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**Information technology - Data interchange on
12,7 mm wide magnetic tape cartridges - 18
tracks, 1 491 data bytes per millimetre (ISO/IEC
9661:1994)**

Technologies de l'information - Echange de
données sur cartouches de bande magnétique de
12,7 mm de large - 18 pistes, 1 491 caractères
par millimètre (ISO/IEC 9661:1994)

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REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA ZNANOST IN TEHNOLOGIJO
Urad RS za standardizacijo in meroslovje
LJUBLJANA

SIST... EN ISO/IEC 9661

PREVZET PO METODI RAZGLASITVE

-12- 1997

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 1995-11-30. CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

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Page 2
EN ISO/IEC 9661:1995

Foreword

The text of the International Standard from ISO/IEC/JTC 1 "Information Technology" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) has been taken over as a European Standard by CEN Technical Board.

This European Standard replaces EN 29661:1991.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by June 1996, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by June 1996.

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The text of the International Standard ISO/IEC 9661:1994 has been approved by CEN as a European Standard without any modification.

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INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD

ISO/IEC
9661

Second edition
1994-12-15

**Information technology — Data
interchange on 12,7 mm wide magnetic
tape cartridges — 18 tracks, 1 491 data**

bytes per millimetre
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*Technologies de l'information — Échange de données sur cartouches de
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Contents	Page
Section 1 - General	1
1 Scope	1
2 Conformance	1
3 Normative references	1
4 Definitions	1
4.1 Average signal amplitude	1
4.2 Back surface	1
4.3 Beginning of Tape (BOT)	1
4.4 Byte	1
4.5 Cartridge	1
4.6 Cyclic Redundancy Check character	1
4.7 Data density	1
4.8 Error Correcting Code	1
4.9 Flux transition position	1
4.10 Flux transition spacing	2
4.11 Magnetic tape	2
4.12 Master Standard Reference Tape	2
4.13 Physical recording density	2
4.14 Postamble	2
4.15 Preamble	2
4.16 Reference field	2
4.17 Secondary Standard Reference Tape	2
4.18 Standard reference amplitude	2
4.19 Standard reference current	2
4.20 Test recording current	2
4.21 Track	2
4.22 Typical field	2
5 Environment and safety	2
5.1 Cartridge/Tape testing environment	2
5.2 Cartridge operation environment	2
5.3 Cartridge storage environment	3
5.4 Safety requirements	3

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5.4.1	Safety	3
5.4.2	Flammability	3
5.5	Transportation	3
Section 2 - Tape requirements		3
6	Characteristics of the tape	3
6.1	Material	3
6.2	Tape length	3
6.3	Tape width	3
6.4	Tape discontinuity	3
6.5	Total thickness of tape	3
6.6	Base material thickness	3
6.7	Longitudinal curvature	3
6.8	Out-of-plane distortions	4
6.9	Cupping	4
6.10	Dynamic frictional characteristics	4
6.10.1	Frictional drag between the recording surface and the tape back surface	4
6.10.2	Frictional drag between the tape recording surface and ferrite after environmental cycling	4
6.11	Coating adhesion	5
6.12	Flexural rigidity	6
6.13	Electrical resistance of coated surfaces	6
6.14	Tape durability	7
6.15	Inhibitor tape	7
6.16	Tape abrasivity	7
6.17	Pre-recording condition	7
6.18	Magnetic recording characteristics	8
6.18.1	Typical field	8
6.18.2	Signal amplitude	8
6.18.3	Resolution	8
6.18.4	Overwrite	8
6.18.5	Narrow-Band Signal-to-Noise Ratio (NB-SNR)	9
6.19	Tape quality	9
6.19.1	Missing pulses	10
6.19.2	Missing pulse zones	10
6.19.3	Coincident missing pulse zones	10
Section 3 - Cartridge requirements		10
7	Dimensional and mechanical characteristics of the cartridge	10
7.1	Overall dimensions (figures 4 to 6)	11
7.2	Write-inhibit mechanism (figures 4 and 5)	11
7.3	Label area of the rear side (figures 5 and 6)	11
7.4	Label area of the top side (figure 5)	12
7.5	Case opening (figures 4, 5, 7 and 9)	12
7.6	Locating notches (figures 7, 8 and 10)	12
7.7	Locating areas (figure 7)	13
7.8	Inside configuration of the case around the case opening (figures 7 and 11)	13
7.9	Other external dimensions of the case (figure 8)	13
7.10	Central window (figure 7)	13
7.11	Stacking ribs	13
7.12	Flexibility of the case	14
7.12.1	Requirements	14

