



Standard Test Methods of Tension Testing Wrought and Cast Aluminum- and Magnesium-Alloy Products¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B 557; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover the tension testing of wrought and cast aluminum- and magnesium-alloy products, excepting aluminum foil.²

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

NOTE 1—Exceptions to the provisions of these methods may need to be made in individual specifications or test methods for a particular material.

NOTE 2—A complete metric companion to Test Methods B 557M has been developed—Test Methods B 557M; therefore, no metric equivalents are presented in these methods.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 The following documents of the issue in effect on the date of material purchase form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein:

2.2 ASTM Standards:

- B 26/B 26M Specification for Aluminum-Alloy Sand Castings³
- B 80 Specification for Magnesium-Alloy Sand Castings³
- B 85 Specification for Aluminum-Alloy Die Castings³
- B 108 Specification for Aluminum-Alloy Permanent Mold Castings³
- E 4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines⁴
- E 6 Terminology Relating to Methods of Mechanical Testing⁴
- E 8 Test Methods of Tension Testing of Metallic Materials⁴
- E 29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications⁵
- E 83 Practice for Verification and Classification of Extensometers⁴

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B-7 on Light Metals and Alloys and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B07.05 on Testing.

Current edition approved May 15, 1994. Published July 1994. Originally published as B 557 – 71. Last previous edition B 557 – 84^{\epsilon}1.

² For test methods of tension testing of aluminum foil, see Test Methods E 345.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 02.02.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.01.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

- E 345 Test Methods of Tension Testing of Metallic Foil⁴
- E 691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method⁵
- E 1012 Practice for Verification of Specimen Alignment Under Tensile Loading⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 The definitions of terms relating to tension testing appearing in Terminology E 6 shall be considered as applying to the terms used in these test methods.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Tension tests provide information on the strength and ductility of materials under uniaxial tensile stresses. This information may be useful in comparisons of materials, alloy development, quality control, and design under certain circumstances.

4.2 The results of tension tests of specimens machined to standardized dimensions from selected portions of a part or material may not totally represent the strength and ductility properties of the entire end product or its in-service behavior in different environments.

4.3 For quality control purposes, results derived from standardized tension test specimens can be considered to be indicative of the response of the material from which they were taken. These test methods are considered satisfactory for acceptance testing of commercial shipments and have been used extensively in the trade for this purpose.

5. Apparatus

5.1 Testing Machines:

5.1.1 Machines used for tension testing shall conform to the requirements of Practices E 4. The loads used in determining tensile strength and yield strength shall be within the verified loading range of the testing machine as defined in Practices E 4.

5.2 Gripping Devices:

5.2.1 *General*—Various types of gripping devices may be used to transmit the measured load applied by the testing machine to the test specimens. To ensure axial tensile stress within the gage length, the axis of the test specimen must coincide with the center line of the heads of the testing

machine. Any departure from this requirement may introduce bending stresses that are not included in the usual stress computation (load divided by cross-sectional area).

NOTE 3—The effect of this eccentric loading may be illustrated by calculating the bending moment and stress thus added. For a standard 0.500-in. diameter specimen, the stress increase is 1.5 percentage points for each 0.001 in. of eccentricity. This error increases to 2.24 percentage points/0.001 in. for a 0.350-in. diameter specimen and to 3.17 percentage points/0.001 in. for a 0.250-in. diameter specimen.

NOTE 4—Alignment methods are given in Practice E 1012.

5.2.2 *Wedge Grips*—Testing machines usually are equipped with wedge grips. These wedge grips generally furnish a satisfactory means of gripping long specimens of ductile metal. If, however, for any reason, one grip of a pair advances farther than the other as the grips tighten, an undesirable bending stress may be introduced. When liners are used behind the wedges, they must be of the same thickness and their faces must be flat and parallel. For best results, the wedges should be supported over their entire length by the heads of the testing machine. This requires that liners of several thicknesses be available to cover the range of specimen thickness. For proper gripping, it is desirable that the entire length of the serrated face of each wedge be in contact with the specimen. Proper alignment of wedge grips and liners is illustrated in Fig. 1. For short specimens it is generally necessary to use machined test specimens and to use a special means of gripping to ensure that the specimens, when under load, shall be as nearly as possible in uniformly distributed pure axial tension (see 5.2.3, 5.2.4, and 5.2.5).

