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## V80 Matching

Do these belts match?

Many drives consist of a multi-belt drive where more than one belt is used to transmit the horsepower required. The RMA specifies permissible length variations for a set of belts. For example, all belts up to 63 inches in a set must not vary more than .15 inch from the longest to the shortest belt. If they do, the load will not be evenly distributed and belts will wear out faster.

Various belt types are grouped by an 'old' match number system which involves numbers printed on the individual belts from 43 to 57, representing a measured belt length range. These numbers are grouped in sequential order for matching according to length (i.e. the longer the belt length, the greater the sequential number).

Gates innovated a change in 1980. Belt molds were re-machined, curing procedures redesigned, measuring devices developed, and closer attention paid to manufacturing variability through statistical process control. The Gates' V80 matching program produces classical, narrow, and molded notch product with tighter than RMA tolerances. All belts in this system are in the same tolerance range. Any V80 belt of a given length runs with any other V80 belt of the same size and type.