The ZwickRoell Group

Testing Applications for Fiber-Reinforced Composites

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Standards Overview

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ZwickRoell — Passion and expertise

Our company philosophy is founded on a passionate commitment to our customers. We work hard to ensure customer satisfaction by having over a third of our employees engaged in service and support.

As a family-owned company with a tradition dating back 150 years, we place great value on honesty and fairness. Over the years an ethos of close collaboration based on mutual trust between our partners, suppliers and customers has evolved, something that we all value highly.

Global Loops statue at the ZwickRoell headquarters in Ulm, Germany

The foundation for a successful partnership: innovative employees as well as innovative products

Always at your service
Over 1100 people are employed at our headquarters in Ulm, Germany. Many of them have been with us for years — decades even. Their knowledge, ability and commitment are what lies behind the global success of the ZwickRoell Group.

We are present in over 50 countries around the world.

The right solutions
Whether for static materials testing or the various forms of fatigue testing — we have the right solutions. We offer products for hardness testing as well as instruments for impact testing and for melt index determination.

And for that rare occasion where we don’t have a ready-made solution to suit your needs, our experts will find the right solution for you, from the smallest adaptation to a fully automated testing system or a test stand for special purposes.
ZwickRoell — your partner for composites testing

System-based testing solutions
Over the last few years, experience and commitment have enabled ZwickRoell to develop the most comprehensive composites testing system worldwide. Despite the complexity involved, the modular design of the test equipment combines ease of operation with a wide range of reconfiguration options for different types of tests. This allows you to attain reliable test results and perfectly accurate measurements that you can trust.

Another benefit of the modularity: our testing machines can be easily retrofitted for new test types for years to come.

Experts and standards
ZwickRoell has around 100 employees engaged in developing testing machines, instruments and software packages in line with the requirements of modern standards.

Specialists in our Applications Testing Laboratories test new products and perform testing services for our customers to help validate the suitability for the required test types.

Through the participation of approximately ten employees in various standards committees, including those relating to testing machines, aerospace, plastics and fiber-reinforced composites, ZwickRoell is closely involved in the development of standards at both the national and international level.

Product quality
Our testing machines used to test brittle materials are subject to stringent requirements with regard to quality of the drive and guide components, their axiality, absence of play and, in the case of compression tests also their stiffness. We meet these requirements by using high quality standard components, by making careful materials selections and by implementing well-thought-out design principles.

Modern production methods, experienced employees
Our testing machines are produced using the latest manufacturing methods in a 7000 m² production area at the ZwickRoell headquarters in Ulm, Germany. Modern machinery plus assembly by a competent, highly experienced workforce ensures consistent high quality. Many of our employees have been with the company for years, with some being second or third generations at ZwickRoell.

Calibration and alignment - a lot depends on it
Before being delivered, all test equipment is calibrated by ZwickRoell according to current ISO standards. This ensures that all sensors measure correctly. For testing machines that are used for testing of brittle materials such as unidirectional fiber reinforced composites, ceramics or brittle metals, an alignment measurement and adjustment can be performed.

Fig. 1: ZwickRoell products characterize composite materials in all normal and shear directions.

Fig. 2: ZwickRoell products meet all current standards.
Testing of fiber-reinforced composites

Fiber-reinforced composites exhibit orthotropic behavior and substantial elasticity in their range of use. Therefore, measurement of the stress-strain behavior in all normal and shear directions is common.

Standardization has developed a series of methods that characterize composite materials under a wide variety of load conditions.

Performing these tests requires precise tools and exact force application with excellent alignment, achieved by means of special alignment fixtures.

Fig. 1: ZwickRoell offers the ideal machine configuration for every test. Two test areas, one on top of the other, or the option of additional side test areas eliminate the need for modifications.
Tensile testing on fibers and filament strands

Tensile tests on unidirectionally reinforced materials, such as pultruded rods or resin coated filament bundles require a great deal of experience in the selection of the suitable specimen grips.

In many cases the specimen must be protected with cap strips to avoid premature fiber breakage in the gripping area. However, there are solutions that eliminate the need for the cap strips and the cost and effort involved in the associated specimen preparation, leading to a true improvement in efficiency.

ZwickRoell offers a very wide selection of specimen grips and jaw inserts. Pre-testing is performed on customer specimens in ZwickRoell's Applications Testing Laboratory to determine the optimal machine configuration.