5.2.3 *Grips for Threaded and Shouldered Specimens*—A schematic diagram of a gripping device for threaded-end specimens is shown in Fig. 2, while Fig. 3 shows a device for gripping specimens with shouldered ends. Both of these gripping devices should be attached to the heads of the testing machine through properly lubricated spherical-seated bearings. The distance between spherical bearings should be as large as feasible.

5.2.4 *Grips for Sheet Materials*—The self-adjusting grips shown in Fig. 4 have proved satisfactory for testing sheet materials that cannot be tested satisfactorily in the usual type of wedge grips.

5.2.5 *Grips for Wire*—Grips of either the wedge or snubbing types as shown in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 or flat wedge grips may be used.

5.3 *Dimension-Measuring Devices*—Micrometers and other devices used for measuring linear dimensions shall be accurate to at least one half the smallest unit to which the individual dimension is required to be measured.

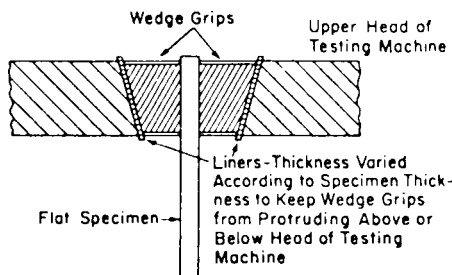


FIG. 1 Wedge Grips with Liners for Flat Specimens

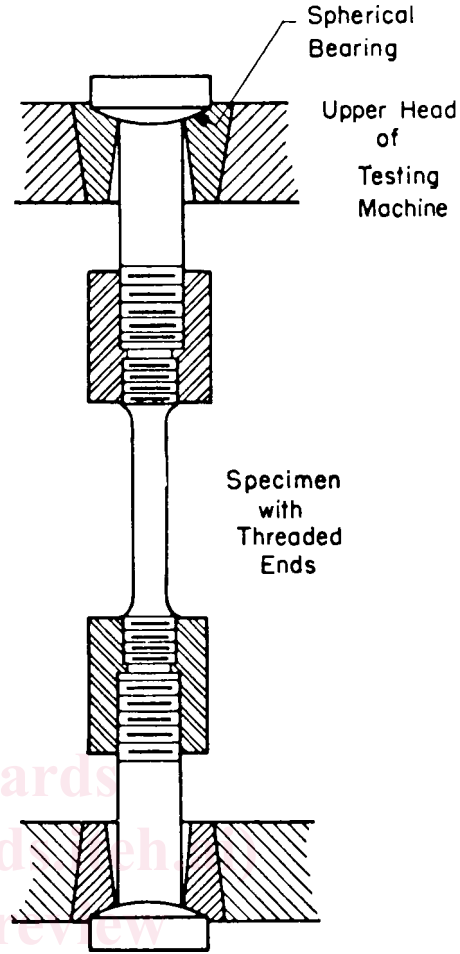


FIG. 2 Gripping Device for Threaded-End Specimens

6. Test Specimens

6.1 General:

6.1.1 Test specimens shall be of the full section of the material whenever practical. Otherwise, machined specimens of rectangular or round cross section shall be used.

6.1.2 Improperly prepared test specimens often are the reason for unsatisfactory and incorrect test results. It is important, therefore, that care be exercised in the preparation of specimens, particularly in the machining, to assure the desired precision and bias in test results.

6.1.3 It is desirable to have the cross-sectional area of the specimen smallest at the center of the reduced section to ensure fracture within the gage length. For this reason, a small taper is permitted in the reduced section of each of the specimens described in the following sections.

6.1.4 Rectangular specimens shall be 0.500 in. wide in accordance with Fig. 6 or Fig. 7 (for tubular products), and shall be of the full thickness of the material when practical. When necessary, 0.250-in. wide subsize specimens as shown in Fig. 6 may be used, but elongation values from such specimens are not applicable to specification requirements.

6.1.4.1 Pin ends as shown in Fig. 8 may be used. In order to avoid buckling in tests of thin and high-strength materials, it may be necessary to use stiffening plates at the grip ends.

