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How to Select a Rotary Solenoid

When deciding on a rotary solenoid for an application, there are a number of factors to take into consideration: Size, torque, and angle of rotation are the basics, but it doesn't end there. This comprehensive document will walk you through the Geeplus part numbering system for rotary solenoids, helping you to choose the best rotary part, along with any pertinent mechanical and additional options available for your application.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us any time. You can also fill out our Rotary Solenoid Request for Quote form with any information and specs you have available.

Part Number for 3-Ball Rotary Solenoids				
Example : **M491-28-282RE**				
Thread	**Size**	**Coil AWG**	**Options**	**Life**
M - Metric thread F - SAE thread	491	28	283	R - Standard Life RE - Extended Life RL - Long Life

1. Metric (M prefix) and SAE (F prefix) screw thread options are available

2. The solenoid size is determined from consideration of required torque and effective duty cycle from graphs for the required angle of rotation. This may also be influenced by available power, for a given angle, a larger solenoid will develop the required torque with less electrical power than a smaller device



3. The coil requirements are determined from tables of coil gauge / duty cycle for the chosen size of device. Coil rating is specified as AWG size of the coil wire

4. The mechanical configuration options are chosen to suit the mounting and mechanical attachment of load to the solenoid in the application. These are illustrated later in this selection guide, along with a table which shows how the mechanical options, angle, and direction of rotation are translated into a 3-digit sequence in the solenoid part number. Direction of rotation is defined looking towards the armature plate as shown in attached drawing.

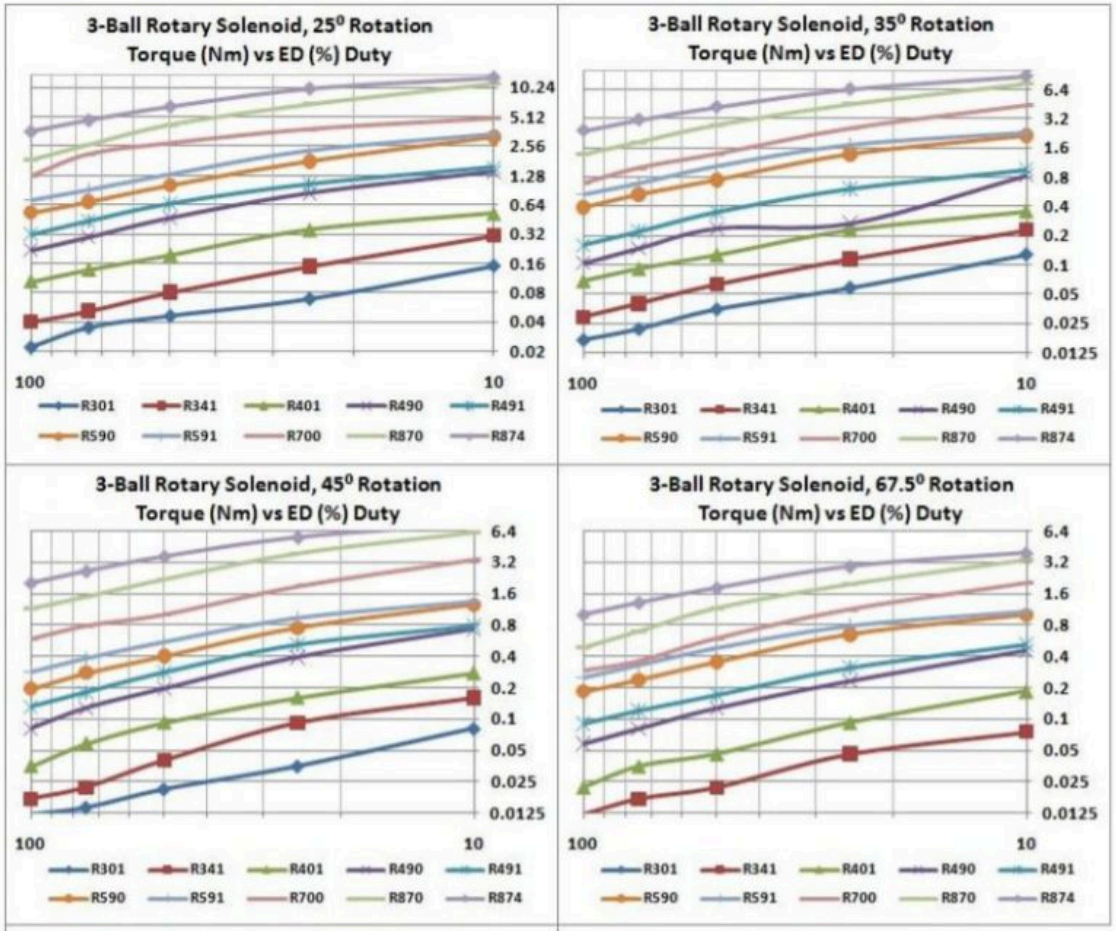
5. The life expectancy of the solenoid is specified by the suffix, R is standard life (2M-5M cycles), RE is extended (5M-10M cycles), RL is long life (20M50M cycles). Life will be reduced by excessive side loading, particulate contamination, corrosive or otherwise