![Figure 1: Pultruded GFRP round specimen, gripped without cap strips. Right: Valid fiber breakage in the range of the free grip-to-grip separation through soft gripping force application.](image1)

![Figure 2: TestXpert III ensures the correct test sequence — fully automated.](image2)

![Figure 3: Individual filaments are gripped inside paper frames.](image3)

![Figure 4: Testing of resin coated carbon fiber filament strand.](image4)
Tensile tests and notch tensile tests on laminates

Tensile tests on unidirectional laminates require perfect alignment of the testing machine, suitable specimen grips and accurate extension measurement.

Multi-directional laminates are often tested with larger specimen cross sections. Because of their progressive damage behavior they are less alignment-sensitive.

ZwickRoell offers solutions for many different requirements: simple mechanical wedge grips, as well as flexible wedge screw and hydraulic grips with connection system for compression, flexure and shear devices.

For determination of the specimen extension, strain gauges, clip-on extensometers and convenient, as well as damage-resistant mechanical and optical extensometers are available.

Fig. 1: For testing of laminates, centrally closing wedge grips, side adjustable wedge screw grips, as well as hydraulic, parallel closing body-over-wedge grips with a wide selection of jaws, are available.

Fig. 2: Tensile tests are performed in fiber direction (0°), perpendicular (90°) or for multidirectional laminates. For multidirectional laminates, open-hole-tension (OHT) and filled-hole-tension (FHT) are common as well.
Compression tests, OHC, FHC

Various types of compression tests, each with its own specific fixture, have been developed over the last five decades.

These fixtures are usually distinguished by the type of compression loading employed.

End loading between two compression platens is simplest as far as the fixture is concerned, but it requires a high level of accuracy in machining the specimen ends. The method delivers reliable compression modulus values, but often results in premature failure and therefore in low measured compressive strengths.

Force application through clamping (shear loading) is ideal for the measurement of higher strengths. Older ASTM standards defined the Celanese compression fixture, which was very sensitive to variations in specimen thickness. The EN standard solved this problem by using flat wedges in place of cones in the grips.

The HCCF manufactured by ZwickRoell represents a significant improvement. The parallel hydraulic gripping principle prevents jaw movements during the test, resulting in a higher proportion of valid tests. The HCCF can be used for shear loading at lower forces and in combined shear/end loading for high forces. It is also suitable for open and filled hole compression tests (OHC, FHC) to the Airbus standard.

Alignment errors, which are most often caused by specimen preparation, are visible before the actual load application and can be corrected.

In 2011 the HCCF was approved by Airbus for tests to AITM 1.0008.
Open hole compression (OHC) and filled hole compression (FHC) tests to ASTM and Boeing standards are carried out on long specimens using anti-buckling supports.

ZwickRoell offers reliable strain measurement via strain gauges, as well as double-sided clip-on extensometers, which are perfectly guided between the HCCF clamping jaws.

Fig. 1: Significantly improved bending and reduced measured value scatter with the HCCF.

Fig. 2: The HCCF is also suitable for OHC and FHC.

Fig. 3: The HCCF, Hydraulic Composites Compression Fixture, is used for shear loading and combined loading compression tests.

Fig. 4: testXpert III stress-strain diagram with monitoring of relative bending.

Fig. 5: OHC and FHC compression tests to ASTM require an anti-buckling support, which is used for shear loading with hydraulic specimen grips, and with end loading between compression platens.

Fig. 6: Various standards allow for the use of clip-on extensometers.
Compression after impact (CAI)

For a CAI test the compressive residual strength of a laminate after impact damage is determined. With this test, conclusions are drawn about the damage tolerance of a multidirectional composite laminate.

The instrumented drop weight tester HIT 230F with its adjustable drop height up to 1 m and the integrated speed measurement on the point of impact is in exact agreement with the requirements for pre-damaging of CAI specimens.

The modular weight set allows for accurate setting of the damage energy. A special setup avoids multiple impacts. The impactor (16 mm diameter) is instrumented and generates a force-travel diagram through the convenient testXpert III testing software, which provides indications of the damage progression.

In the subsequent compression test, the compressive residual force is determined. For ISO, EN and Airbus standards the specimen is gripped at the top and the bottom in the compression fixture, while for ASTM, DIN and Boeing standards it is only guided.

Strain gauges are applied to monitor bending and buckling.
In-plane shear (IPS), ± 45° tensile test

In this shear test, the fiber direction is ± 45° to the tensile axis of the specimen.

In a tensile test the fibers can slide against each other, causing deformation of the matrix.