7.12.2	Procedure	14
7.13	Tape reel (figures 12 and 13)	14
7.13.1	Locking mechanism (figure 13)	14
7.13.2	Axis of rotation of the reel	15
7.13.3	Metallic insert	15
7.13.4	Toothed rim	15
7.13.5	Hub of the reel	15
7.13.6	Relative positions	15
7.13.7	Characteristics of the toothed rim (figure 12)	16
7.14	Leader block (figure 15)	16
7.15	Attachment of the tape to the leader block (figure 16)	17
7.16	Latching mechanism (figure 17)	17
7.17	Tape wind	18
7.18	Wind tension	18
7.19	Circumference of the tape reel	18
7.20	Moment of inertia	18
Section 4 - Recording requirements		25
8	Method of recording	25
8.1	Physical recording density	25
8.2	Bit cell length	25
8.3	Average bit cell length	25
8.4	Long-term average bit cell length	25
8.5	Short-term average bit cell length	25
8.6	Rate of change	25
8.7	Bit shift	25
8.8	Total character skew	25
8.9	Read signal amplitude	26
8.10	Coincident missing pulses	26
9	Track format	26
9.1	Number of tracks	26
9.2	Reference edge	26
9.3	Track positions	26
9.4	Track width	26
9.5	Azimuth	26
10	Data format	26
10.1	Types of bytes	27
10.1.1	Data bytes	27
10.1.2	Pad bytes	28
10.2	Frame	28
10.3	Data Block	29
10.3.1	Prefix	29
10.3.2	Data Frames	29
10.3.3	Residual Frame 1	30
10.3.4	Residual Frame 2	31
10.3.5	Summary of requirements for Residual Frames	32
10.3.6	Suffix	33
10.4	Error Correcting Code (ECC)	33
10.4.1	Diagonal Redundancy Check (DRC)	33

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[SIST EN ISO/IEC 9661:1997](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/617691eb-2627-4312-9420-cce885683426/sist-en-iso-iec-9661-1997)

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10.4.2	Vertical Redundancy Check (VRC)	34
10.4.3	ECC Format	34
10.4.4	Summary of ECC	35
10.5	Recording of 8-bit bytes on the tape	36
10.6	Recorded Data Block	36
10.6.1	Preamble	36
10.6.2	Beginning of Data Mark (BDM)	36
10.6.3	Resync Control Frame	36
10.6.4	End of Data Mark (EDM)	36
10.6.5	Postamble	36
10.7	Data density	36
11	Tape format	37
11.1	Density Identification Burst	37
11.2	ID Separator Burst	38
11.3	Interblock Gaps	38
11.4	Erase Gaps	38
11.4.1	Normal Erase Gaps	38
11.4.2	Elongated Erase Gaps	38
11.5	Tape Marks	38
11.6	Relationship between Interblock Gaps, Erase Gaps and Tape Marks	39
11.6.1	Interblock Gap followed by a Tape Mark	39
11.6.2	Tape Mark followed by an Interblock Gap	39
11.6.3	Interblock Gap followed by an Erase Gap	39
11.6.4	Erase Gap followed by an Interblock Gap	39
11.6.5	Summary of the relationship between Interblock Gaps, Erase Gaps and Tape Marks	40
11.7	First and last recording on the tape	40
11.8	Summary of the tape format	41
11.8.1	Characteristics of recording other than recorded Data Blocks	41
11.8.2	Arrangement of recording on the tape	41
Annexes		
A	Recommendations for transportation	42
B	Inhibitor tape	43
C	Tape abrasivity measurement procedure	44
D	Recommendations on tape durability	47
E	Pre-recording condition	48
F	Representation of 8-bit bytes by 9-bit patterns	49
G	Measurement of bit shift	52
H	Dimensions of the cartridge	54

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO/IEC 9661 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 11, *Flexible magnetic media for digital data interchange*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 9661:1988).

Annexes C, E, F and G form an integral part of this International Standard. Annexes A, B, D and H are for information only.

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Information technology - Data interchange on 12,7 mm wide magnetic tape cartridges - 18 tracks, 1 491 data bytes per millimetre

Section 1 - General

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the physical and magnetic characteristics of a 12,7 mm wide, 18-track magnetic tape cartridge to enable interchangeability of such cartridges. It also specifies the quality of the recorded signals, the format and recording method thus allowing, together with ISO 1001 for magnetic tape labelling, full data interchange by means of such magnetic tape cartridges.

2 Conformance

A magnetic tape cartridge shall be in conformance with this International Standard if it meets all mandatory requirements specified herein. The tape requirements shall be satisfied throughout the extent of the tape.