- Terms

aggressive environments. Life expectancy should be verified under real operating conditions in the customer application to ensure this is sufficient for purpose.

Size Determination

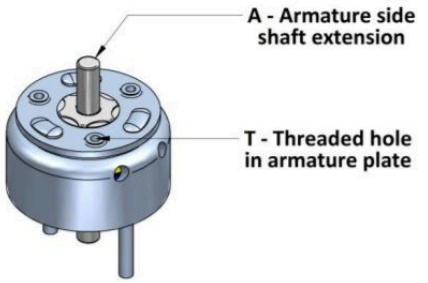
Device size is determined for the required torque and duty cycle from the tables below, torque is shown on the vertical axis vs ED on the horizontal

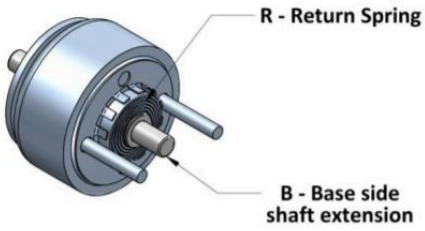


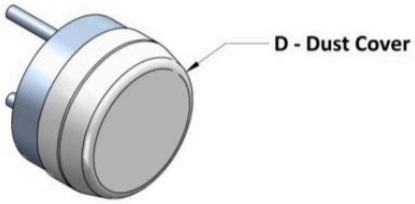
Specifying Coil AWG

Duty Cycle			100%	50%	25%	10%
Maximum 'ON' time			∞	100	36	7
Watts at 20º C			7	14	28	70
ampere-turns at 20º C			425	602	849	1350
AWG no	Resistance	no. turns	Nominal Voltage			
26	1.96	231	3.5	5	7.1	11
27	3.16	296	4.5	6.3	8.9	14
28	5.1	378	5.6	8	11	18
29	6.94	423	7.1	10	14	22
30	11	530	8.9	13	18	28
31	16.9	649	11	16	22	36
32	28.3	858	14	20	28	45

The coil AWG is determined from tables of coil data for the given part, in the column corresponding to chosen duty cycle, the voltage closest to user supply is picked, and coil AWG corresponding to this is indicated in the LH column (example shows selection for a part operated from 12v supply at 25% duty cycle).







- In the example illustrated, the selection of a device having higher nominal voltage than the supply is conservative, for maximum torque and speed the 28AWG coil might be more appropriate (see also point below)
- Allowance should be made for voltage drops in switching devices, and resistive drops in wiring harness when determining the nominal voltage which will be applied to the solenoid

Mechanical Configuration

- The direction of rotation of the solenoid is defined looking at the armature plate
- The standard accessories are shown in the adjacent drawing
- The dust-cover option is recomended in any application where the solenoid is exposed to dust which can clog or cause abrasive wear to the inclined raceways. This precludes use of the T option

When you have selected mechanical options required, the last 3 numbers of solenoid P/N can be determined from the table below

