

General information

Sizing capacitors at the motor load

Using charts

An Alternate Selection Method – Using Charts

TABLE 2: Suggested Maximum Capacitor Ratings for T-Frame NEMA Class B Motors

Induction motor rating (HP)	NOMINAL MOTOR SPEED											
	3600 R/MIN		1800 R/MIN		1200 R/MIN		900 R/MIN		720 R/MIN		600 R/MIN	
	Capacitor rating (kvar)	Line current reduction (%)	Capacitor rating (kvar)	Line current reductions (%)	Capacitor rating (kvar)	Line current reduction (%)	Capacitor rating (kvar)	Line current reduction (%)	Capacitor rating (kvar)	Line current reduction (%)	Capacitor rating (kvar)	Line current reduction (%)
3	1.5	14	1.5	23	2.5	28	3	38	3	40	4	40
5	2	14	2.5	22	3	26	4	31	4	40	5	40
7.5	2.5	14	3	20	4	21	5	28	5	38	6	45
10	4	14	4	18	5	21	6	27	7.5	36	8	38
15	5	12	5	18	6	20	7.5	24	8	32	10	34
20	6	12	6	17	7.5	19	9	23	12	25	18	30
25	7.5	12	7.5	17	8	19	10	23	12	25	18	30
30	8	11	8	16	10	19	14	22	15	24	22.5	30
40	12	12	13	15	16	19	18	21	22.5	24	25	30
50	15	12	18	15	20	19	22.5	21	24	24	30	30
60	18	12	21	14	22.5	17	26	20	30	22	35	28
75	20	12	23	14	25	15	28	17	33	14	40	19
100	22.5	11	30	14	30	12	35	16	40	15	45	17
125	25	10	36	12	35	12	42	14	45	15	50	17
150	30	10	42	12	40	12	52.5	14	52.5	14	60	17
200	35	10	50	11	50	10	65	13	68	13	90	17
250	40	11	60	10	62.5	10	82	13	87.5	13	100	17
300	45	11	68	10	75	12	100	14	100	13	120	17
350	50	12	75	8	90	12	120	13	120	13	135	15
400	75	10	80	8	100	12	130	13	140	13	150	15
450	80	8	90	8	120	10	140	12	160	14	160	15
500	100	8	120	9	150	12	160	12	180	13	180	15

Applies to three-phase, 60Hz motors when switched with capacitors as a single unit.

Another method of selecting the proper capacitor employs the use of only a selection chart shown in Table 2 or 3. These tables take other variables such as motor RPM into consideration in making recommendations for capacitor applications. They are convenient because they only require that the user know the horsepower and RPM of the motor. Both tables estimate the percentage reduction in full load current drawn by the motor as a result of the capacitor's installation.

TABLE 3: Suggested Maximum Capacitor Ratings for U-Frame NEMA Class B Motors

NEMA Motor Design A or B
Normal Starting Torque
Normal Running Current

H.P. Rating	3600 RPM		1800 RPM		1200 RPM		900 RPM		720 RPM		600 RPM	
	kvar	%AR	kvar	%AR	kvar	%AR	kvar	%AR	kvar	%AR	kvar	%AR
3	1.5	14	1.5	15	1.5	20	2	27	2.5	35	3.5	41
5	2	12	2	13	2	17	3	25	4	32	4.5	37
7.5	2.5	11	2.5	13	2	15	4	22	5.5	30	6	34
10	3	10	3	11	3.5	14	5	21	6.5	27	7.5	31
15	4	9	4	10	5	13	6.5	18	8	23	9.5	27
20	5	9	5	10	5	11	7.5	18	10	20	10	25
25	5	6	5	8	7.5	11	7.5	13	10	20	10	21
30	5	5	5	8	7.5	11	10	15	15	22	15	25
40	7.5	8	10	8	10	10	15	16	15	18	15	20
50	10	7	10	8	10	9	15	12	20	15	25	22
60	10	6	10	8	15	10	15	11	20	15	25	20
75	15	7	15	8	15	9	20	11	30	15	40	20
100	20	8	20	8	25	9	30	11	40	14	45	18
125	20	6	25	7	30	9	30	10	45	14	50	17
150	30	6	30	7	35	9	40	10	50	17	60	17
200	40	6	40	7	45	8	55	11	60	12	75	17
250	45	5	45	6	60	9	70	10	75	12	100	17
300	50	5	50	6	75	9	75	9	80	12	105	17

Applies to three-phase, 60Hz motors when switched with capacitors as a single unit.

WARNING!

Never oversize capacitors or exceed 1.0 power factor or resulting problems with the motor can occur!!

If calculations or a kvar determination chart indicate a kvar rating not found in a pricing and selection chart, always refer to the next lower kvar rating!

EXAMPLE: A manufacturer needs to determine the proper capacitors required for a 1200 RPM, 75HP T-Frame NEMA class B motor.

1. First find 75 in the horsepower column of the chart.
2. Locate the 1200 RPM capacitor rating (kvar) column. Note the figure of 25 kvar.
3. Now refer to the appropriate pricing and selection chart Table 1, page 19.5. The appropriate kvar rating is 25 kvar. Depending on the desired enclosure, the price and catalog number can then be easily determined.

NOTE

Using the above charts for selecting capacitors will correct power factor to approximately .95.