6.1.5 Round specimens shall be the standard 0.500-in. diameter specimen in Fig. 9, except when the dimensions of the

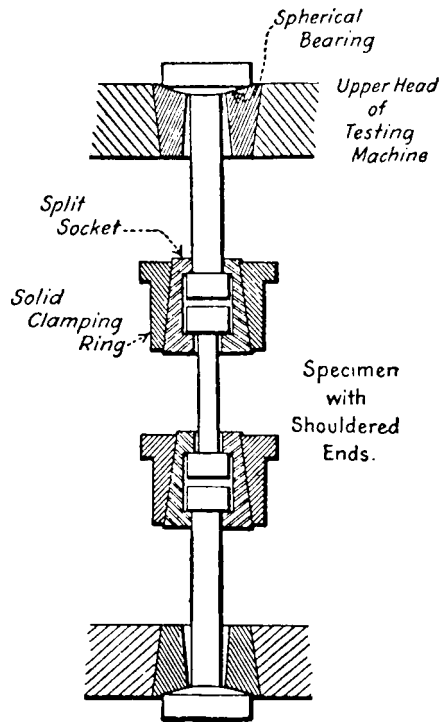


FIG. 3 Gripping Device for Shouldered-End Specimens

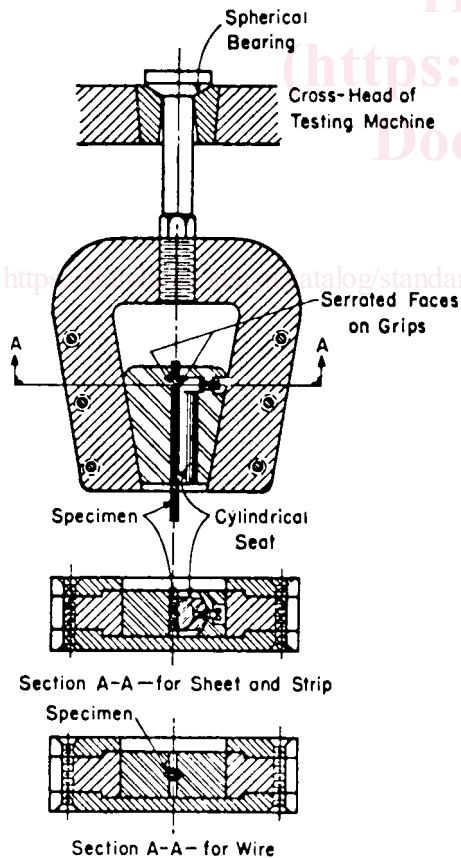


FIG. 4 Gripping Devices for Sheet and Wire Specimens

product make this impossible. In such cases, small-size specimens proportional to the standard specimen shown in Fig. 9 may be used. Unless otherwise specified in the product

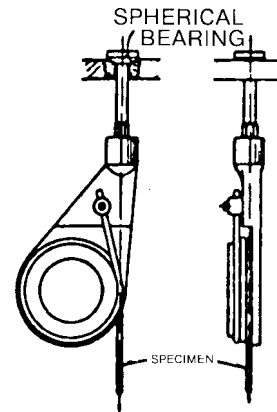


FIG. 5 Snubbing Device for Testing Wire

specification, the selection of round tension specimens shall be as specified in Table 1. Unless permitted by the product specification, the dimensions of the smallest specimen used shall not be less than the following:

	Wrought	Cast
Diameter of reduced section, in.	0.160	0.250
Length of reduced section, in.	$\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Radius of fillet, in.	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{16}$
Diameter of end section, in.	$1\frac{1}{64}$	$\frac{3}{8}$
Over-all length, in.		
With shouldered ends	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{3}{8}$
With threaded ends	2	3
With plain cylindrical ends	3	4

6.1.5.1 The shape of the ends of the specimens outside of the gage length shall be suitable to the material and of a shape to fit the holders or grips of the testing machine so that the loads are applied axially. Fig. 10 shows specimens with various types of ends that have given satisfactory results.