Accessories	25º CW	35º CW*	45º CW	67.5º CW	95º CW	25º CCW	35º CCW	45º CCW	67.5º CCW	95º CCW
A	070	071	072	073	074	075	076	077	078	079
A,T	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
A,T,R	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119
A,D	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129
A,D,R	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139
A,R	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149
T	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179
T,R	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189
B	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229
A,B	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239
A,B,T	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269
A,B,T,R	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289
A,B.D	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299
A,B,D,R	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309
A,B,R	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319
B,T	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349
B,T,R	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369
B,D	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379
B,D,R	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389
B,R	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399

* 30º rotation in the case of the 191 solenoid

Thermal Considerations

The coil data for rotary solenoids is based on performance at an ambient temperature of

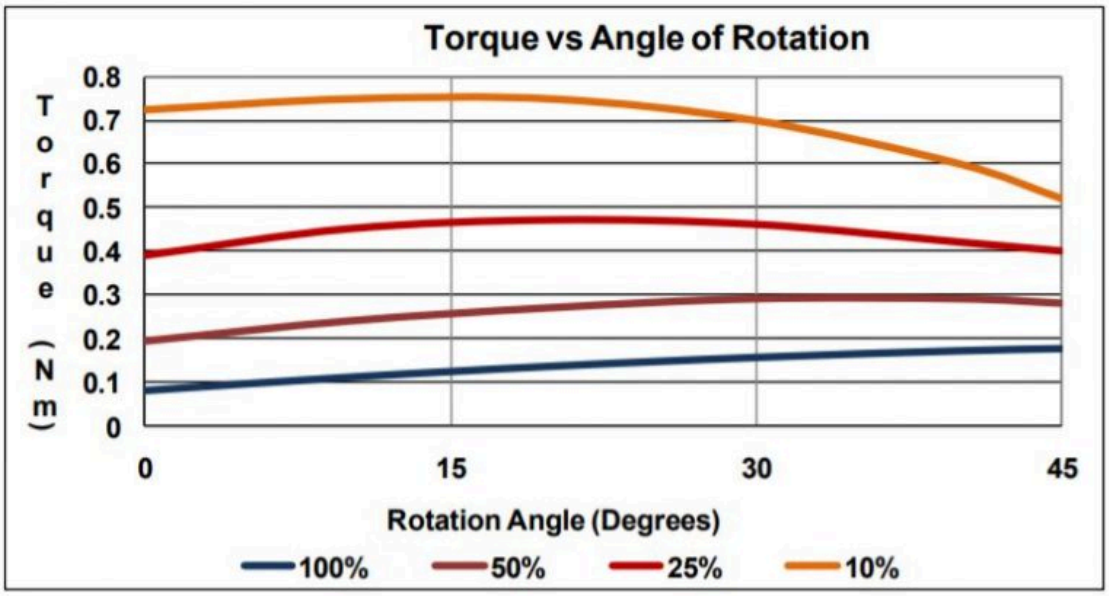
20ºC, with the solenoid mounted on a heatsink equivalent to that specified in data. When the solenoid is energised with voltage and duty cycle as specified in the data tables, the coil will reach thermal equilibrium with a coil temperature rise of 85ºC above ambient temperature. Standard materials will withstand operation at temperatures of up to 120ºC. If ambient temperature or heatsinking conditions are other than indicated, it is advisable that coil temperature is measured under worst case operating conditions by measurement of coil resistance rise in the energised condition.

Starting Torque

Figures given for starting torque in the solenoid data are gross starting torque with the solenoid energised at 20ºC. When a return spring is fitted, the net starting torque will be equal to the gross starting torque minus the spring torque.

Torque vs Angle Characteristic

The 3-Ball Rotary Solenoid develops rotary torque through mechanical conversion, magnetically the solenoid develops high linear pull-in force along the axis over a short displacement. The rotary torque is produced by 3 helical ball races between the case and armature plate of the solenoid. The inclination of the ball races is not constant, the interaction of this and the magnetic attraction produces a torque which is approximately constant with rotation angle at 25% ED, at 100%ED torque increases as angle increases, at 10%ED torque decreases as rotation angle increases, this is illustrated by the graph below and is typical of all sizes / angles.



