



Designation: D955 – 08

# Standard Test Method of Measuring Shrinkage from Mold Dimensions of Thermoplastics<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D955; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

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

## 1. Scope\*

1.1 This test method is intended to measure shrinkage from mold cavity to molded dimensions of thermoplastics when molded by compression or injection processes with specified process conditions.

1.2 This test method covers shrinkage measurements at 24 and 48 h.

1.3 This method will give comparable data based on standard specimens and can not predict absolute values in actual molded parts with varying flow paths, wall thicknesses, pressure and temperature gradients and process conditions. Differences in mold shrinkage may also be observed among the three specimen geometries described in this test method.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are given for information only.

1.5 *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—This standard and ISO 294-3 are equivalent in the design of specimen D2. This test method is equivalent to ISO 294-4 where Type D2 specimens and the procedure in [Appendix X2](#) are used.

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

- D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing
- D788 Classification System for Poly(Methyl Methacrylate) (PMMA) Molding and Extrusion Compounds
- D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.09 on Specimen Preparation. Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2008. Published December 2008. Originally approved in 1948. Last previous edition approved in 2000 as D955-00. DOI: 10.1520/D0955-08.

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

- D3641 Practice for Injection Molding Test Specimens of Thermoplastic Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D4066 Classification System for Nylon Injection and Extrusion Materials (PA)
- D4549 Classification System and Basis for Specification for Polystyrene and Rubber-Modified Polystyrene Molding and Extrusion Materials (PS)
- D4703 Practice for Compression Molding Thermoplastic Materials into Test Specimens, Plaques, or Sheets
- D4976 Specification for Polyethylene Plastics Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D5947 Test Methods for Physical Dimensions of Solid Plastics Specimens
- D6778 Classification System and Basis for Specification for Polyoxymethylene Molding and Extrusion Materials (POM)
- D6779 Classification System for and Basis of Specification for Polyamide Molding and Extrusion Materials (PA)
- E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

### 2.2 ISO Standards:<sup>3</sup>

- ISO 293 Plastics—Compression Moulding Test Specimens of Thermoplastic Materials
- ISO 294-1 Plastics—Injection Moulding of Test Specimens of Thermoplastic Materials—Part 1: General Principles, and Moulding of Multipurpose and Bar Test specimens
- ISO 294-3 Plastics—Injection Moulding of Test Specimens of Thermoplastic Materials—Part 3: Small Plates
- ISO 294-4 Plastics—Injection Moulding of Test Specimens—Part 4: Determination of Moulding Shrinkage

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—General definitions of terms applying to this test method appear in Terminology [D883](#).

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

<sup>3</sup> Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

\*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

3.2.1 *jetting, n*—non-uniform multi-directional flow front apparent on the surface of the mold due to rapid filling of the mold cavity.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The principle of this test method is to compare mold cavity dimensions with specimen dimensions and report the differences in percent.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 *Injection Molding*—In injection molding, the difference between the dimensions of a mold cavity and of the molded specimen may vary according to the design of the mold and operation of the molding process. Factors such as mold and melt temperature, fill times, and packing conditions are known to affect shrinkage significantly. Adherence to the specified mold design (see 7.1) and specifications outlined in Practice D3641 or ISO 294-4 or the appropriate material specification will improve the reproducibility of the test.

5.2 *Compression Molding*—In compression molding, the difference between the dimensions of a mold cavity and of the molded specimen may vary according to the design of the mold and operation of the molding process. Factors, such as the amount of material in charge, cooling time, and pressure application are known to affect shrinkage significantly. Adherence to the specified mold design (see 7.2) and specifications outlined in Practice D4703 or ISO 293 or the appropriate material specifications will improve the reproducibility of the test.

