Encoder

maxon offers a range of different encoders. Their main characteristics are:

Digital incremental encoders
- Relative position signal, suitable for positioning tasks
- Direction of rotation detection
- Speed information from number of pulses per unit of time
- Standard solution for many applications

Digital absolute encoders
- Absolute position signal, suitable for positioning without a homing procedure
- Option to generate commutation signals

DC tacho
- Analog speed signal
- Direction of rotation detection
- Not suited for positioning tasks

Resolver
- Analog signal transmission
- More complex evaluation electronics required in controller
- For special industrial solutions

Encoder signals

Digital incremental encoders
Position changes (relative position) are transmitted to the controller as square pulses. The controller evaluates these pulses for precise positioning or speed measurement. The signal transmission is implemented via two phase-shifted channels (A and B) that are compared to determine the direction of rotation. Usually the phasing of channels A and B applies for operation in a clockwise direction (CW), relative to the motor shaft seen from the outside.
The maxon controllers evaluate the signal edges. This results in a four times higher positioning resolution relative to the counts per turn of the encoder. The technical term for this is quad counts or states. The absolute position can be determined by homing to a fixed position. The signal edges of index channel I can be used for a precise reference position.

Program

- **MILE (inductive encoders)**
- **EASY, MAG, MR, GAMA, TSX (magnetic encoders)**
- **Enc, HEDS, HEDL, AEDL, RIO (optical encoders)**
- **DC-Tacho, Resolver (analog sensors)**
- **EMT (magnetic absolute encoder)**

Take a look at the new ENX 22 EMT encoder.

The line driver is a driver built into the encoder to improve the signal quality through steeper edges. Additionally, it generates the complementary signals $\overline{A}$, $\overline{B}$, and $\overline{I}$. Differential signals make it possible to eliminate faults during transmission.

Absolute encoders
Absolute encoders return the absolute position as a bit sequence which is transmitted at the clock rate of the controller with a suitable protocol (SSI, BiSS-C). The resolution is given as a bit length; e.g., 12-bit equals 4096 positions. Single-turn absolute encoders output the position only within one motor revolution. Multi-turn absolute encoders determine the position unambiguously over several revolutions. They are able to detect motor revolutions even without a power supply. At start-up, the motor position over multiple revolutions is thus known.

1	End cap
2	Electrical connections motor and encoder
3	PCB
4	MR sensor
5	Magnetic multi-pole wheel
6	Encoder housing
7	Graduated disk
8	Encoder fork coupler
9	Flange
10	Solid measure
11	Sensor with housing

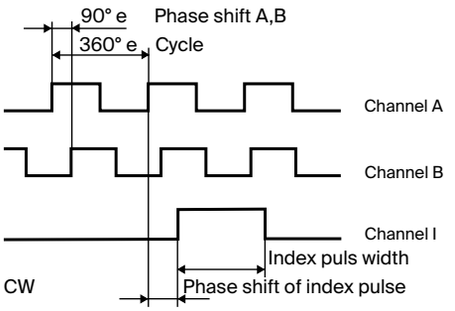
Key points for encoder selection

These are the main characteristics of maxon incremental encoders:
- Counts per turn (increments)
- Accuracy
- Use of an index channel
- Use of a line driver
- Maximum supported speed
- Suitability for special ambient conditions (dust, oil, magnetic fields, ionizing radiation)

Encoders and maxon controllers
- The input frequency of the control electronics may limit the maximum possible counts per turn of the encoder.
- The higher the counts per turn and the accuracy, the easier it is to achieve a smooth, jolt-free operation even at low speeds.
- The maxon controllers can be configured for encoders with low (at least 16 cpt) or high counts per turn.

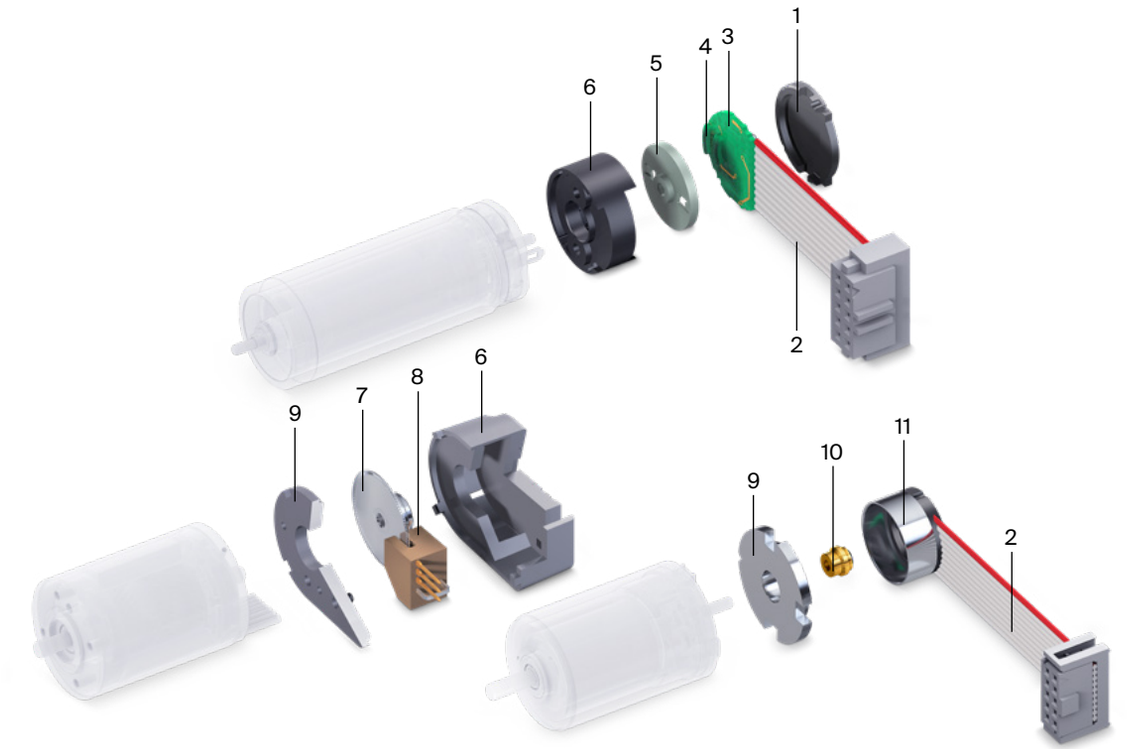
For positioning systems, the following applies:
- The higher the counts per turn, the more accurate the positioning. At 500 counts (2000 statuses), a mechanical angle resolution of 0.18° is achieved. This is usually much higher than the precision of the mechanical drive components.
- In positioning controllers, only encoders with an integrated line driver should be used (e.g. RS422). This prevents signal loss and accumulated positioning errors due to electromagnetic interference.
- Positioning applications often required the encoder's index channel for precise determination of a reference point.