The shear strain is determined from the longitudinal and transverse strain of the specimen. For this, ZwickRoell offers several solutions:

- Measurement with two strain gauges
- Measurement with biaxial clip-on extensometer
- Measurement with automatic makroXtens extensometer and additional transverse strain extensometer
- Measurement with biaxial videoextensometer

testXpert III displays the shear stress/shear strain curve according to the standard and calculates characteristic values including shear modulus ($G_{12}$) and shear strength ($\tau_{12M}$).

Fig. 1: The shear modulus is determined between two shear strains, e.g. 0.1 % and 0.5 % to ISO 14129 or 0.05 % and 0.25 % to prEN 6031 and AITM.

Fig. 2: The ± 45° laminate structure allows for the measurement of shear properties.

Fig. 3: Measurement of shear strain with strain gauges.

Fig. 4: Measurement of shear strain with biaxial clip-on extensometer.

Fig. 5: Measurement of shear strain in two planes with the makroXtens.

Shear stress in MPa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shear strain</th>
<th>Shear stress in MPa</th>
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<tr>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Shear stress (G_{12}): 4400 MPa
- Shear strength (\tau_{12M}): 86.5 MPa
- Tensile force at failure (F_m): 4790 N
- Specimen thickness (h): 1.09 mm
- Specimen width (b): 25.41 mm
V-notch shear test

With the V-notch shear test, shear properties of laminates made of unidirectional fiber composites, woven or braided fabrics can be determined.

There are two methods that are differentiated based on the size of the specimen and the type of load application. For the V-notch shear test to ASTM D7078 the specimen for the evaluation of coarser fiber architectures is larger and is gripped on the specimen surface. For the Iosipescu method to ASTM D5379 the load is introduced by clamping the specimen edges. The notch ensures concentration of the shear stresses in the smallest cross section.

Shear strain is measured in this shear plane, for example using strain gauges with short grid lengths.

A fixture with manual gripping via screws is available for the V-notch method to ASTM D7078.

The Iosipescu method includes axial guidance of the specimen holders, providing a shear plane virtually free of bending moments.

The double guide on one part of the fixture facilitates the installation of the specimen and prevents an out-of-plane deformation of the specimen during the test.

Fig. 1: Iosipescu method for the V-notch shear test. testXpert III provides accurate determination of shear stresses, shear strain and individual characteristic values.

Fig. 2: V-notch shear fixtures to ASTM D7078 with manual clamping (left) and stops for specimen alignment (right)
Rail shear method

ASTM provides additional methods for in-plane shear testing on unidirectional laminates and wovens, for which the test plates are mounted on rails.

The measurement values include shear stress and strength, shear strain, which is determined with strain gauges, as well as the shear modulus.

Shearing through overlapping (lap-shear)

This test method is commonly used for measurement comparison of the shear strength of adhesions or between laminate planes.

With the use of a high-resolution extensometer, the shear strain can also be measured if the adhesive layer thickness is known.

Correct test results are achieved with exact alignment of the specimen grips, which operate mechanically, pneumatically or hydraulically. Side adjustment of the jaws is required for simple single lap specimens.

Fig. 1: Rail shear method to ASTM D4255, two-rail shear in tensile test (left), three-rail shear in tensile or compression test (right)

Fig. 2: Shear tests through overlapping are performed with single or double lap shear specimens, in simple or slotted version.

Fig. 3: For testing of simple single lap shear specimens (left), the specimen grip must have a side adjustment; right: slotted specimen.
Interlaminar shear strength (ILSS) using the short-beam shear method (SBS)

In this test the distance of the supports in relation to the specimen thickness is small. As a result the specimen is subjected to a shear load and broken.

The ILSS test fixture is intended for use in a wide temperature range.

Supports and dies can be set at an exact parallel. A lateral support bracket ensures exact maintenance in the center position.

Measurement surfaces on the inner sides of the supports allow for exact monitoring of the support span.

Various adjustment gauges and lead screw settings, as well as a height setting of the upper anvil are available for testing of varying specimen thicknesses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Die Radius, R</th>
<th>Support Radius, r</th>
<th>Span, L</th>
<th>Centering Accuracy</th>
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<tr>
<td>ISO 14130</td>
<td>6 mm</td>
<td>2 mm</td>
<td>5 h ± 0,3 mm</td>
<td>± 0,3 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTM D 3544</td>
<td>3 mm</td>
<td>1,5 mm</td>
<td>4 h ± 0,3 mm</td>
<td>± 0,3 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN 2377</td>
<td>3 ... 5 mm</td>
<td>2 ... 3 mm</td>
<td>5 h ± 0,1 mm</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN 2563</td>
<td>3 mm</td>
<td>3 mm</td>
<td>5 h ± 0,1 mm</td>
<td>± 0,02 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAIG method 100</td>
<td>3 mm</td>
<td>3 mm</td>
<td>4 h ± 0,5 mm</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

h = specimen thickness

Fig. 1: Support and die are exactly parallel. Centering stops make operation easy.