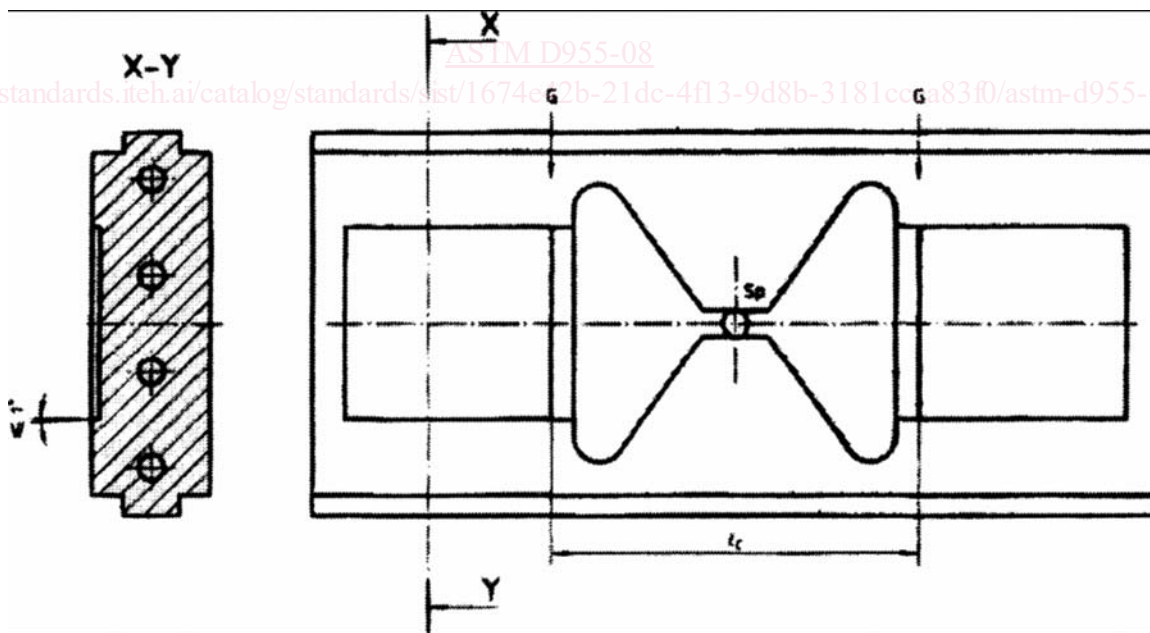
6. Sample Preparation

6.1 Some materials require special treatment before they are molded. For example, thermoplastics, which absorb moisture must be dried before molding. For required conditions for sample preparation, refer to the appropriate material specification or the manufacturer’s recommendations if no specification is available. The preparation given to the material prior to molding shall be recorded and reported.

7. Apparatus

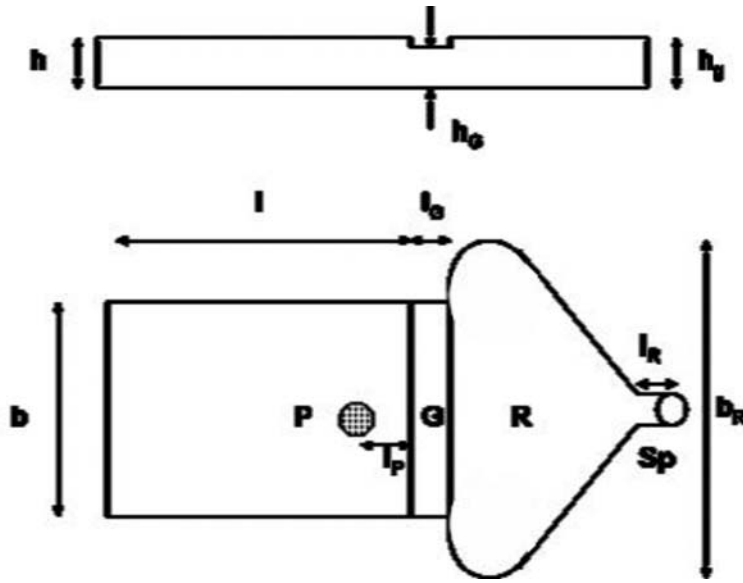
7.1 *Injection Mold*—Specimens shall be molded in a two cavity mold conforming with dimensions as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 for the 60 × 60-mm plaque specimen (Type D2), Fig. 3 for the 12.7 by 127-mm bar specimen (Type A) and Fig. 4 for the 100 mm by 3.2-mm disk specimen (Type B). Pressure transducers for monitoring the pressure in at least one cavity are mandatory for Type D2. Mold shrinkage measurements shall be made on specimens that have been molded at one of the following cavity pressures ± 3 % from the selected pressure: 20 MPa, 40 MPa, 60 MPa, 80 MPa, 100 MPa, or as specified in the appropriate material specification. Pressure transducers are recommended, but not mandatory for specimens Type A and Type B.

7.2 *Compression Mold*—A single cavity positive mold having cavity dimensions conforming to the dimensions of Fig. 2 for the 60 × 60-mm plaque (Type D2) Fig. 3 for the 12.7 × 127-mm bar specimen (Type A) and Fig. 4 for the 100-mm × 3.2-mm disk specimen (Type B), not including the sprue, runner or gate.