6.1.6 Special care is required in the manufacture and testing of smaller specimens because the effects of machining (for example, the amount of end load applied and the amount of heat generated) and testing (for example, eccentricity and gage marking) variables are greater upon them than upon larger specimens. Therefore, the largest practical specimen shall always be used. With some types of materials, notably castings, the result of tests of small specimens may be more variable due to the increasing significance of variations in metallic structure or the character of the surfaces. Low values derived from small specimens should be carefully evaluated in accordance with 8.1 to be certain that the results are valid.

6.1.7 While tensile strengths and yield strengths can properly be compared with results derived from test specimens of various dimensions, elongation values may vary with specimen size and type. Therefore elongation values should be obtained with specimens of the type from which the published tensile properties were established.

6.2 Type, Direction, and Location in Products:

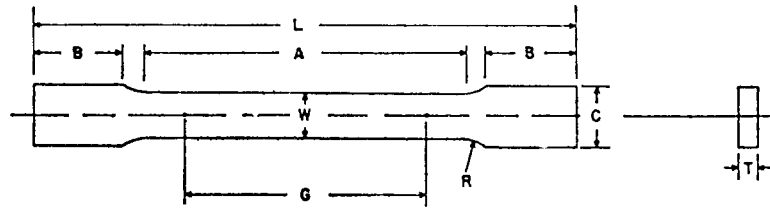
6.2.1 Sheet and Plate:

6.2.1.1 Rectangular specimens shall be used for thicknesses less than 0.500 in., and round specimens for all others.

6.2.1.2 For thicknesses 0.500 in. through 1.500 in., specimens shall be taken from the center of the thickness; for larger thicknesses, they shall be taken midway from the center to the surface.

6.2.1.3 For nonheat-treatable aluminum alloys, specimens

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Dimensions, in.

	Standard Specimen Sheet- Type, 1/2-in. Wide	Subsize Specimen 1/4-in. Wide
G—Gage length	2.000 ± 0.005	1.000 ± 0.003
W—Width (Note 1 and Note 2)	0.500 ± 0.010	0.250 ± 0.002
T—Thickness (Note 3)	thickness of material	thickness of material
R—Radius of fillet, min	1/2	1/4
L—Over-all length, min (Note 4)	8	4
A—Length of reduced section, min	2 1/4	1 1/4
B—Length of grip section, min (Note 5)	2	1 1/4
C—Width of grip section, approximate (Note 2 and Note 6)	3/4	3/8

NOTE 1—The ends of the reduced section shall not differ in width by more than 0.002 in. for the 2.00-in. gage length specimen or 0.001 in. for the 1.00-in. gage length specimen. There may be a gradual taper in width from the ends of the reduced section to the center, but the width at each end shall not be more than 1 % greater than the width at the center.

NOTE 2—For each of the specimens, narrower widths (*W* and *C*) may be used when necessary. In such cases the width of the reduced section should be as large as the width of the material being tested permits; however, unless stated specifically, the requirements for elongation in a product specification shall not apply when these narrower specimens are used. If the width of the material is less than *W*, the sides may be parallel throughout the length of the specimen.

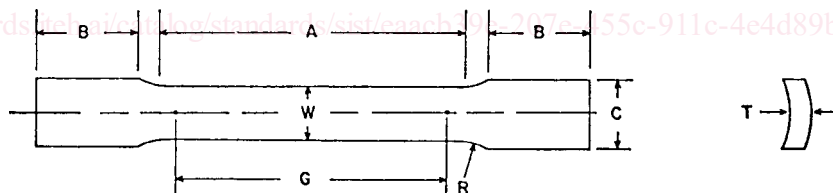
NOTE 3—The dimension *T* is the thickness of the test specimen as stated in the applicable material specifications. Maximum nominal thicknesses of 1/2-in. and 1/4-in. wide specimens shall be 1/2 in. and 1/4 in., respectively.

NOTE 4—To aid in obtaining axial loading during testing of 1/4-in. wide specimens, the over-all length should be as large as the material will permit, up to 8 in.

NOTE 5—It is desirable, if possible, to make the length of the grip section large enough to allow the specimen to extend into the grips a distance equal to two thirds or more of the length of the grips. If the thickness of 1/2-in. wide specimens is over 3/8 in., longer grips and correspondingly longer grip sections of the specimen may be necessary to prevent failure in the grip section.

