 \text{ J} \end{aligned}$$

Variation in angular kinetic energy == Work performed by the torque force. ::  $E_2 - E_1 = W$

Assuming torque is constant across the stated rev figures:

$$W := T \cdot (\omega_2 - \omega_1) \cdot \Delta t$$

$$\text{Thus,} \quad T := \frac{E_{k2} - E_{k1}}{(\omega_2 - \omega_1) \cdot \Delta t} = 11.737 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$$

$$\text{Flywheel 1: Mass} = 12.4 \text{ kg} \quad I_m = 224200 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{mm}^2 \quad T = 11.74 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$$

$$\text{Flywheel 2: Mass} = 9.935 \text{ kg} \text{ (-20\%)} \quad I_m = 179300 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{mm}^2 \quad T = 9.39 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m} \text{ (-20\%)}$$

Verdict: Measured by the available torque of 65 Nm (Commando 850), albeit not constant across the rev range, an increase of 2.35 Nm (from 53.3 Nm to 55.7 Nm) accounts for 4.4% more torque for acceleration and succumbing resistance actions.

Figures used in this example are for demonstration purposes and are not claimed to be correct for the 1973-76 Norton Commando.