3 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO/IEC 646:1991, *Information technology — ISO 7-bit coded character set for information interchange*.

ISO 683-13:1986, *Heat-treatable steels, alloy steels and free-cutting steels — Part 13: Wrought stainless steels*.

ISO 1001:1986, *Information processing — File structure and labelling of magnetic tapes for information interchange*.

ISO 1302:1992, *Technical drawings — Method of indicating surface texture*.

ISO/IEC 2022:1994, *Information technology — Character code structure and extension techniques*.

ISO/IEC 4873:1991, *Information technology — ISO 8-bit code for information interchange — Structure and rules for implementation*.

4 Definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following definitions apply.

- 4.1 Average signal amplitude:** The average peak-to-peak value of the signal output of the read head measured over a minimum of 25,4 mm of tape exclusive of missing pulses.
- 4.2 Back surface:** The surface of the tape opposite the magnetic coating used to record data.
- 4.3 Beginning of Tape (BOT):** The point along the length of the magnetic tape indicated by the start of the Density Identification Burst.
- 4.4 Byte:** An ordered set of eight bits acted upon as a unit and recorded as a 9-bit pattern.
- 4.5 Cartridge:** A container holding a supply reel of magnetic tape with an attached leader block.
- 4.6 Cyclic Redundancy Check character:** A character represented by two bytes, placed at the end of a Data Block and used for error detection.
- 4.7 Data density:** The number of 8-bit bytes stored per unit length of tape, expressed in bytes per millimetre.
- 4.8 Error Correcting Code:** A mathematical procedure yielding bits used for the detection and correction of errors.

4.9 Flux transition position: That point which exhibits maximum free-space flux density normal to the tape surface.

4.10 Flux transition spacing: The distance along a track between successive flux transitions.

4.11 Magnetic tape: A tape which will accept and retain the magnetic signals intended for input, output and storage purposes on computers and associated equipment.

4.12 Master Standard Reference Tape: A tape selected as the standard for reference field, signal amplitude, resolution and overwrite.

Note - A Master Standard Reference Tape has been established at the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) for this International Standard.

4.13 Physical recording density: The number of recorded flux transitions per unit length of track, expressed in flux transitions per millimetre (ftpm).

4.14 Postamble: A repeated 9-bit pattern at the end of a recorded Data Block providing electronic synchronization when reading in the reverse direction.

4.15 Preamble: A repeated 9-bit pattern at the beginning of a recorded Data Block providing electronic synchronization when reading in the forward direction.

4.16 Reference field: The typical field of the Master Standard Reference Tape.

4.17 Secondary Standard Reference Tape: A tape the performance of which is known and stated in relation to that of the Master Standard Reference Tape.

Note - Secondary Standard Reference Tapes have been developed at the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) and are available from the NIST Office of Standard Reference Materials, Room 205, Building 202, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MA 20899, USA, under reference number SRM 3202, until January 2004.

It is intended that these be used for calibrating tertiary reference tapes for use in routine calibration.

4.18 Standard reference amplitude: The average signal amplitude from the Master Standard Reference Tape when it is recorded with the test recording current on the NIST measurement system at 972 ftpmm.

Traceability to the standard reference amplitude is provided by the calibration factors supplied with each Secondary Standard Reference Tape.

4.19 Standard reference current: The current that produces the reference field.

4.20 Test recording current: The current that is 1,5 times the standard reference current.

4.21 Track: A longitudinal area on the tape along which a series of magnetic signals may be recorded.

4.22 Typical field: In the plot of the average signal amplitude against the recording field at the physical recording density of 972 ftpmm, the minimum field that causes an average signal amplitude equal to 85 % of the maximum average signal amplitude.

5 Environment and safety

Unless otherwise stated, the conditions specified below refer to the ambient conditions in the test or computer room and not to those within the tape equipment.

5.1 Cartridge/Tape testing environment

Unless otherwise stated, tests and measurements made on the tape cartridge to check requirements of this International Standard shall be carried out under the following conditions:

temperature:	23 °C ± 2 °C
relative humidity:	40 % to 60 %
conditioning period before testing:	24 hours.

5.2 Cartridge operation environment

Cartridges used for data interchange shall be capable of operating under the following conditions:

temperature:	16 °C to 32 °C
relative humidity:	20 % to 80 %

wet bulb temperature: 25 °C max.

The average temperature of the air immediately surrounding the tape shall not exceed 40,5 °C.

Note - Localized tape temperatures in excess of 49 °C may cause tape damage.

Conditioning before operating: If a cartridge has been exposed during storage and/or transportation to conditions outside the above values, it shall be conditioned for a period of at least 24 hours.