Axial Displacement

A small axial displacement is associated with the rotation of the 3-Ball Rotary Solenoid. The axial displacement developed in different sizes is given in the table below. This is inherent to the design of the 3-Ball rotary solenoid and must be accommodated in the end application.

Axial Displacement of 3-Ball Rotary Solenoid								
Solenoid Size	190	301	341	401	490,491	590,591	700	870,874
Axial Displacement (mm)		0.7	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.6	2.3	2.6
Axial Displacement (")	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.10

Restricting the Angle of Rotation

If an application requires an operating angle intermediate to the standard options available, it is possible to limit the rotation angle of the solenoid with an external end-stop, however the following precautions must be observed:

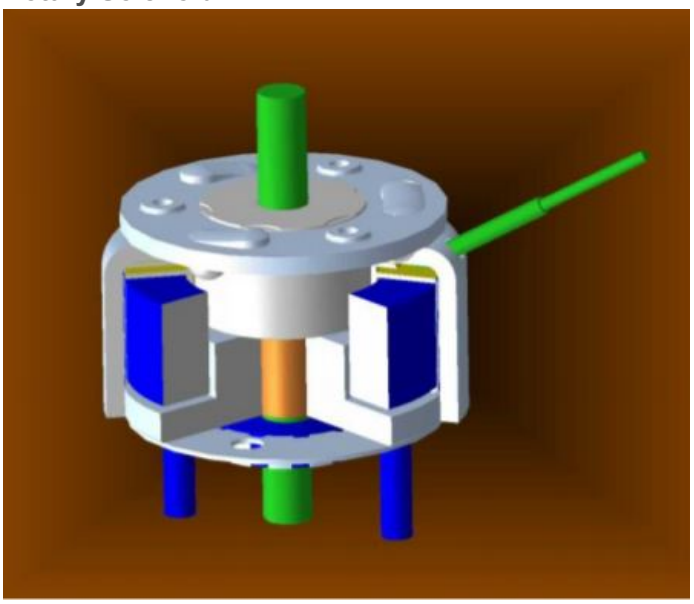
- The external stop should be fitted to limit rotation in the energised direction
- The solenoid must be allowed to return fully to the de-energised position, end stops must not under any circumstances to limit rotation in both directions of rotation

Failure to observe these precautions will result in accelerated failure and invalidates any warranty on the life expectancy of the solenoid.

Use of threaded (A) holes in the Armature Plate

Where the threaded holes in the armature plate are used to attach accessories to the solenoid, caution must be taken that screws are not too long, and do not protrude through the armature plate where they can inhibit linear travel and rotation of the solenoid.

Customisation of the 3-Ball Rotary Solenoid



- The drawing indicates which components can be easily modified
  - o Parts shown in green can be readily modified to customer requirement
  - o Parts shown in Blue can be modified subject to selection from a range of available components limited by material size (eg length and thread size of mounting studs is constrained by standard sizes available)

- Modified Shaft – shaft modification is a common requirement, and is possible for qty >100pcs
  - o Longer / shorter shaft
  - o Flat (D-cut) on shaft
  - o Cross-hole through shaft
  - o External screw thread
  - o Internal screw thread
  - o Circlip (E-ring) grooves
  - o Splines / knurling for press-fit to load