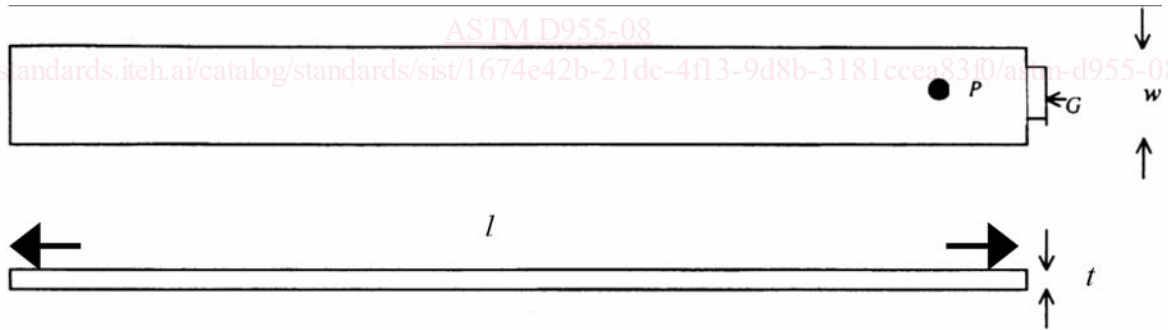
Sp   sprue
G   gate
$L_c$ = distance between the lines along which the test specimens are cut from the runners
Molding volume = 20 000 mm <sup>3</sup>
Projected area = 11 000 mm <sup>2</sup>

FIG. 1 Type D2 (Mold Layout)



Sp	sprue	
G	gate	
R	runner	
P	pressure sensor	
l	length of plate	60 ± 2 mm
b	width of plate	60 ± 2 mm
h	thickness of plate	2.0 ± 0.1 mm
l <sub>G</sub>	length of gate	4.0 ± 0.1 mm
h <sub>G</sub>	height of gate	(0.75 ± 0.05) × h
l <sub>R</sub>	length of runner	25 to 40 mm
b <sub>R</sub>	width of runner	≧ (b + 6) mm
h <sub>g</sub>	depth of runner at gate	
l*	unspecified distance	...
l <sub>p</sub>	distance of pressure sensor from gate	5 ± 2 mm

FIG. 2 Type D2 (Cavity Details)



$w = 12.7 \pm 0.2 \text{ mm}$   
 $t = 3.2 \pm 0.05 \text{ mm}$   
 $l = 127 \pm 2 \text{ mm}$   
 G = Gate  
 P = Pressure Transducer

FIG. 3 Bar Specimen

NOTE 2—Although scribe marks are not required, if they are used for injection or compression molded specimens for the measurement of shrinkage, the scribe marks shall be 1.0 mm long by 0.1 mm wide located 4.0 mm from each edge on one side of the mold.

7.3 Injection Press—A suitable injection molding machine that shall fill the test molds when it is operated in the range from 20 to 80 % of its rated shot capacity at the molding

parameters specified in Practice D3641, ISO 294-3 or the appropriate material specification.

NOTE 3—If the injection machines of appropriate capacity are not available, the requirements of 7.3 may be met in machines of larger capacities by providing test molds with multiple cavities (maximum of four) to be filled from a common sprue and having a balanced filling pattern, so that the total weight of the shot, including sprue and runner will