NOTE 6—The ends of the specimen shall be symmetrical with the center line of the reduced section within 0.01 and 0.005 in., respectively.

FIG. 6 Rectangular Tension Test Specimens



Dimensions, in.

W—Width (Note 1)	0.500 ± 0.010
G—Gage length	2.000 ± 0.005
T—Thickness	Note 2
R—Radius of fillet, min	1/2
A—Length of reduced section, min	2 1/4
B—Length of grip section, min (Note 3)	3
C—Width of grip section, approximate (Note 4)	1 1/16

NOTE 1—The ends of the reduced section shall not differ in width by more than 0.002 in. There may be a gradual taper in width from the ends of the reduced section to the center, but the width at each end shall not be more than 1 % greater than the width at the center.

NOTE 2—The dimension *T* is the thickness of the tubular section as provided for in the applicable material specifications.

NOTE 3—It is desirable, if possible, to make the length of the grip section great enough to allow the specimen to extend into the grips a distance equal to two thirds or more of the length of the grips.

NOTE 4—The ends of the specimen shall be symmetrical with the center line of the reduced section within 0.05 in.

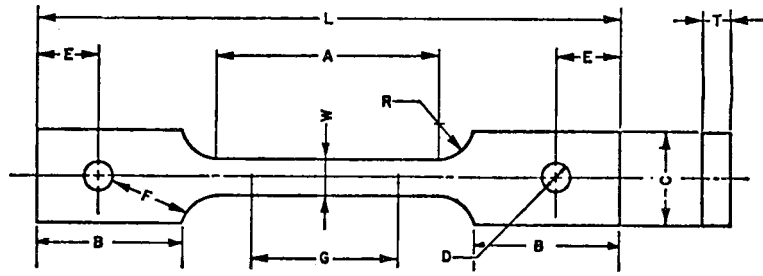
NOTE 5—For circular segment, the cross-sectional area shall be calculated using the formula shown in 7.1.3

FIG. 7 Longitudinal Tension Test Specimens for Large-Diameter Tubular Products

shall be taken parallel to the direction of rolling.

6.2.1.4 For heat-treatable aluminum alloys, specimens shall be taken perpendicular to the direction of rolling (long-

transverse). For widths too narrow for long-transverse standard rectangular or 0.500-in. diameter specimens, specimens shall be taken parallel to the direction of rolling.



	Dimensions, in.
G—Gage length	2.000 ± 0.005
W—Width (Note 1)	0.500 ± 0.010
T—Thickness, max (Note 2)	5/8
R—Radius of fillet, min (Note 3)	1/2
L—Over-all length, min	8
A—Length of reduced section, min	2 1/4
B—Length of grip section, min	2
C—Width of grip section, approximate	2
D—Diameter of hole for pin, min (Note 4)	1/2
E—Edge distance from pin, approximate	1 1/2
F—Distance from hole to fillet, min	1/2

NOTE 1—The ends of the reduced section shall differ in width by not more than 0.002 in. There may be a gradual taper in width from the ends of the reduced section to the center, but the width at each end shall be not more than 1 % greater than the width at the center.

NOTE 2—The dimension *T* is the thickness of the test specimen as stated in the applicable product specifications.

NOTE 3—For some materials, a fillet radius *R* larger than 1/2 in. may be needed.

NOTE 4—Holes must be on center line of reduced section, within ±0.002 in.

NOTE 5—Variations of dimensions *C*, *D*, *E*, *F*, and *L* may be used that will permit failure within the gage length.

FIG. 8 Pin-Loaded Tension Test Specimen with 2-in. Gage Length

6.2.1.5 For magnesium alloys, specimens shall be taken parallel to the direction of rolling.

6.2.2 *Wire, Rod, and Bar:*

6.2.2.1 Full-section specimens shall be used when practical. It is permissible to reduce the section slightly throughout the test section in order to ensure fracture within the gage length. Otherwise, round specimens shall be used, except that for rectangles less than 0.500 in. thick rectangular specimens of the full thickness may be used.

6.2.2.2 All specimens shall be longitudinal. The specimens shall be taken from the locations specified in Table 2.

6.2.3 *Shapes:*

6.2.3.1 Round specimens shall be used whenever it is not practical to use full-section specimens, except that for shapes less than 0.500 in. thick, rectangular specimens may be used.

