



Holyoke Roller Chain Manufacturing Facility

92.37%

Made in the U.S.A.





Welcome to

Holyoke, Massachusetts
U.S.A.

*“Birthplace of the Industry’s
Finest Roller Chain”*

1947



Tsubaki, 821 Main Street, Holyoke, MA 01040

The Holyoke facility first began manufacturing roller chain in 1947. Ten years later, in 1957, the factory moved to 821 Main Street in Holyoke. In 1998 Tsubaki acquired the assets and invested millions into the Holyoke operation allowing us to continue to manufacture high-quality roller chain in the Holyoke facility today.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines manufacturing like this:
: to make from raw materials by hand or by machinery

And that's what we do. We **make** roller chain **from raw materials by hand or machinery** in Holyoke like we've been doing here in western Massachusetts for over 60 years.

We do it with the same diligence, attention to detail, and work ethic that we applied to making chain all those years ago. And while those qualities have not wavered since 1947, the inside of the 821 Main Street facility is quite different today. More than a half century later modern machinery, new tooling systems, and improved automation now dominate our factory's interior. With more experience, more research, and more technology available to us to understand your needs better, Tsubaki continues to manufacture better and more innovative products as we move forward.

Here on Main Street in Holyoke every day our employees come together to create what is arguably one of the most essential components in manufacturing and one that drives the modern world—roller chain.

skilled toolmakers

How do we do it?

As consumers, we don't always think about where the products we use are made or how much experience the makers have. In the chain business we have to make our chain strong and durable because it has to withstand your load and wear requirements. It needs tensile and fatigue strength so that your equipment can run efficiently.

We simply cannot provide that to you without a deep technical knowledge of chain manufacturing and an understanding of your needs.

Take our toolroom as an example. It's staffed with skilled toolmakers with over 250 years of collective experience. The toolmakers manufacture all our internal tooling requirements for fixturing, blanking, and mechanical spares.



Our toolroom is equipped with the latest in CNC-controlled machining centers, spark and wire eroders, profile and jig grinding, and traditional machine tools such as lathes and millers. In short, maintaining a high-level toolroom in Holyoke helps us react quickly to any customer requirements and not to rely on outsourcing.

process



Our **round parts** department is responsible for making pins, bushings and rollers. This area is fully equipped and capable of holding tolerances to four decimals for a multitude of standard and complex dimensional requirements. Our CNC machines increase our flexibility by reducing lead times for short runs and developing customer-specific pin, bushing, and roller designs quickly without the need for specialist tooling. In contrast, our automatic machines allow us to produce high-volume complex components at optimal efficiencies allowing us to remain competitive without outsourcing to low-cost countries of origin.

In the rare case that our G7 PerforMax™ bushings aren't what the customer requires we have the ability to manufacture sizes 40 through 160 on our own specially-designed curling equipment. The equipment was developed and manufactured by Tsubaki and is able to produce roundness that can be better than a machined component.

Whether attachment or standard, all roller and pin link plates for our products are manufactured in our pressroom where over 20 presses ranging from 15 to 500 tons work to pierce, blank, or form steel plates from thicknesses of 0.050" to 0.500".

Our press capacity, along with the tooling that we mentioned in our toolroom, ensures that we have the most flexible and highest quality plate production in the country. Our toolroom capabilities help us to create blanking and forming designs quickly to launch new products faster than our competition.

None of this would matter, of course, without the highest quality steel. Continuing to manufacture our roller chain in the United States allows us access to USA-made steel ordered to the highest purity standards with specific-controlled chemistry. When coupled with our state-of-the-art manufacturing processes this high-grade steel completes the formula that produces the industry's finest roller chain.





Heat treatment is the process that will either make or break a company's reputation. Much of a roller chain's performance is determined by the care and attention the components are given throughout heat treatment and metal finishing. It is no surprise then that we tend these areas with a great deal of attention and control them with care. The heat treatment area consists of two belt furnaces which are used exclusively for through hardening and tempering plates, and three box and one rotary furnace that are used for a combination of case or through hardening of our round parts. All our components are oil quenched and the processes are closely monitored by computerized controls that ensure all critical variables are maintained within our strict specifications.

control

Metal finishing, although not as complex as heat treatment, is equally as important to the performance of the product. In this area we have three shot peening machines. Several specialized finishing processes allow us to modify surface finishes with a variety of abrasives and steel shot that enhance our products' wear and fatigue life.



commitment



Why 92.37% Made in the USA?

Tsubaki's patented lube groove bushing is imported from our parent company in Japan. This revolutionary bushing, PerforMax™, was invented and patented by our parent company. Its precise round shape offers better surface contact between pin and bushing while lube grooves hold oil and retain extra lubrication where it's needed most. As PerforMax™ is an innovation already manufactured with uncompromising specifications and stringent material selections we use it in all our standard-drive Holyoke-made roller chain for extra fatigue resistance, improved wear life and to partner with you to keep your repair costs down and support your plant reliability.

Tsubaki has a long-term goal.

We want to be your choice for chain in the U.S. not only now but far into the future. That's our commitment to quality and service. Very simply, by having a full-range manufacturing facility in the USA, we make the best decisions for you, the customer.

We want you to think only of Tsubaki when you need chain that works hard for you and that lasts. And we just can't do that without making the highest quality roller chain.