Fig. 2: ILSS fixture: A laterally guided upper anvil ensures exact central force application on the specimen. The support span is set manually or through centered lead screw adjustment.

Fig. 3: Standard 10 mm adjustment gauge for exact alignment

Fig. 4: Adjustment gauge with variable support span

Fig. 5: Attachment of a temperature sensor close to the specimen
Flexure tests

Three-point and 4-point flexure tests are performed with support spans of 16 to 40 times the specimen thickness. This keeps the shear portion sufficiently low.

The measured flexure moduli and strengths are strongly influenced by the laminate structure and therefore do not correlate with the measured tensile properties.

Deflections are generally determined using a displacement transducer placed at the mid-span below the specimen.

However, ZwickRoell testing machines are additionally equipped with a highly accurate deformation compensation system, which in the case of 3-point flexure tests often allows for a sufficiently accurate deflection measurement with the integrated crosshead travel monitor.

The flexure test kits can be used over a wide temperature range, between -80 °C and +250 °C.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Specimen Thickness, h</th>
<th>Die Radius, R</th>
<th>Support Radius, r</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISO 14125</td>
<td>3-point</td>
<td>≤ 3 mm</td>
<td>5 mm</td>
<td>2 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO 14125</td>
<td>4-point</td>
<td>&gt; 3 mm</td>
<td>5 mm</td>
<td>5 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTM D 7264</td>
<td>3-point</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5 mm</td>
<td>5 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN 2562</td>
<td>3-point</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12.5 mm</td>
<td>5 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN 2746</td>
<td>3-point</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5 mm</td>
<td>2 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 1: Exact positioning of the specimen with the use of stops

Fig. 2: 3-point flexure test with indirect displacement measurement via crosshead travel

Fig. 3: Die and supports are clamped under load and aligned with the adjustment gauge.

Fig. 4: 4-point flexure test with direct displacement measurement

Fig. 5: Adjustment gauge for the 4-point flexure test arrangement
**Interlaminar energy release rate (G)**

When measuring the critical energy release rate ($G_c$) the energy per crack area required to propagate a crack by a known path is determined.

Mode I — crack opening — is usually measured in a DCB (double cantilever beam) arrangement and is described in many standards.

Mode II — in-plane shear — is frequently measured by the ENF (end notch flexure) method, using a 3-point or, less commonly, 4-point flexure method. The ISO standard applies the C-ELS (calibrated end loaded split) method. Less common is the TCT (transverse crack tension) method.

The mixed mode I/II bending (MMB) method allows for the setting of defined mode proportions and simulates the superimposed loads, which occur frequently in practice.
Pin-bearing strength and bearing response

Evaluation of the load bearing capacity of pin or bolted joints is part of many standards and quality assurance instructions.

The choice of test arrangement is based on the anticipated loading situation. This can be designed with single lap or double lap shear configurations and refer to a single bolted joint or double screw connection with the corresponding bypass forces that occur.

Furthermore, the methods differ with regard to the type of connection, which may be a loose support with a known gap between the specimen and the holding platform, or as a screw connection with known tightening torque.

For measurement of the bearing response an extensometer is attached to the retaining plate and the specimen.

The tests are mostly performed in the tensile direction, and less often also as compression tests.

Ready-to-use testXpert III Standard Test Programs ensure exact standard compliance.

Fig. 1: Method for measurement of pin-bearing strength and bearing response with direct and bypass loading

Fig. 2: Test tools for measurement of pin-bearing strength and bearing response
Electromechanical testing machines

zwickiLine
These high-quality, easy to operate single-column load frames were designed for mechanical tests with test loads up to 5 kN.

In composites testing laboratories they are often used as an auxiliary machine for larger load frames to avoid having to reconfigure the latter for tests such as flexure, shear and $G_c$, $G_{ic}$ tests.

ProLine series for standard test tasks
Many standard types of tests involving tensile, compression, shear or peel loads do not require expensive sensor equipment. In such cases a ProLine testing machine may be the optimal choice.

Table-top models — AllroundLine
Various table-top models are available for standard tests in a force range up to 150 kN. They are equipped with two columns constructed of patented extruded aluminum profiles.

