

APPLICATION OF DIFFERENT THERMOPLASTIC GEARS IN THE GEARBOX OF  
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**Abstract**

The gearbox is one of the inherent components in any automotive system and comprises approximately 30% cost of the total cost of the automobile. Plastic gears also open new opportunities for more efficient transmissions in many products along with reduced drive drive-cost, weight, noise and wear. Along with this the gearbox is a heavy component of the automobile.

To reduce drive cost, noise and weight by replacing metallic gears with thermoplastic gears in the gearbox of identified low power moped is the objective of this work.

Initially the material is identified among heavy engineering plastics for manufacturing of gear. The material selected is tested in test laboratory and gears are manufactured using hobbing process with the same accuracy and specifications as that of metallic gears of the gearbox.

**Index Terms:** Plastic gear, Material for plastic gear, Plastic gear design, Plastic gear in moped, Necessity of plastic gear

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Plastic gears are continuing to displace metal gears in a widening arena of applications. Their unique characteristics are also being enhanced with new developments, both in material and processing. In this regard, plastics contrast somewhat dramatically with metals, in that the latter materials and processes are essentially fully developed and, therefore, are in a relatively static state of development.

Plastic gears can be produced by Hobbing or shaping, similarly to metal gears or alternatively by moulding. The moulding process itself is considerably more economical means of production. Therefore, a more in-depth treatment of this process will be presented in this section.

**1.1 Current Aspect1**

Following are the examples, where plastic gears are successfully replace with metal gear :

When Maytag engineers designed their new washer transmission around plastic gears, they effectively eliminated the noise of steel gears. They also saved 13 pounds and did away with 42 parts compared with a previous metal gearbox. Gears injection-moulded from unfilled and Fibreglass-reinforced Celcon® acetal copolymer maintain their strength and tight tolerances even in an oil-bath transmission. They also demonstrate the long-term durability essential in an appliance expected to have a long service life.

Hewlett-Packard and molder UFE took plastic gears to new standards of manufacturing quality in the DeskJet 660 color printer . Acetal copolymer cluster gears were specified to comply with the high-quality standards of AGMA (American Gear Manufacturers Association) Quality Class Q9. The accuracy was necessary for precise paper movement to prevent “banding” - obvious skipped lines or overprinting. For 48-

pitch gears, 1.25 inches in diameter, AGMA Class Q9 denotes Total Cumulative Error (TCE) of just 0.0015 inch, and Tooth-To-Tooth (TTT) error of 0.00071 inch.(fig 1)

To improve the reliability of the “World Washer” manufactured in several countries, Whirlpool Corporation introduced a splined clutch or “splutch,” containing a spline and gears moulded in Acetal copolymer. The low-wear epicyclic gear assembly lasts four-times(fig 1)



FIG 1



FIG 2

**1.2 NEED OF PLASTIC GEAR 2**

At present there is a trend for reducing weight and increase efficiency. We know gears are so important in our daily life. although it's not so visible. All automobiles including transports vehicles and plenty of other household equipments use gears. If gears are not present it would have been difficult for us to carry our routine. Various developments along the ages have come to a point where nothing new can be created. In search of betterment research is still carried out for determining advancement in pre existing facts. Gears are having application in various fields. For example- wristwatch, automobile, power-drive equipments, heavy machines, work part transfer machines. Various industries are carrying out various research works for substitutions of plastic gears.

Using plastic gears in place of metal gears reduces weight and also reduces power consumption and increases efficiency.

## 2. INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION OF PLASTIC GEAR2

### The other applications of plastic gears are:

- Light duty works machines like lathes, grinding machines and milling machines use plastic gears.
- Automotive gasoline tank level. Gears applicable motors, wiper systems, turbo and variable induction system gears.
- Automotive motor fan.
- Lift gates.
- Seating and tracking headlight to break actuator. Electronic throttle bodies and turbo controls. CD ROM, printers.
- Washing machines.
- Gear pumps, geometer.
- Damper drives in control valve.
- Actuator in fluid devices.
- Power screws that shape control surface on small aircraft.
- Gyro and steering control in military applications.
- Small petrol engine gears, like "Oil pump gears, cam gears, lawn-mower and chain-saw applications

**Table-1: Application of plastic gears**

Industry	Applicati on	Resins	Design Consideratio n
Automotiv e	Actuators	Nylon	Switch Components
Automotiv e	Scooter gear box	Nylon	Small Transmission gear
Fluid Handling	Gear Pump	PPS,PEEK,LC P	Chemical Resistance
Industrial	Cam shaft driving system gear drive	Nylon	Small Engine
Power Tool	Cordless screw driver	Nylon	Mechanical Strength, Impact resistance

### 2.1 Advantage And Disadvantage Of Plastic Gear Over Metallic Gear2

#### ADVANTAGES

Among the characteristics responsible for the large increase in plastic gear usage, the following are probably the most significant reasons:

- Cost effectiveness of the injection-moulding process.
- Elimination of machining operations; capability of fabrication with inserts and integral designs.
- Low density, lightweight, low inertia. Uniformity of

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parts.