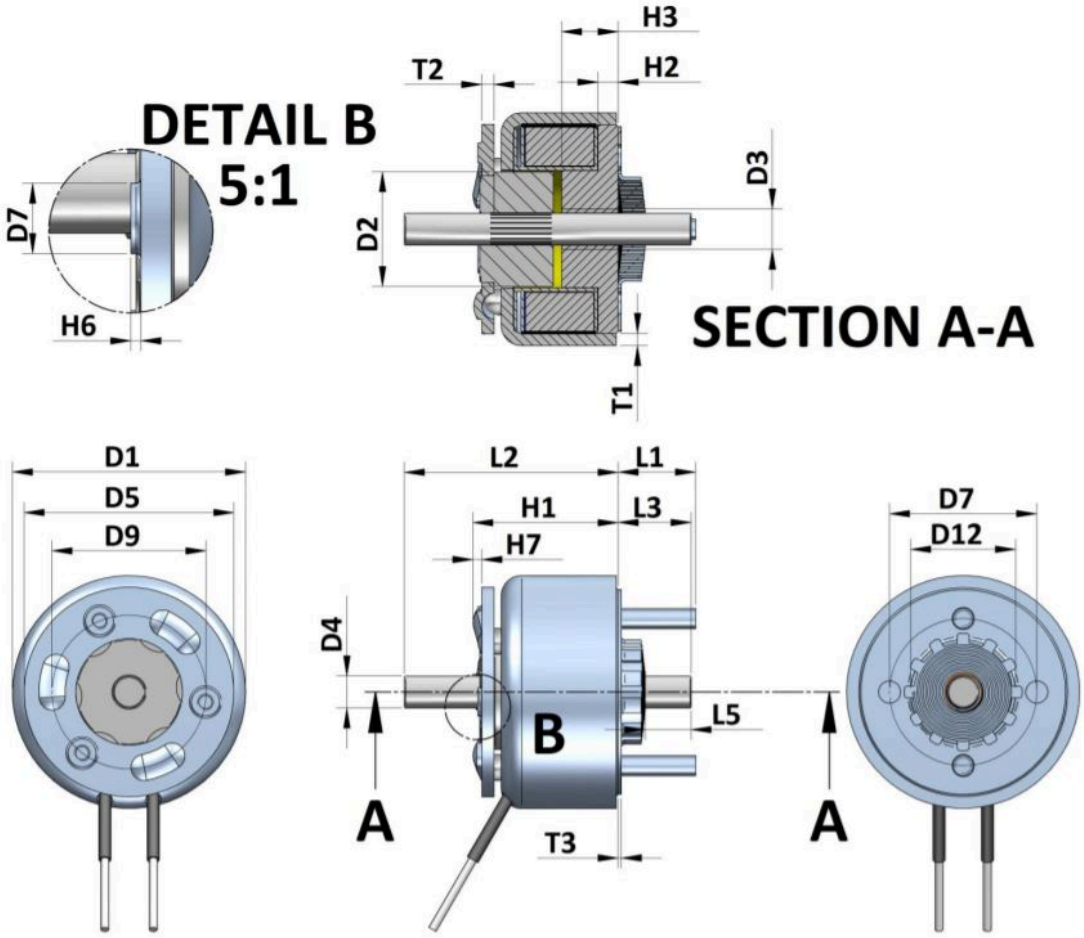
- Mounting Studs – longer or shorter mounting studs or other thread forms can be supplied subject to availability of suitable materials for qty >100pcs
- Coil Modification – the following are possible subject to confirmation