They are light, flexurally stiff and function as both lead screw guide and guard. The AllroundLine table-top models can be provided with support legs to enable the test area to be positioned at the optimum height for the operator or the application. This allows for the machine to be operated conveniently from a seated position with completely free leg space, making the system well suited for operation by wheelchair users.
Floor-standing models — AllroundLine
Floor-standing models with electro-mechanical drives are available in a load range from 100 kN to 1200 kN and are used for tests on material specimens or structural components. Test types include tensile, compression and flexure tests, shear tests and torsion tests.

Extremely stiff load frame construction with two or four guide columns ensures optimum conditions for accurate alignment of the test axes. The load frames can be equipped with one or more test areas. Models with side test areas minimize the re-configuration efforts, since the tools for different test types stay in the machine.

For components testing the lower crosshead can be supplied as a mounting platform. For torsion tests the load frame is equipped with a torsion drive with testControl II and corresponding sensors. The AllroundLine floor-standing models therefore form a high-quality and flexible testing system for testing of composite materials.

testControl II — measurement and control electronics
testControl II is “Made by ZwickRoell” and optimally equipped for the requirements of composite materials testing. The measured values from the sensors are scanned at a rate of 400 kHz and then further processed at 2000 Hz. Combined with 24 bit signal resolution, this achieves optimal signal quality over the entire speed range.
High-capacity machines

The high laminate strength of fiber composites requires specimens that are adapted in regards to their dimensions. Very high forces are especially prominent in tensile, compression and CAI tests.

Electromechanical high-capacity machines of the Allround series with nominal loads between 300 kN and 1200 kN allow for testing with high, but also very low forces. The modular fixture arrangement makes it easy and convenient to switch tools for the various test types.

Temperature chambers that can be moved out allow for testing in a wide range of temperatures.

A safety housing with an electrically interlocked safety door ensures the safety of the operator.

Exact alignment of the load string is ensured with the use of an alignment fixture.
Temperature chambers

Temperature chambers that can be conveniently driven into the test area on a guide rail are used for testing at both low and high temperatures. ZwickRoell temperature chambers provide the highest level of integration with the testing system and therefore ensure safe and reliable operation.

- Best temperature accuracy and distribution
- Temperature measurement near specimen and exact control
- Easy insertion of the specimen with the innovative door-in-door technology
- Time savings through preconditioning of the specimen in an interim magazine
- Exact positioning of the specimen with mechanical insertion aids
- Optional side slots or panes with optical glass for the use of side mounted mechanical or non-contact extensometers
- Cable ducts for clip-on extensometers
- Front door with electrical interlocking and safety door function
- Full integration with testXpert III for temperature control, variable fan speed, recording of the temperature during the test and switching on the internal lighting.

Fig. 1: The temperature chamber system is fully integrated in the testing machine. It provides a number of benefits that make the test safe and efficient.
A modular concept for testing in temperature chambers

In aerospace applications, composites are routinely subjected to outside air temperatures of -55 °C, more than +200 °C in the area of the exhaust stream, and even higher temperatures in the engines.

To reproduce these conditions during testing, temperature conditioning devices are available, which can be moved into the test area of the load frame on guide rails. The tools for the different tests can be connected to the existing hydraulic grips via mechanical adapters.

Variable load frames

The available installation area is optimized at the lowest possible load frame height. Rigid flange connection with the specimen grips ensure good lateral stability, also allowing for compression tests at higher loads. Provision is made for optional installation of an alignment fixture to ensure exact straightening of the test axis for alignment-sensitive tests.
21 types of tests, 115 standards

The modular testing system covers all the important standard tests for fiber-reinforced composites:

- Tensile tests
- Notch tensile tests, OHT and FHT
- In-plane shear tests, IPS
- Interlaminar shear strength test, ILSS
- Compression tests, CAI compression tests
- Notched compression tests, OHC and FHC
- V-notch shear tests
- Bearing response tests

Additional tests at ambient temperature

Withdrawing the temperature chamber allows for additional tests requiring a smaller load cell:

- Three-point and four-point flexure tests
- Measurement of energy release rates $G_{IC}$ and $G_{IL}$

This modular system is available for electromechanical testing machines with load stages 100 kN, 250 kN and 600 kN, as well as for different servohydraulic testing machines for fatigue tests.
Fatigue testing machines

For dynamic cyclic testing of composites, testing machines with different drive systems are used.

LTM testing machines with linear motor technology are manufactured in nominal load stages of 1 kN, 2 kN, 3 kN, 5 kN and 10 kN. The core piece is the patented electrodynamic drive specifically developed for testing technology. It allows for test frequencies up to 100 Hz and is able to exactly and reproducibly perform a wide variety of function sequences such as sinusoidal, triangular, rectangular and trapezoidal functions, as well as follow-up tests. The strongest feature of this drive is precise test performance at low operation and service costs. For operation of the LTM only a suitable power supply is required.