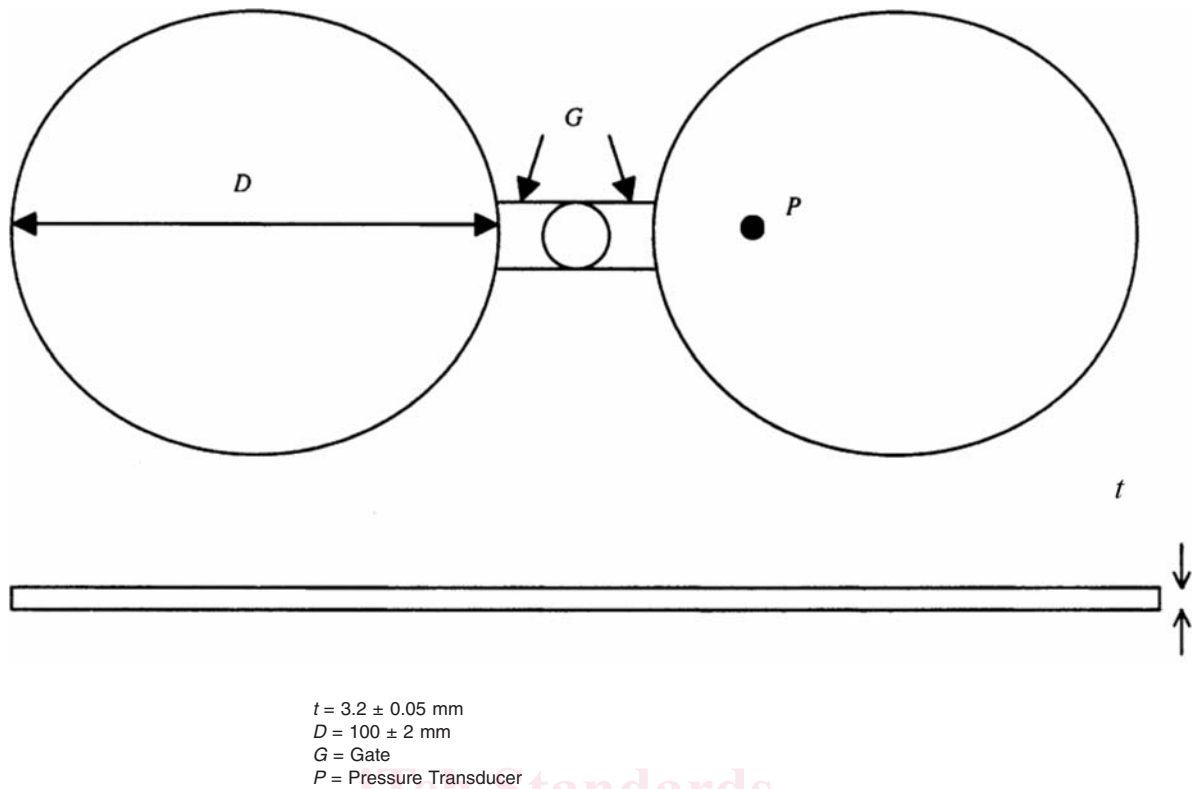


FIG. 4 Disk Specimen

fall within the specified limits.

**7.4 Compression Press**—A suitable hydraulic press that shall deliver a pressure of 20 to 35 MPa (3000 to 5000 psi) to the material in the mold.

**7.5 Measuring Tools**—Measuring tools (micrometers, vernier calipers, etc.) accurate to 0.025 mm (0.001 in.) for measuring the molds and test specimens conforming to the measuring tool requirements in Test Methods D5947.

## 8. Test Specimen

8.1 The following specimen dimensions are applicable for both compression and injection molding. Orientation effects due to flow direction do not generally pertain to compression molding.

8.1.1 *Specimen Type D2*—For mold shrinkage in both flow and cross flow the preferred specimen shall be 60 by 60 by 2 mm depth conforming to the dimensions of Fig. 2.

8.1.2 *Specimen Type A*—For shrinkage parallel to flow, a bar mold having a cavity of 12.7 by 127 mm shall be used as shown in Fig. 3. The thickness shall be 3.2 mm unless otherwise agreed upon by the seller and the purchaser. The mold shall have at one end a gate 6.4 mm in width by 3.2 mm in depth.

8.1.3 *Specimen Type B*—A disc shaped specimen, as shown in Fig. 4, having a cavity 100 mm in diameter by 3.2 mm in thickness with a gate 12.7 mm in width by 3.2 mm in depth, placed radially at the edge, shall be used.

NOTE 4—Although this specimen may be used to determine mold shrinkage in both the flow and cross flow directions, the filling pattern

does not produce uniform flow lengths and orientation. Consequently, there may be significant differences when measuring the specimen at different points around the circumference. Values would not be expected to be in agreement with those obtained using the specimens described in 8.1.1 and 8.1.2.

## 9. Conditioning

9.1 *Conditioning*—Conditioning of molded specimens shall be done in the Standard Laboratory Atmosphere,  $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  and  $50\% \pm 10 \text{ RH}$ , if not otherwise specified in the appropriate materials standard.

9.2 *Test Conditions*—Conduct measurement in the standard laboratory atmosphere of  $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  and  $50\% \pm 10 \text{ RH}$ , if not otherwise specified in the appropriate materials standard.

## 10. Procedure

10.1 Measure the length and width of the mold cavity at the center of each edge or at the molded scribe marks, to the nearest 0.025 mm at  $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  and  $50\% \pm 10 \text{ RH}$ . Record these values as  $l$  and  $w$ , respectively.

10.2 Mold at least five flat test specimens from the sample to be tested.

NOTE 5—Flat is represented by a specimen with less than 3% warp. Three percent warp is defined as 3 mm depth deflection, positive or negative, per 100 mm in length.

10.2.1 *Thermoplastics Molded by Injection*—Molding of thermoplastic materials shall be conducted in accordance with the appropriate material standard, Practice D3641 or ISO 294-3. The temperature of the heating cylinder and the mold