Representation of the output signal of a digital encoder



Recommendations on encoder selection

(✓) Conditionally applicable *OPT, ENC, AEDL, HEDL, HEDS		QUAD	GAMA	MR	EASY	MILE	optical*	RIO
1	very high speed	✓	✓	✓	✓	(✓)		✓
2	very low speed			(✓)	(✓)	✓	✓	✓
3	precise position			(✓)	(✓)	(✓)	✓	✓
4	line driver possible			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	index channel possible			✓	✓		✓	✓
6	compact design	✓	(✓)	✓	✓	✓		✓
7	dust, dirt, oil	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		(✓)
8	external magnetic fields	(✓)	(✓)		(✓)	✓	✓	✓
9	ionising radiation		✓					



Magnetic encoders

In magnetic encoders, a small permanent magnet is installed on the spinning motor shaft. Sensors in the stator capture the changes in the magnetic flux. The signals are evaluated in the encoder and transmitted to the controller as pulses or as an absolute signal. Magnetic encoders are typically very small and resilient to dirt.

EASY, TSX and MAG encoders
- Integrated circuit based on Hall sensors and interpolator
- EASY incremental: Factory programmable resolution from 1 to 1024 counts per turn, with index channel and line driver
- TSX incremental encoder for peripheral mounting: Programmed for specific rotor and stator; 2 channels (2560 counts) plus commutation signals
- EASY absolute: Single-turn with 4096 states (12-bit) and Biss-C or SSI interface
- MAG incremental: Various resolutions available (up to 256 counts per turn); recommended for battery operation

MR encoder (incremental)
- Magneto-resistive Sensor with/without interpolator
- Various resolutions available (up to 1024 counts per turn)
- With/Without index channel and/or line driver
- Magnetoresistive sensor
- Up to 1024 counts
- With/without index channel and/or line driver

GAMA and QUAD encoder (incremental)
- Digital Hall sensors without interpolation
- Line driver not available
- GAMA: 12 or 16 counts per turn
- QUAD: 1 count per turn (4 states)
- Please note: For operation with maxon controllers, at least 16 counts per turn are required.

EMT (absolute)
- Multi-turn absolute encoder
- Resolution: 16-bit multi-turn, up to 17-bit single-turn
- BiSS-C or SSI interface
- Equipped with Wiegand wire technology, thus no batteries required.

Optical encoders

In optical encoders, an LED emits light through a finely structured code wheel (HEDL, AEDL, HEDS, Enc 22) or directed at a structured reflector (RIO) attached to the motor shaft. The receiver converts the light/dark signals into electrical currents, which are amplified and turned into electrical pulses by the respective electronics. Optical encoders typically have a high resolution and high accuracy.

RIO encoder
- Reflective interpolated optical encoder
- Very high resolution (typically 4096 to 16 384 counts per turn), programmable at the factory
- With index channel and RS422 line driver
- Very small size

Encoder attachment AEDL, HEDL, HEDS
- Transmissive optical encoders
- Up to 5000 counts per turn (AEDL)
- With line driver RS422 (AEDL, HEDL)
- Relatively large size

Inductive encoder

With inductive MILE encoders, a high-frequency alternating field is transmitted via transformer while being modulated angle-dependently using a structured copper disk.

Characteristics
- Highly resistant to magnetic and electrical fields as well as soiling.
- High speeds possible
- High accuracy
- Line driver (can be acc. to RS422)

DC tacho

In principle, any maxon DC motor can be used as a DC tacho. For motor-tacho combinations, we offer a DC tacho that has the tacho rotor mounted directly on the motor shaft.

Characteristics
- Output DC voltage proportional to the speed due to precious metal brushes
- AlNiCo magnet for high signal stability even with temperature fluctuations
- Without additional tacho bearing; no added friction torque
- No couplings, high mechanical resonant frequency

Resolver

The resolver is attached to the continuous shaft of the motor and aligned perfectly with the rotor's magnetic field.
A high-frequency alternating voltage (10 kHz) is transmitted to the rotor via a transformer. During retransformation on two stator coils, the signal is modulated with the sine/cosine of the rotation angle. This makes it possible to derive the position of the rotor.

Characteristics
- Robust, for industrial use
- Long service life
- No mechanical wear
- Interference-free signal transmission over long distances
- No sensitive electronics
- Special signal evaluation required
- Only one encoder for position and speed information
- EC motors with resolvers are delivered without Hall sensors