



Standard Test Method for Fatigue of Tire Cords¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of fatigue of tire cords in rubber due to compression or extension, or both, using a disk fatigue tester. The fatigue is measured as a loss in strength.

1.2 The values stated in either SI units or other units (in parentheses) are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system are not exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other.

1.3 *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 to determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- D 76 Specification for Tensile Testing Machines for Textiles²
- D 123 Terminology Relating to Textiles²
- D 885 Methods of Testing Tire Cords, Tire Cord Fabrics, and Industrial Filament Yarns Made from Man-Made Organic-Base Fibers²
- D 1776 Practice for Conditioning Textiles for Testing²

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *breaking force, n*—the maximum force applied to a material carried to rupture.

3.1.2 *cord, n*—a twisted or formed structure composed of one or more single or plied filaments, strands, or yarns of organic polymer or inorganic materials.

3.1.3 *elongation, n*—the ratio of the extension of a material to the length of the material prior to stretching.

3.1.4 *extension, n*—the change in length of a material due to stretching.

3.1.5 *fabric, n*—in textiles, a planar structure consisting of yarns or fibers.

3.1.6 *rubber, n*—a material that is capable of recovering from large deformations quickly and forcibly, and can be, or

already is, modified to a state in which it is essentially insoluble (but can swell) in boiling solvent, such as benzene, methyl ethyl ketone, and ethanol-toluene azeotrope.

3.1.7 *rubber compound, n*—as used in the manufacture of rubber articles, an intimate mixture of elastomer(s) with all the materials necessary for the finished article.

3.1.8 *standard atmosphere for testing textiles, n*—laboratory conditions for testing fibers, yarns, and fabrics in which air temperature and relative humidity are maintained at specific levels with established tolerances.

3.1.8.1 *Discussion*—Textile materials are used in a number of specific end-use applications that frequently require different testing temperatures and relative humidities. Specific conditioning and testing of textiles for end product requirements can be carried out in accordance with Table 1 in Practice D 1776.

3.1.9 *tabby, n*—a plain weave fabric. In the context of tire cord fabric, it refers to sections of closely spaced weft yarns in a special section of fabric woven to provide a sample.

3.1.9.1 *Discussion*—A tabby usually is woven 150 to 200 mm (6 to 8 in.) in length with usually a cotton filling yarn in the range from 750 to 2000 dtex (675 to 1800 denier) and 30 to 50 picks/dm (8 to 12 picks/in.).

3.1.10 *tabby sample, n*—the section of tire cord fabric between two tabbies that have been woven separately with a distance of 0.5 to 1.0 m (18 to 16 in.) between them.

3.1.11 *tire cord fabric, n*—a fabric consisting of tire cord warp with widely spaced (usually 40 to 200 picks/m (1 to 5 picks/in.)) single yarn filling.

3.1.12 For definitions of other terms related to textiles, see Terminology D 123.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Disk fatigue is a measure of the strength loss of a tire cord, which is subjected to repeated stresses. The stresses are accomplished by subjecting the tire cords, after being cured in rubber, to repeated cycles of compression and extension.

4.2 The specimen of interest is the cord after it has been stressed and later removed from the rubber in which it was imbedded. Cord specimens are placed between strips of rubber compound and molded into blocks. The specimen block is then mounted between two rotating disks that are positioned in such a way that the specimen will undergo compression or extension, or both, as the disks rotate. After a specified number of cycles, the cords are removed from the blocks and their breaking force measured on a tensile testing machine. The

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.01.

fatigue, based on the unfatigued specimen strength, is expressed as a percent strength loss in fatigued specimens.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is not recommended for acceptance testing of commercial shipments in the absence of reliable information on between-laboratory precision.

5.1.1 If there are differences of practical significance between the reported test results for two laboratories (or more), a comparative test should be performed to determine if there is a statistical bias between them, using competent statistical assistance. As a minimum, test samples should be used that are as homogeneous as possible, that are drawn from a material from which the disparate test results were obtained, and that are randomly assigned in equal numbers to each laboratory for testing. Other fabrics with established test values may be used for this purpose. The test results from the two laboratories should be compared using a statistical test for unpaired data, at a probability level chosen prior to the testing series. If a bias is found, either its cause must be found and corrected, or future test results must be adjusted in consideration of the known bias.