Servohydraulic testing machines are used for dynamic cyclic tests as well as static tests. The standard frequency range reaches up to 100 Hz, at forces up to 2500 kN. Common load frames are manufactured with nominal load stages of 10 kN, 25 kN, 100 kN, 250 kN and 500 kN. The hydraulic power is either supplied by a power pack on the testing machine, or from a central hydraulic system. The compact series machines use an integrated low-noise power pack and allow for space-optimized operation in laboratories without central hydraulics. Both types of machine are equipped with force and piston displacement transducers and can be expanded with additional sensors, temperature chambers and safety devices, as well as various cooling principles.
Qualification of new composite systems requires a comprehensive testing campaign. ZwickRoell is a specialist for automation in testing technology and provides proven systems with exceptional features.

**roboTest L—automation**
This automated system operates with pneumatic vacuum grippers or claw grips. Up to 450 specimens are placed on a table in stacks or magazine compartments. The specimen cross-section can be measured during the automated sequence, and an integrated barcode reader system is available for specimen identification.

**roboTest R—automation**
This automated system is very useful if several testing machines are integrated into a system, for applications in a temperature conditioning device and for tests that require special specimen handling.

**Advantages:**
- Reliable test results: **Accurate**—because all sensors are precisely calibrated
- **Repeatable**—because automation ensures that all processes are carried out exactly the same way
- **Reproducible**—because the test sequences follow standard requirements accurately, without deviations among operators
- **Traceable**—because everything is logged in detail
- Expanded capacity through unmanned testing overnight or on weekends
- Sorting of specimen remains
- Documentation of failure types

Fig. 1: Fully automated testing system with two load frames for tensile, OHT, FHT, IPS, lap shear, ILSS, bearing response and flexure tests over a wide temperature range

Fig. 2: roboTest L automation

Fig. 3: roboTest R automation
The main area of application for drop weight testers in fiber composites testing is pre-damaging of test specimens for the compression after impact (CAI) test, for example to ISO 18352, Airbus AITM 1.0010, Boeing BSS 7260, ASTM D7136, EN 6038 or DIN 65561.

ZwickRoell offers three drop weight tester types with different application emphasis:

**HIT 230 F**
Instrumented drop weight tester for CAI and puncture tests up to 4.43 m/s and a potential energy up to 230 J

**HIT 600 F**
Instrumented drop weight tester with acceleration unit for CAI and puncture tests up to 8 m/s and a potential energy up to 600 J

**HIT 1100F and HIT 2000F**
Universal drop weight testers for instrumented standard and components testing up to 19 m/s and 2000 J

Key features:
- Easy and reliable operation
- Easy accessibility
- Variable damage energy setting
- Accurate measurement of damage progression with integrated instrumentation
- Reliable prevention of multiple impacts
- Monitoring of the actual impact speed

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**Fig. 1:** The instrumented HIT 230F drop weight tester is used for pre-damaging of test panels for CAI testing. The force travel diagram shows the damage progression.

**Fig. 2:** Drop weight tester Amsler HIT600F
Load cells
Load cells must satisfy the highest quality requirements.

The basis for this is a calibration to ISO 7500-1 or ASTM E4. This calibration is performed as a factory calibration, and can be repeated by our service technicians as a DAkkS, COFRAC or NAMAS calibration after the testing equipment has been commissioned. This way you can always rely on your testing machine.

But ZwickRoell load cells can do much more:
Automatic identification with integrated zero-point and sensitivity adjustment ensure that any load cell can be used with any testing machine without the need for a new calibration.

Temperature compensation makes measuring largely independent of the actual ambient temperature.

This all takes place over a very wide measuring range in which measurements are performed to accuracy class 0.5 or 1.

Xforce HP and Xforce K series load cells reach accuracy class 1, starting at 0.1% of the nominal load.
testXpert III testing software

Intuitive and workflow-based from the very start.

testXpert III is the result of close cooperation with software users in the materials testing industry and the experience of over 35,000 successful testXpert installations. From the very start, users can easily and intuitively navigate testXpert III. Meaningful icons and clear visual connections help the user, and reduce the number of mouse clicks required.

A workflow aligned to your operating processes

The software guides you through the various stages of a test, from preparing and running the test to analyzing results.

- Set up testing system—configure all machine-related settings for your testing application.
- Configure test—set all test-related parameters, such as selecting results with the intelligent wizard.
- Run test—experience fast and easy navigation through the entire test sequence.
- View results—verify all test data, also in secure mode.

