A caster is a wheeled device typically mounted to a larger object that enables relatively easy rolling movement of the object. Casters are essentially special housings that include a wheel, axle and braking options.

The right type of “rig” and “wheel” can improve any type product, in any industry to move easier and last longer.

Types of Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEEL MATERIAL</th>
<th>CASTER TYPES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elastomer</td>
<td>Plastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phenolic</td>
<td>Epoxy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal</td>
<td>Polyurethane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polypropylene</td>
<td>Rubber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hi-Temp Nylon</td>
<td>Cast Iron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass Filled</td>
<td>Steel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Benefits

- Versatility
- Ergonomics
- Time & Cost Savings
- Design & Innovation
- Adding Mobility
- Strength & Durability

Origin of casters

Long before the invention of the modern casters and wheels that we use today, ancient Egyptians utilized logs to roll giant stone blocks to construct their pyramids. It might be surprising that the first wheel was not used to carry anything. Some 3500 years ago, the early Mesopotamians used wheels to make clay pottery.

The need for more manpower, is believed to have been the push for innovation. Wheels had already been extensively used for human transportation during this period. It is easy to imagine how the concept of using wheels to move around furniture came into existence. However, the use of wheeled furniture outside Europe only rose to popularity by the end of the 16th century.

The evolution of the variety and types of casters and wheels we know today, for all types of industries – continue to evolve.

Interesting Fact:

- Casters were first patented by the Blake Brothers of New Haven in 1838 (Furniture Casters)
- Early caster wheels were made of wood or carved stone
- Otto Bayer and co-workers at IG Farben in Leverkusen, Germany, discovered and patented the chemistry of polyurethanes in 1937
- Charles Goodyear is credited with inventing the chemical process to create and manufacture pliable, waterproof, moldable rubber. He developed vulcanized rubber, for which he received patent number 3633 from the US Patent Office on June 15, 1844. However, the Mesoamericans used a more primitive stabilized rubber for balls and other objects as early as 1600 BC.

Institute of Caster and Wheel Manufacturers (ICWM) members are the industry’s leading suppliers of casters, wheels, and industrial trailer trucks, platform trucks and towline trucks. They supply caster and wheel solutions worldwide and in virtually every major manufacturing and distribution sector. The association was formed in 1933.