

# Performance Assessment of Eco-friendly Brake composites reinforced organic dusts for Typical Characteristics

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## Abstract

Easy to supply and cheap materials like agricultural wastes are now appearing as a candidate materials in the brake pads development with commercial production and environmental consideration. In this study, asbestos-free automotive brake pads produced from walnut shell dusts (WAS) and wollastonite (WOS) with phenolic-resin binder was evaluated. Two non-asbestos friction material samples containing walnut shell dusts and wollastonite jute fibers from biomass as biodegradable components were prepared, also including several from natural resources, such as, basalt fibers, zircon, barite, and vermiculite. The physical, mechanical properties of the brake pad were studied.

**Keywords**—Brake pads, organic dusts, water absorption

## I. Introduction

Organic friction materials are usually used in brakes of small planes, railroad vehicles, trucks and passenger cars. The developing vehicle sector requires a better investigation of the negative impact related to the release of potentially hazardous materials into the environment[1]. The brake pads generally consist of asbestos fibers embedded in polymeric matrix along with several other ingredients. The use of asbestos fibre is been dangerous due to its carcinogenic nature [2,3]. Because of harmful effect of asbestos for brake pads, much of the brake pad industry is moving away from asbestos brake pads [4,5]. The friction materials normally contain multiple ingredients in varying composition, and they are classified as fibres, fillers, binders and property modifiers [6-9]. In recent years, the environmentally hazardous features of some components have been successfully applied in many automotive parts. Opposite to this friction composites, the non-asbestos organic friction composite mainly is being developed, which is partly closer to the environmentally friendly composites [10-16]. Besides environmental benefits of the natural fibers, their cost effectiveness is another focus when compared to the widely used Petroleum-coke and aramid fibers. The purpose of this study is to develop a new asbestos-free brake pad using agricultural waste (walnut shell dusts) and compare it with the other eco-friendly (wollastonite additive) pad. That's why the fabricated brake pads were examined for their physical (density, porosity) and mechanical properties (hardness, shear strength and compressibility).

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## II. Material and Methods

Walnut shell dusts were used during the current study as a friction adjuster material. Walnut dusts were first pulverized, sieved and dried in oven at 100 °C for about 1 h. The granule size of the walnut dusts is approximately 250-400 µ. Wollastonite grain size is 125-250 µ. The type of walnut and its dusts are shown in Fig 1. The composition of eco-friendly friction samples is listed in Table 1. All raw materials were mixed with an industrial mixer for 10 min, followed by molding and hot pressing at 180 °C and 10 MPa for 6 min in a hydraulic press. The pressed brake pads were freely held within an electric furnace which has air-circulation in temperature from 300 °C to 150 °C during 10 hours. After post-curing, the brake pads were finished by polishing them using polisher-grinder with various grinding paper of various sizes to obtain the final products.



Figure 1. The walnut dusts

Water and oil soak test were applied to the pad samples. The brake pads were put in the water and oil for 24 hours. The weights, hardness, thickness of all samples were measured before and after this process as shown Fig.2. The true density of the brake pad materials was determined by weighing the samples on a digital precision balance and measuring their volume by liquid displacement method (Fig. 3).

TABLE I. THE COMPOSITION OF ECO-FRIENDLY PAD SAMPLES

No	Dust Materials	(Compositions) (wt.%)	Dust mesh size (µm)
1	Steel fiber	15-20	125
2	Rock wool	3-6	6-10
3	Kevlar pulp	0.5-2	12
4	Graphite	5-7	45
5	Phenolic Resin	6-8	63
6	Vermiculite	6-8	500
7	Brass	4-6	50-100
8	Calcium hydroxide	7-9	40

9	Zirconium Silicate	3-5	10
10	Metal Sulfide	0.5-1	45
11	Iron oxide (Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> )	1-3	0.2
12	Rubber scrap	4-6	50
13	Barytes	6-8	55
14	Rubber (NBR)	2-4	50
15	Petrocoke	3-5	125
16	Chalcopyrite(CuFeS)	4-7	50
17	Mica+silica	4-5	50-100
18	Walnut dusts (WAS)	7	250-400
19	Wollastonite (WOS)	4.5	125-200

### III. Result and Discussions

#### a. Physical, chemical and mechanical properties of the friction composites

The results of physical, chemical and mechanical properties of the brake friction composites are shown in Table 2.

TABLE I. THE TEST RESULTS

Typical characteristics	WAS	WOS
Hardness (Shore D)	90	89
Hardness (After water absorption)	84	86
Water absorption (%)	0.43	0.37
Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	2.232	2.028
Compressibility (μ)	187	146
Shearing test (N)	773.4	773.1



(a) Weight

(b) Hardness



(c) Thickness

Figure 2. The measurement of the friction composites



Figure 3. The density measurement of the friction composites

The compression test was conducted on a special design (Kale Balata Pad factory) during 3 seconds, strength testing machine of 160 bar capacity. Shear strength for the qualification of brake pad integrity along the force was measured on a new design testing machine from Kale Balata Factory. The test were applied according to ISO 6310 [17] and 6312 standards [18].

The hardness values were obtained as 90 and 89 Shore D for walnut and wollastonite samples, respectively. After the 24 hours water absorption, the hardness values for both friction samples were decreased. As can be understood from this, the brake composites absorb water into its body [3]. It is also seen from this, wood based WAS more tendency to absorption compared nonorganic WOS material. That is why reason for the walnut dusts absorbs to water more than wollastonite dusts. On the other hand, the density of the WAS samples are higher than that of the WOS samples. The water absorption values for these pads were compared with other materials from some researches indicated an acceptable result with the findings of other researchers [19]. In addition, density values were obtained are within the recommended results for brake pad application [20]. Shear strength has been obtained approximately the same values for two samples which are 773 N. The results are in the acceptable value range according to ISO 6312 standard. Compressibility test results are for the WAS sample 187 μ and for the WOS sample 146μ. The high value means the hardness is low. If the pads compress more, its hardness is low. The compressibility of samples with walnut dust is higher than that samples with wollastonite dust whereas the hardness of WAS sample is lower than that of WOS sample.

The microstructure of brake friction composites as shown in Fig.4 is observed using a digital metallurgical microscope (50Xmagnification). From this, it can be seen that the friction dusts consisting brake friction composites have distributed as homogeneous within the matrix. As can also be seen in general from this figures that the gray regions are matrix (fillers and binders), some of bright regions likes needle are reinforcement (steel fiber) and the others are friction modifiers and abrasives. Also, there are micro-voids on the surfaces of almost all samples. Micro-voids consist of the metallic particles and organic dusts.



Figure 4. Optical micrographs of the brake friction composites

From the results and discussion in this work the following conclusions can be made:

- Walnut shell dusts can be used successfully brake friction composites manufacturing, using a compressive molding.
- It can be seen from results that there is direct relation between the brake friction samples hardness and water absorption.
- The WAS samples has a density value bigger than the WOS samples.
- The important change between the values of shearing strength on the samples of the WOS and WAS is not observed.
- Compressibility test results are for the WAS sample 187  $\mu$  and for the WOS sample 146 $\mu$  because WAS samples are compress more than the WOS samples.
- Finally, the whole results obtained from brake friction composites are within the acceptable range according to international standards.

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

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