Intelligent user management means you can define different user roles or adopt user roles defined in the Windows accounts with LDAP. The user can focus on the task at hand right from the start and avoid input errors. testXpert III is workflow-based throughout, keeping training time to a minimum and enabling efficient, reliable testing.

System Configuration Builder—a unique software concept

System Configuration Builder allows you to preset and save all relevant testing system and safety settings such as crosshead position, distance between fixtures, or sensor
configuration in a freely definable system configuration. The saved system configuration checks the connected sensors. The test can only be started when the parameters match the preset requirements. This ensures exactly reproducible test conditions.

**Tamper-proof test results**
testXpert III logs all testing system and system settings, ensuring traceable results. The traceability offered by testXpert III means you always have answers to the question: “When does who do what, why and who is responsible?”

testXpert III guarantees reliable test results and maximum security for users and the testing system.

**Reliable import and export**
testXpert III can communicate directly with any IT system. All test-related data is imported quickly and directly from ERP systems, databases or directly from external devices. Data can easily be exported to all your usual evaluation/analysis platforms.

**Standard-compliant testing**
testXpert III offers over 600 prepared Standard Test Programs, preconfigured to test standard requirements and with integrated results tables and statistics. You can begin standard-compliant testing immediately. testXpert III will take care of the rest.
Precise strain and extension measurement

Strain gauges are still widely used in the field of fiber-reinforced composites. They can be attached directly to the specimen or act as the measuring element in a clip-on extensometer.

The measurement signals are acquired precisely, directly and synchronously by ZwickRoell’s test-Control II measurement electronics.

Alternatively, measurement amplifiers by HBM, e.g. the MGC or QuantumX are available, which are fully integrated in the ZwickRoell environment in testXpert III.

Fig. 1: The biaxial clip-on extensometer can be used at both high and low temperatures.

Fig. 2: Strain gauges are applied directly to the specimen.

Fig. 3: HBM measurement amplifiers are supported by testXpert III.

Fig. 4: Direct connection of the strain gauges to testControl II via a ready-configured control box.

Fig. 5: Clip-on axial extensometer

Fig. 6: Clip-on transverse strain extensometer
Automatic extension measurement with makroXtens

Automatic extensometers using a mechanical or optical measuring principle simplify test preparation and performance.

The makroXtens employs mechanical measurement and is used for many types of tests. With a high measurement value resolution of up to 0.006 µm it satisfies the additional requirements for modulus measurement in tensile tests to ISO 527-1. Its swiveling knife edges provide reliable protection up to specimen break.
Non-contact extension measurement with videoXtens

ZwickRoell is a leader in non-contact measurement. While the videoXtens HP tracks the displacement of gauge marks via image analysis, the natural pattern on the specimen surface is enough for the videoXtens biax HP for opaque fiber-reinforced composites, to determine longitudinal and transverse strain without the need for additional markings.

The videoXtens HP and the videoXtens biax HP are ideal for tensile, in-plane shear (IPS) and flexure tests and can be used at ambient temperature, as well as the entire temperature range of the temperature chamber.

Both instruments meet the strict requirements on strain measurement for determination of the Young’s modulus to ISO 527-1 Annex C.

With an additional camera for transverse strain measurement, material characteristics such as Poisson’s ratio and shear modulus can be determined with very high accuracy, using the videoXtens biax HP.

Through non-contact measurement the possibility of damage to the videoXtens, even at very high energy failure modes, is eliminated. The strain measurement can therefore be carried out until specimen break.

Fig. 1: Non-contact strain measurement with videoXtens biax HP (left) using the natural pattern of the specimen surface (center) or with the use of gauge marks (right)

Fig. 2: Strain measurement without the use of gauge marks using the videoXtens HP in a in-plane shear (IPS) test. Natural surface pattern of the unidirectional CFRP material IPS specimen (left), shear stress/shear strain curve (center), determined longitudinal and transverse strain (right).

Fig. 3: Non-contact strain measurement with videoXtens HP using gauge marks
Exact alignment of the testing machine

Testing machine alignment errors lead to the introduction of non-axial specimen deformations. Especially in the case of unidirectional reinforced composite materials this can have significant influence on the test results.

ZwickRoell testing machines are precision manufactured, with guide components that satisfy the strictest quality requirements.

Exact axial alignment of specimen grips for alignment-sensitive fiber-reinforced composites, and elimination of angular errors is achieved by accurate adjustment performed by means of an alignment fixture.