5.3 Cartridge storage environment

Cartridges used for data interchange shall be stored under the following conditions.

temperature: 5 °C to 32 °C
relative humidity: 5 % to 80 %
wet bulb temperature: 26 °C max.

5.4 Safety requirements

5.4.1 Safety

The cartridge and its components shall not constitute any safety or health hazard when used in its intended manner or in any foreseeable misuse in an information processing system.

5.4.2 Flammability

The cartridge and its components shall be made from materials which, if ignited from a match flame, do not continue to burn in a still carbon dioxide atmosphere.

5.5 Transportation

This International Standard does not specify parameters for the environment in which cartridges should be transported. Annex A gives some recommendations for transportation.

Section 2 - Tape requirements

6 Characteristics of the tape

6.1 Material

The tape shall consist of a base material (oriented polyethylene terephthalate film or its equivalent) coated on one side with a strong, yet flexible layer of ferromagnetic material dispersed in a suitable binder. The back surface of the tape may also be coated with a ferromagnetic or non-ferromagnetic material.

6.2 Tape length

The length of the tape shall not be less than 165 m.

6.3 Tape width

The width of the tape shall be 12,650 mm ± 0,025 mm. The width shall be measured across the tape from edge-to-edge when the tape is under a tension of less than 0,28 N.

6.4 Tape discontinuity

There shall be no discontinuities in the tape such as those produced by tape splicing or perforations.

6.5 Total thickness of tape

The total thickness of the tape at any point shall be between 0,0259 mm and 0,0337 mm.

6.6 Base material thickness

The thickness of the base material shall be 0,0234 mm nominal.

6.7 Longitudinal curvature

The radius of curvature of the edge of the tape shall not be less than 33 m.

Procedure

Allow a length of tape of 1 m to unroll and assume its natural curvature on a flat smooth surface. Measure the deviation from a 1 m chord. The deviation shall not be greater than 3,8 mm. This deviation corresponds to the minimum radius of curvature of 33 m if measured over an arc of circle.

6.8 Out-of-plane distortions

All visual evidence of out-of-plane distortion shall be removed when the tape is subjected to a uniform tension of 0,6 N. Out-of-plane distortions are local deformations which cause portions of the tape to deviate from the plane of the surface of the tape. Out-of-plane distortions are most readily observed when the tape is lying on a flat surface under no tension.

6.9 Cupping

The departure across the width of tape from a flat surface shall not exceed 0,3 mm.

Procedure

Cut a length of tape of $1,0 \text{ m} \pm 0,1 \text{ m}$. Condition it for a minimum of 3 hours in the test environment by hanging it so that the coated surface is freely exposed to the test environment. From the centre portion of the conditioned tape cut a test piece of length 25 mm. Stand the test piece on its end in a cylinder which is at least 25 mm high with an inside diameter of $13,0 \text{ mm} \pm 0,2 \text{ mm}$. With the cylinder standing on an optical comparator measure the cupping by aligning the edges of the sample to the reticle and determining the distance from the aligned edges to the corresponding surface of the test piece at its centre.

6.10 Dynamic frictional characteristics

In the tests of 6.10.1 and 6.10.2 the specified forces of 1,0 N and 1,50 N, respectively, comprise both the force component of the dynamic friction and the force of 0,64 N applied to the test piece of tape.

NOTE - Particular attention should be given to keeping the surfaces clean.

6.10.1 Frictional drag between the recording surface and the tape back surface

The force required to move the recording surface in relation to the back surface shall not be less than 1,0 N.

Procedure

- i) Wrap a test piece of tape around a 25,4 mm diameter circular mandrel with the back surface of the test piece facing outward.
- ii) Place a second test piece of tape, with the recording surface facing in, around the first test piece for a total angle of wrap of 90° .
- iii) Apply a force of 0,64 N to one end of the outer test piece of tape. Secure its other end to a force gauge which is mounted on a motorized linear slide.
- iv) Drive the slide at a speed of 1 mm/s.

6.10.2 Frictional drag between the tape recording surface and ferrite after environmental cycling

The force required to move the tape at a point 1,34 m from the leader block of the cartridge shall not be greater than 1,50 N. The force required at a point 4,3 m from the junction of the tape with the cartridge hub shall not exceed the first force by more than a factor of 4.

Procedure

- i) Wind tape on to a spool hub of diameter 50 mm to an outside diameter of 97 mm with a winding tension of $2,2 \text{ N} \pm 0,2 \text{ N}$.
- ii) Repeat the following two steps five times:
 - a) Store for 48 hours at a temperature of 50°C and a relative humidity of 10 % to 20 %.
 - b) Acclimatize in the testing environment for 2 hours and rewind with a tension of $2,2 \text{ N} \pm 0,2 \text{ N}$.
- iii) Condition the tape for 48 hours at a temperature of $30,5^\circ \text{C}$ and a relative humidity of 85 %. The tape shall remain in this environment for steps iv) and v).

