



Designation: D2344/D2344M – 22

Standard Test Method for Short-Beam Strength of Polymer Matrix Composite Materials and Their Laminates¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D2344/D2344M; 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 U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method determines the short-beam strength of high-modulus fiber-reinforced composite materials. The specimen is a short beam machined from a curved or a flat laminate up to 6.00 mm [0.25 in.] thick. The beam is loaded in three-point bending.

1.2 Application of this test method is limited to continuous- or discontinuous-fiber-reinforced polymer matrix composites, for which the elastic properties are balanced and symmetric with respect to the longitudinal axis of the beam.

1.3 *Units*—The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system are not necessarily exact equivalents; therefore, to ensure conformance with the standard, each system shall be used independently of the other, and values from the two systems shall not be combined.

1.3.1 Within the text, the inch-pound units are shown in brackets.

1.4 *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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D30 on Composite Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D30.04 on Lamina and Laminate Test Methods.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- D792 Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Plastics by Displacement
- D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics
- D2584 Test Method for Ignition Loss of Cured Reinforced Resins
- D2734 Test Methods for Void Content of Reinforced Plastics
- D3171 Test Methods for Constituent Content of Composite Materials
- D3878 Terminology for Composite Materials
- D5229/D5229M Test Method for Moisture Absorption Properties and Equilibrium Conditioning of Polymer Matrix Composite Materials
- D5687/D5687M Guide for Preparation of Flat Composite Panels with Processing Guidelines for Specimen Preparation
- E4 Practices for Force Calibration and Verification of Testing Machines
- E6 Terminology Relating to Methods of Mechanical Testing
- E18 Test Methods for Rockwell Hardness of Metallic Materials
- E122 Practice for Calculating Sample Size to Estimate, With Specified Precision, the Average for a Characteristic of a Lot or Process
- E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods
- E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics
- E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Terminology D3878 defines the terms relating to high-modulus fibers and their composites. Terminology D883 defines terms relating to plastics. Terminology E6 defines terms relating to mechanical testing. Terminology E456 and Practice E177 define terms relating to statistics. In the event of a conflict between definitions, Terminology D3878 shall have precedence over the other documents.

NOTE 1—If the term represents a physical quantity, its analytical dimensions are stated immediately following the term (or letter symbol) in fundamental dimension form, using the following ASTM standard symbology for fundamental dimensions, shown within square brackets: $[M]$ for mass, $[L]$ for length, $[T]$ for time, $[Θ]$ for thermodynamic temperature, and $[nd]$ for nondimensional quantities. Use of these symbols is restricted to analytical dimensions when used with square brackets, as the symbols may have other definitions when used without the brackets.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *short-beam strength, n* —the shear stress as calculated in Eq 1, developed at the specimen mid-plane at the failure event specified in 11.6.

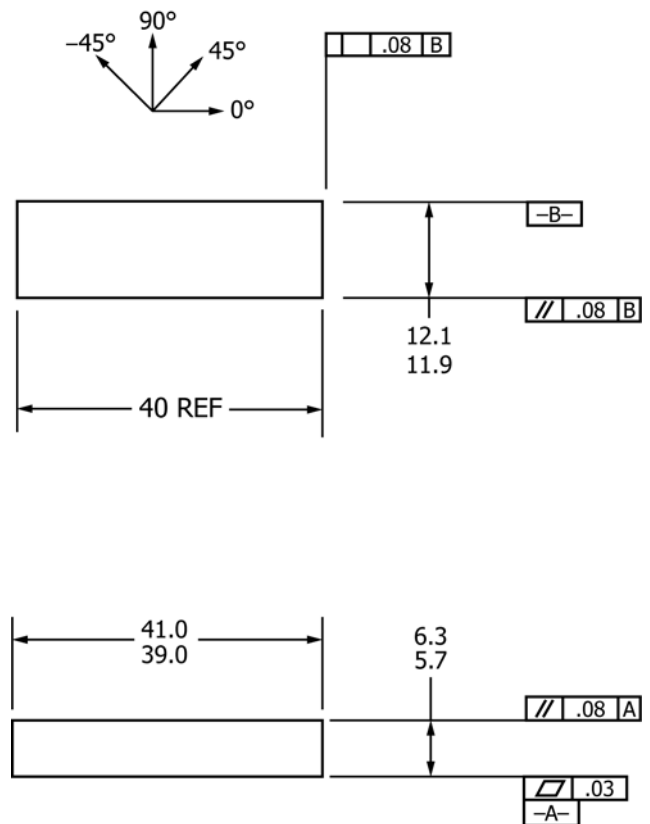
3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—Although shear is the dominant applied loading in this test method, the internal stresses are complex, and a variety of failure modes can occur. Elasticity solutions by Berg et al (1)³, Whitney (2), and Sullivan and Van Oene (3) have all demonstrated inadequacies in classical beam theory in defining the stress state in the short-beam configuration. These solutions show that the parabolic shear-stress distribution as predicted by Eq 1 only occurs, and then not exactly, on planes midway between the loading nose and support points. Away from these planes, the stress distributions become skewed, with peak stresses occurring near the loading nose and support points. Of particular significance is the stress state local to the loading nose in which the severe shear-stress concentration combined with transverse and in-plane compressive stresses has been shown to initiate failure. However, for the more ductile matrices, plastic yielding may alleviate the situation under the loading nose (1) and allow other failure modes to occur such as bottom surface fiber tension (2). Consequently, unless mid-plane interlaminar failure has been clearly observed, the short-beam strength determined from this test method cannot be attributed to a shear property, and the use of Eq 1 will not yield an accurate value for shear strength.

3.3 Symbols:

b —specimen width
 CV —sample coefficient of variation (in percent)
 F^{sbs} —short-beam strength
 h —specimen thickness
 n —number of specimens
 P_m —maximum load observed during the test
 x_i —measured or derived property for an individual specimen from the sample population
 $\bar{x}$ —sample mean (average)

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The short-beam test specimens (Figs. 1-4) are center-loaded as shown in Figs. 5 and 6. The specimen ends rest on



NOTE 1—Drawing interpretation per ANSI Y14.5-1982 and ANSI/ASM B46.1-1986.

NOTE 2—Ply orientation tolerance $\pm 0.5^\circ$ relative to -B-.

FIG. 1 Flat Specimen Configuration (SI)

two supports that allow lateral motion, the load being applied by means of a loading nose directly centered on the midpoint of the test specimen.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 In most cases, because of the complexity of internal stresses and the variety of failure modes that can occur in this specimen, it is not generally possible to relate the short-beam strength to any one material property. However, failures are normally dominated by resin and interlaminar properties, and the test results have been found to be repeatable for a given specimen geometry, material system, and stacking sequence (4).

5.2 Short-beam strength determined by this test method can be used for quality control and process specification purposes. It can also be used for comparative testing of composite materials, provided that failures occur consistently in the same mode (5).

5.3 This test method is not limited to specimens within the range specified in Section 8, but is limited to the use of a loading span length-to-specimen thickness ratio of 4.0 and a minimum specimen thickness of 2.0 mm [0.08 in.].

6. Interferences

6.1 Accurate reporting of observed failure modes is essential for meaningful data interpretation, in particular, the detection of initial damage modes.