The result of these adjustments is checked with a precision alignment gauge, which satisfies the requirements of ASTM E1012, ISO 23788, and for the aerospace industry the Nadcap Audit Criteria AC7122.

ZwickRoell supplies the necessary adjustment and measurement equipment, as well as alignment measurement as a service provided by experienced and well trained service technicians.

Alignment errors lead to elevated outer fiber strain and therefore to apparently lower resistance through premature specimen failure.

Fig. 2: Typical alignment errors: angle error (left), concentric offset error (right)

Fig. 1: Testing machine alignment and verification by a ZwickRoell technician using alignment in accordance with Nadcap AC 7122
Services

Laboratory for Materials and Components Testing

For companies with a testing requirement but no suitable testing option, ZwickRoell’s Laboratory for Materials and Components Testing is ready to provide expert assistance.

We can also help out in the event of capacity bottlenecks or perform cross-validation tests. It makes no difference whether just a single test is involved or entire test series. With the latest technology and modern testing machines, we guarantee fast, standard-compliant testing. Naturally we can also perform tests in accordance with factory standards.

Our Laboratories for Materials and Components Testing perform testing services of all kinds, on all static and dynamic materials testing machines. Hardness and extrusion tests, and torsion and temperature tests can be performed as well.

Our testing is individually tailored for a wide range of components and materials, whether metals, plastics, composites, rubber, or other — you’re in good hands with us.

Contact:
Tel. +49 7305 10-11440
contract-testing@zwickroell.com
Application technology

Our technical field consultants and experienced application engineers are here to provide you with expert consultation. Our qualified engineers will draw on their solid expertise to provide support during the planning and implementation of all or any testing applications.

Our Applications Testing Laboratories are equipped with permanent materials testing machine displays and instruments, including a comprehensive portfolio of accessories such as specimen grips, test fixtures, sensors, and temperature chambers.

Overview of services

Our service technicians guarantee successful and easy commissioning — from installation to initial calibration to any training instructions.

Customer support

The ZwickRoell Hotline is always available to support customers with questions regarding troubleshooting hardware and software.

Inspection and calibration

Naturally, we will also carry out the required annual inspection and calibration. Our checklist-based inspections and calibrations provide a sound basis for reliable test results. They also extend the life of your materials testing machines and instruments, saving operating costs in the long term.

Fig. 1: Experienced application engineers will advise you on individually tailored testing options

Fig. 2: ZwickRoell operates a DAkkS-accredited calibration laboratory. With over 10,000 calibrations performed annually, this is the largest calibration laboratory in Germany.
Software services
Once you have purchased your testing software we are ready to provide additional software services upon your request — software trials, updates, customizations, training — whatever you need.

Training Courses at ZwickRoell Academy
Our ZwickRoell Academy offers a comprehensive, modular training program at ZwickRoell’s headquarters in Ulm, at a ZwickRoell location near you, or directly on-site at your premises. This ranges from courses on our testing software, to applications courses and workshops, to courses tailored to your company’s individual requirements.

Other services
If you need to move your materials testing machine to a different location, ZwickRoell’s removal and relocation service will assist with technical and organizational planning, as well as transport and full recommissioning. Professional and documented verification of the alignment of your testing machine using standardized alignment transducers (referred to as alignment measurement) is a fundamental component of our service portfolio.

Furthermore, we are able to perform logged measuring system analyses on testing machines and determine the corresponding characteristic capability values.

Fig. 1: ZwickRoell provides continuous support throughout the entire life-cycle of materials testing systems.

Fig. 2: The ZwickRoell Academy offers an interesting and wide-ranging training program for new students and advanced users alike.

Further services
- Consultation
- Demonstration
- Pre-testing
- Hotline / Support Desk repairs
- Spare parts
- Software services
- Training courses - ZwickRoell Academy
- Testing laboratory / Contract testing

Fig. 2: The ZwickRoell Academy offers an interesting and wide-ranging training program for new students and advanced users alike.
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<tr>
<td>90° peel test (T-Peel)</td>
<td>ASTM D1876</td>
<td>Materials testing machine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Floating roller peel (Bell)</td>
<td>ASTM D3167, ISO 4578, Airbus QVA-Z10-46-03</td>
<td>Materials testing machine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flexural creep test</td>
<td>ASTM D480</td>
<td>Creep testing machine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shear fatigue behavior</td>
<td>ASTM C394</td>
<td>Servohydr. testing machine, LTM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Damage resistance</td>
<td>ASTM D7766, AITM 1-0057</td>
<td>Drop weight tester</td>
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