6.2.3.2 All specimens shall be taken in the longitudinal direction from the predominant section of the shape. The specimens shall be taken from a location that most nearly satisfies the intent of Table 2.

6.2.4 *Tube and Pipe*—All specimens shall be longitudinal.

6.2.4.1 For all small tube (Note 5), particularly sizes 1 in. and under in nominal outside diameter, and frequently for larger sizes, except as limited by the testing equipment, it is standard practice to use tension test specimens of full-size tubular sections. Snug-fitting metal plugs shall be inserted far enough into the ends of such tubular specimens to permit the testing machine jaws to grip the specimens properly. The plugs shall not extend into that part of the specimen on which the elongation is measured. Fig. 11 shows a suitable form of plug, the location of the plugs in the specimen, and the location of the specimen in the grips of the testing machine.

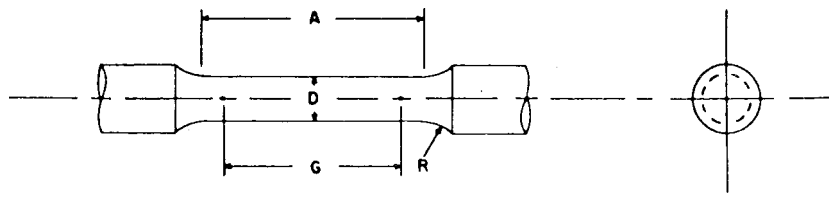
NOTE 5—The term “tube” is used to indicate tubular products in

general, and includes pipe, tube, and tubing.

6.2.4.2 When it is not practical to test full-section specimens, 0.500-in. wide specimens in accordance with Fig. 7 taken as in Fig. 12 shall be used if practical. Otherwise, round specimens in accordance with 6.1.5 shall be taken from the center of wall thicknesses through 1.500 in.; for thicknesses over 1.500 in., they shall be taken midway from center of thickness to surface. If specimens of the type shown in Fig. 7 are used and curved grip faces are not available, it is acceptable to flatten (without heating) the grip ends of the test specimen. The gage length area shall not be deformed.

6.2.5 *Die Forgings*—Round specimens shall be used for section thicknesses 0.500 in. and greater. Either subsize round or rectangular specimens may be used for section thicknesses from 0.312 to 0.499 in. Rectangular specimens shall be used for section thicknesses less than 0.312 in. The axis of the specimen shall be substantially parallel to the direction of grain flow, unless specimens in other directions are required. Specimens shall be taken from the center of the predominant or thickest part of the forging from which a coupon can be obtained, from a prolongation of the forging, or from coupons separately forged from the same stock used to produce the forgings.

6.2.6 *Hand Forgings*—Round specimens shall be used. They shall be taken in the long-transverse direction, and when specified, in the longitudinal and short-transverse directions. A longitudinal specimen shall be taken so that its axis coincides with the longitudinal center line of the forging. A long-transverse or short-transverse specimen shall be taken so that the midpoint of its axis lies on the longitudinal center line of the forging. Each specimen shall be so chosen that the distance from the midpoint of its axis to the end of the forging is at least



Nominal Diameter	Dimensions, in.			
	Standard Specimen	Small-Size Specimens Proportional to Standard		
	0.500	0.350	0.250	0.160
G—Gage length	2.000 ± 0.005	1.400 ± 0.005	1.000 ± 0.005	0.640 ± 0.005
D—Diameter (Note 1)	0.500 ± 0.010	0.350 ± 0.007	0.250 ± 0.005	0.160 ± 0.003
R—Radius of fillet, min	3/8	1/4	3/16	5/32
A—Length of reduced section, min (Note 2)	2 1/4	1 3/4	1 1/4	3/4

NOTE 1—The reduced section may have a gradual taper from the ends toward the center, with the ends not more than 1 % larger in diameter than the center (controlling dimension).

NOTE 2—If desired, the length of the reduced section may be increased to accommodate an extensometer of any convenient gage length. Reference marks for the measurement of elongation should, nevertheless, be spaced at the indicated gage length.