- iv) Apply a force of 0,64 N to one end of a test piece of tape of not more than 1 m, taken 1,34 m from the leader block. Pass the test piece over a ferrite rod of diameter 25,4 mm with the recording surface in contact with the rod for a total angle of wrap of 90°.

The rod shall be made from the ferrite specified in annex C. It shall be polished to a roughness value r_a of 0,05 μm (roughness grade N2, ISO 1302). Pull the other end of the test piece horizontally at 1 mm/s.

- v) Repeat step iv) for a similar test piece taken 4,3 m from the junction of the tape with the cartridge hub.

6.11 Coating adhesion

The force required to peel any part of the coating from the tape base material shall not be less than 1,5 N.

Procedure

- Take a test piece of the tape approximately 380 mm long and scribe a line through the recording coating across the width of the tape 125 mm from one end.
- Using a double-sided pressure sensitive tape, attach the full width of the test piece to a smooth metal piece plate, with the recording surface facing the plate, as shown in the figure below.
- Fold the test piece over 180°, attach the metal plate and the free end of the test piece to the jaws of a universal testing machine and set the speed of the jaw separation to 254 mm per min.
- Note the force at which any part of the coating first separates from the base material. If this is less than 1,5 N, the test has failed. If the test piece peels away from the double-sided pressure sensitive tape before the force exceeds 1,5 N, an alternative type of double-sided pressure sensitive tape shall be used.
- If the back surface of the tape is coated, repeat i) to iv) for the back coating.

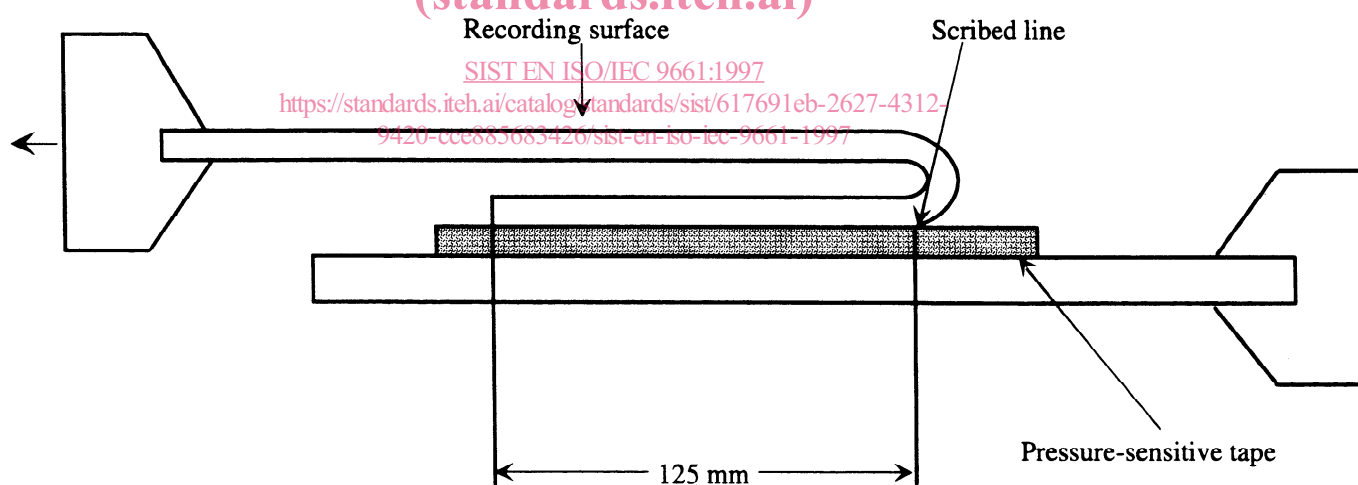


Figure 1 - Coating adhesion

6.12 Flexural rigidity

The flexural rigidity of the tape in the longitudinal direction shall be between 0,06 N·mm² and 0,16 N·mm².

Procedure

Clamp a 180 mm test piece of tape in a universal testing machine, allowing a 100 mm separation between the machine jaws. Set the jaw separation speed at 5 mm per minute. Plot force against distance. Calculate the flexural rigidity using the slope of the curve between 2,2 N and 6,7 N by the formula:

$$E = \frac{dF / WT}{dL / L}$$

$$I = WT^3 / 12$$