6. Apparatus, Materials, and Reagents

6.1 *Disk Fatigue Tester* (see schematic drawing in Fig. 1), with capacity for 12 specimens. For actual dimensions, see patent US 2595069. Testers with different capacity are acceptable.

6.2 *Transducer*, with digital readout or dial gage for setting distance between disk fatigue flanges to the nearest 0.01 mm (0.004 in.).

6.3 *Mold*, top and bottom sections with cavities in each for 12 or 24 specimens with the dimensions of 10.8 by 12.7 by 76.2 mm (7/16 by 1/2 by 3 in.). (See schematic drawing in Fig. 2). All dimensions given require an accuracy of 0.1 mm. The top of the mold may be coated with TFE-fluorocarbon to release the specimens easily. Molds with other numbers of cavities may be used.

6.4 *Weights*, having a mass of 50 ± 5 g or 100 ± 10 g, or both, for tensioning yarns or cords while building specimen blocks.

6.5 *Curing press*, capable of maintaining a minimum pressure of 3.5 MPa (500 psi) over the total area of the mold surface, and capable of a platen temperature control within $\pm 3^\circ\text{C}$ ($\pm 5^\circ\text{F}$) of the temperature specified for curing the rubber compound.

6.6 *Guillotine, Hand-operated*, capable of slicing the sample blocks (see 11.2.2).

6.7 *Tensile Testing Machine*, CRE type, in accordance with Specification D 76.

6.8 *Clamps*, air-actuated, flat, rubber-faced or bollard-type.

6.9 *Rubber Compound*, with a thickness of 6.0 ± 0.3 mm (0.24 ± 0.01 in.), rolled up in polyethylene liner and free from moisture and contamination.

NOTE 1—The rubber type used, especially rubber modulus, will affect the results.

6.10 *Gloves*, neoprene or other solvent-resistant rubber.

6.11 *Solvent*, 1.1.2.2 tetrachloroethylene, $\text{CHCl}_2\text{CHCl}_2$ or 1.1.1 trichloroethane CCl_3CH_3) for removing cords from rubber.

6.12 *Tachometer or Strobotac*.

6.13 *Screwdriver*, or other tightening device.

7. Hazards

7.1 The manufacturer’s material data sheets (MSDSs) shall be used to obtain information on handling, storage, use, and disposal of chemicals used in this test method.

8. Sampling and Test Specimens

8.1 *Primary Sampling Unit*—Consider one roll of dipped tire cord fabric or a cord package as the primary sampling unit.

8.2 *Laboratory Sampling Unit*—As a laboratory sampling unit, from each primary sampling unit prepare tabby samples by taking a sample equal to the length of cord between the regular tabby woven at the end of the roll and a special tabby woven a short distance from the end when the roll of fabric is