NOTE 3—The gage length and fillets shall be as shown, but the ends may be of any form to fit the holders of the testing machine in such a way that the load shall be axial (see Fig. 9). If the ends are held in wedge grips it is desirable, if possible, to make the length of the grip section great enough to allow the specimen to extend into the grips a distance equal to two thirds or more of the length of the grips.

NOTE 4—On the round specimens in Fig. 8 and Fig. 9, the gage lengths are equal to four times the nominal diameter. In some product specifications other specimens may be provided for, but unless the 4-to-1 ratio is maintained within dimensional tolerances, the elongation values may not be comparable with those obtained from the standard test specimen.

NOTE 5—The use of specimens smaller than 0.250-in. diameter shall be restricted to cases when the material to be tested is of insufficient size to obtain larger specimens or when all parties agree to their use for acceptance testing. Smaller specimens require suitable equipment and greater skill in both machining and testing.

NOTE 6—Four sizes of specimens often used have diameters of approximately 0.505, 0.357, 0.252, and 0.160 in., the reason being to permit easy calculations of stress from loads, since the corresponding cross-sectional areas are equal or close to 0.200, 0.100, 0.0500, and 0.0200 in.², respectively. Thus, when the actual diameters agree with these values, the stresses (or strengths) may be computed using the simple multiplying factors 5, 10, 20, and 50, respectively.

FIG. 9 Standard 0.500-in. Round Tension Test Specimen with 2-in. Gage Length and Examples of Small-Size Specimens Proportional to the Standard Specimen

TABLE 1 Guidelines for Selecting Round Tensile Specimens

Specified Material Thickness, in	Minimum Material Section Thickness	Specimen Diameter, in
	Length or Width, in	
0.250 through 0.374	1 1/2	0.160
0.375 through 0.499	2 1/2	0.250
0.500 through 0.624	3 1/4	0.350
0.625 and over	4 3/4	0.500

half the thickness of the forging.

6.3 Type of Specimen from Castings:

6.3.1 Test specimens shall be separately cast or, if called for by product specification or customer requirements, machined from the casting itself.

6.3.2 Cast Test Specimens—Cast test specimens shall be prepared in accordance with Specifications B 26/B 26M, B 80, B 85, and B 108 as appropriate.

6.3.3 Specimens Machined from Castings:

6.3.3.1 Round specimens in accordance with Fig. 9 shall be used for section thicknesses 0.500 in. and greater.

6.3.3.2 Either small-size round specimens proportional to the standard specimen in Fig. 9 or rectangular specimens in accordance with Fig. 6 may be used for section thicknesses from 0.312 to 0.499 in., except as limited by 6.1.3.

6.3.3.3 Rectangular specimens in accordance with Fig. 6 shall be used for section thicknesses less than 0.312 in.

6.3.3.4 All test specimens must have a machined finish of 63 micro in. RMS (57 micro-in. AA) or smoother.

6.4 Specimen for Die Castings:

6.4.1 For testing die castings the test specimen shown in Fig. 13 shall be used unless otherwise provided in the product specifications.

6.5 Specimens for Powdered Metals:

6.5.1 For testing powdered metals the test specimens shown in Fig. 14 and Fig. 15 shall be used, unless otherwise provided in the product specifications.

7. Procedures

7.1 Measurement of Dimensions of Test Specimens:

7.1.1 To determine the cross-sectional area of a tension test specimen, measure the dimensions of the cross section at the center of the reduced section except that for referee testing of specimens under 3/16 in. in their least dimension, measure the dimensions where the least cross-sectional area is found. Measure and record the cross-sectional dimensions of tension test specimens 0.200 in. and over to the nearest 0.001 in.; the cross-sectional dimensions less than 0.200 in. and not less than 0.100 in. to the nearest 0.0005 in.; the cross-sectional dimensions less than 0.100 in. and not less than 0.020 in., to the nearest 0.0001 in.; and when practical, the cross-sectional dimensions less than 0.020 in., to at least the nearest 1 % but in all cases to at least the nearest 0.0001 in.

NOTE 6—Measurements of dimensions presume smooth surface finishes for the specimens. Rough surfaces due to the manufacturing process such as hot rolling, metallic coating, etc., may lead to inaccuracy of the