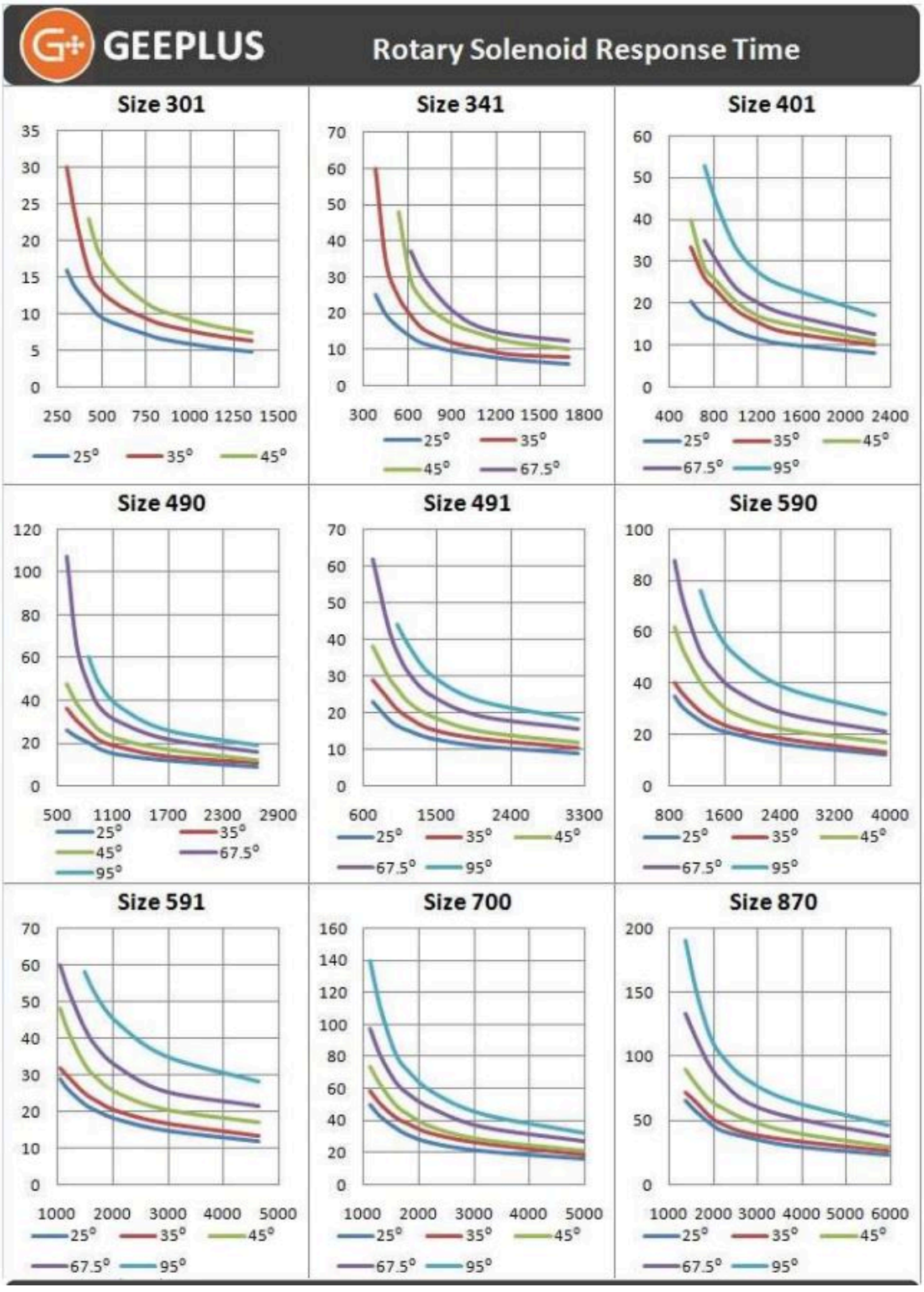
- o Higher or lower winding resistance
- o Double winding for pick & hold operation
- o High temperature windings up to 180ºC

- Return Spring – weaker or stronger return springs are available for qty >100pcs
- Different angle of rotation – this requires significant tooling modification, but may be possible on request for qty >5k-10k pcs
- Leadwires – longer or shorter leadwires can be offered for qty >100pcs
- Modified Armature plate – modification to the armature plate to add crank arms, tabs or other feature is possible for qty >5k-10k pcs
- Drive Pin – addition of drive pins to the armature plate for linkage to the load may be possible for qty >100pcs

Specifying Modifications

If requesting mechanical modifications to a rotary solenoid, it will be helpful if changes can be specified based on the drawing below. For normal tolerances on different parameters, please refer to tolerances for the standard part on which design is based.




GEEPLUS
Rotary Solenoid Response Time
Size 301
35 30 25 20 15 10 5 0
250 500 750 1000 1250 1500
25° 35° 45°
Size 341
70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0
300 600 900 1200 1500 1800
25° 35° 45° 67.5°
Size 401
60 50 40 30 20 10 0
400 800 1200 1600 2000 2400
25° 35° 45° 67.5° 95°
Size 490
120 100 80 60 40 20 0
500 1100 1700 2300 2900
25° 35° 45° 67.5° 95°
Size 491
70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0
600 1500 2400 3300
25° 35° 45° 67.5° 95°
Size 590
100 80 60 40 20 0
800 1600 2400 3200 4000
25° 35° 45° 67.5° 95°
Size 591
70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0
1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
25° 35° 45° 67.5° 95°
Size 700
160 140 120 100 80 60 40 20 0
1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
25° 35° 45° 67.5° 95°
Size 870
200 150 100 50 0
1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000
25° 35° 45° 67.5° 95°

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