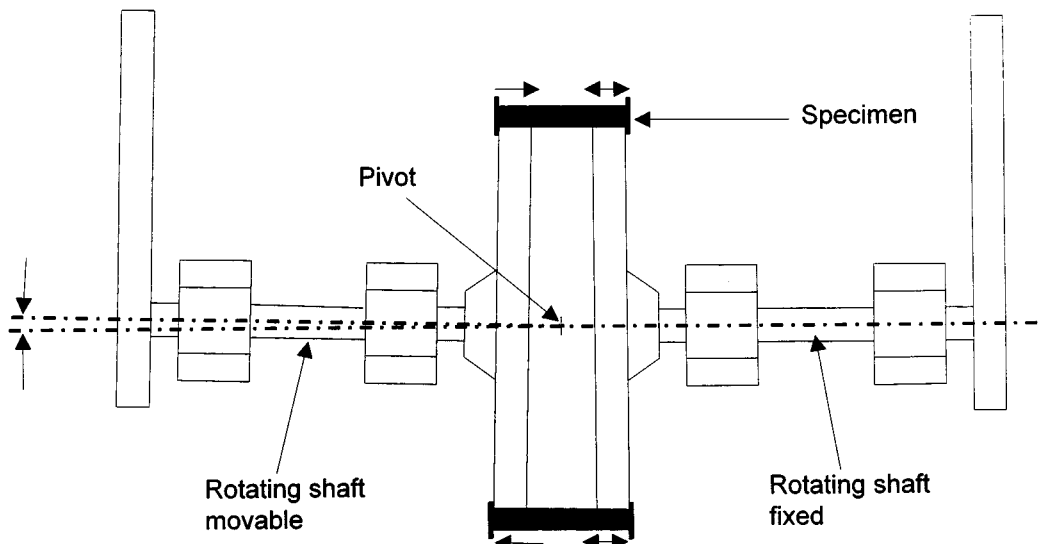


FIG. 1 Schematic Top View of the Disc Fatigue Tester with Two Specimens

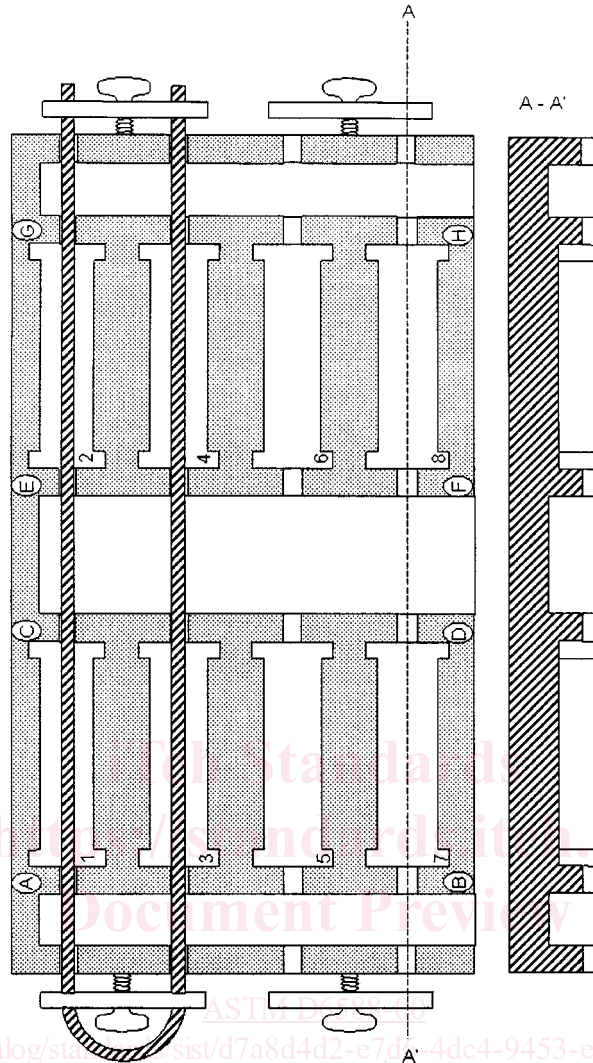


FIG. 2 Schematic View of the Mold

manufactured. For rolls that do not have a special woven tabby, improvise a tabby by the use of gummed tape or strips of cemented fabric applied across a section of the cord fabric to give a tabby sample length at least 0.5 m (18 in.) long and at least one tenth of the roll width wide.

8.2.1 *Preparation of Tabby Samples*—The handling of the samples must be done with care. The person obtaining the sample should wear clean gloves. Cut the warp cords of the dipped fabric along the centerline of the special tabby for a distance equal to the width of the sample. If this distance is less than the full width of the fabric, cut the filling yarns of the sample and of the special and regular tabbies in the direction parallel with the warp cords. The resulting section of cord fabric is the tabby sample. Attach the tabby sample to a piece of cardboard or fiberboard, the length of which shall be equal to at least the length of the cord warp between tabbies. Fold the tabby portions of the sample over each end of the board, and secure the sample to the board with pressure-sensitive tape or staples. Use care to avoid contact of tape or staples with the area to be tested. Handle the sample carefully. Discard any specimen subjected to any bend with a diameter less than 10 times the yarn/cord thickness (or diameter). The board with the

sample may be folded lengthwise and parallel with the warp for convenience. Place the board with the fabric sample in a black polyethylene bag, or wrap it with several layers of black polyethylene film to protect the sample from ultraviolet (UV) and ozone.

8.3 *Test Specimens:*

8.3.1 *Specimens Yarns or Cord*—From the laboratory sample, take the number of specimens needed for each block, multiplied by the number of blocks that have to be built as shown in Table 1. Take a duplicate number of specimens for

TABLE 1 Number of Specimens (Cords) per Block

Material	Nominal Linear Density, Dtex	Number of Specimens (Cords) per Block	Number of Blocks
Nylon	≤2200	5	3
	>2200	3	3
Polyester	≤2200	5	3
	>2200	3	3
Rayon	all	1	6
Aramid	all	1	6
Twisted yarn of any material	all	1	6