- Capability to absorb shock and vibration as a result of elastic compliance.
- Ability to operate with minimum or no lubrication, due to inherent lubrication.
- Relatively low coefficient of friction.
- Corrosion-resistance; elimination of plating, or protective coatings.
- Quietness of operation.
- Tolerances often less critical than for metal gears. due in part to their greater resilience.
- Consistency with trend to greater use of plastic housings and other components. One step production; no preliminary or secondary operations.
- Reduction in the overall lubrication of the gears.

#### DISADVANTAGES

- Less load-carrying capacity, due to lower maximum allowable stress; the greater compliance of plastic gears may also produce stress concentrations.
- Plastic gears cannot generally be moulded to the same accuracy as high-precision machined metal gears.
- Plastic gears are subject to greater dimensional instabilities, due to their larger coefficient of thermal expansion and moisture absorption.
- Reduced ability to operate at elevated temperatures; as an approximate figure, operation is limited to less than 120°C. Also, limited cold temperature operations. Initial high mould cost in developing correct tooth form and dimensions.
- Can be negatively affected by certain chemicals and even some lubricants.
- Improper moulding tools and process can produce residual internal stresses at the tooth roots. Resulting in over stressing and or distortion with aging.

### 3. METHEDOLOGY3

1) For the appliance engineer, plastic gears are a powerful means to cut cost, weight, noise and wear. They also open new opportunities for smaller, more efficient drives. What are the payoffs when using plastic gears in place of metal? The questions are timely as more engineers turn to plastics gears in higher-power, high-precision applications.

(a) Initially Gears are design for same power transmission as that of present metallic Gears. Using same conventional design procedure.

(b) Gears are modeled using PRO-E software and tested for displacement ,strain and stress and are Simulated Using cad modelling and FEM , analysis of the plastic gear and its material will be done. In addition ,its an efficient design tool by which designers can perform parameter design studies by considering various design cases of loding, motion etc can be analyzing and choosing the optimum design.

2) By taking into consideration the varios method s of plastic gear manufacturing. Gears are manufactured using Hobbing process by different thermoplastic materials viz. cast nylon, NylonDOS2 etc. As per the objective of our project we will carried out the experimentation and testing of the replaced metal gear by plastic gear under different running condition

and speed. We are going to make analysis and measurement of the following components.

### 3.1 VIBRATION ANALYSIS

In this Vibrations are measured for metallic as well as non-metallic Gears and compared it among them. Noise measurement by Digital noise Meter and analyzed. Likewise vibration measurement and the noise of Gearbox are measured and compared critically among them.

### 3.2 HEAT GENERATION MEASUREMENT

In this Heat generated during power transmission is measured by digital temp. Meter in both metallic as well as non-metallic Gears and Heat generated as well as dissipated is analysed. Heat generated as well as dissipated is analyzed. After making all the analysis and measurement we will make the comparative study in the various dimensional, physical, analytical and economical sections. Finally Gears are tested for their life using actual testing on the road and performance is checked and compared with metallic gear. And by taking out its result, which will help us to make our conclusion that, Is it any advancement to use the plastic gear in sunny moped or not?

## 4. EXPERIMENTATION

### 4.1 Technical Specification Of Sunny Moped

The Bajaj Sunny is India's first Scooterette. It has a 60cc engine, which takes it to a maximum speed of 50kph. It has the capacity to carry a maximum load of 120kg, hence it is highly recommended for riding alone or carrying a small pillion rider. With an automatic gearbox, it makes riding a pleasure. Like most scooterettes, the Sunny is targeted at teenagers who are eligible to get a driving license for ungeared two wheelers at 16 years of age.

Table No. 2 Technical Specification Of Sunny Moped

ENGINE	TWO STROKE/PETROL
TRANSMISSION	AUTOMATIC
ENGINE DISPLACEMENT	59.86 CC
TACHOMETER	NO
MAX. POWER	2.8 hp AT 6000 RPM
GROUND CLEARANCE	100mm
IGNITION	ELECTRONIC
DRY WEIGHT	63 Kg
FUEL TANK CAPACITY	3.5 lit

BATTERY	12 V
F/R SUSPENSION	LEADING LINK WITH COIL SPRING
R/R SUSPENSION	HYDRAULIC DAMPER WITH COAXIAL SPRING
MAX, SPEED	50 Kph
FRONT TYRE SIZE	2.75 X 10 Pr
REAR TYRE SIZE	2.75 X 10 Pr
WHEEL BASE	1,165 mm

### 4.2 THE VARIOUS DIMENSIONS OF REPLACED GEAR OF BAJAJ SUNNY

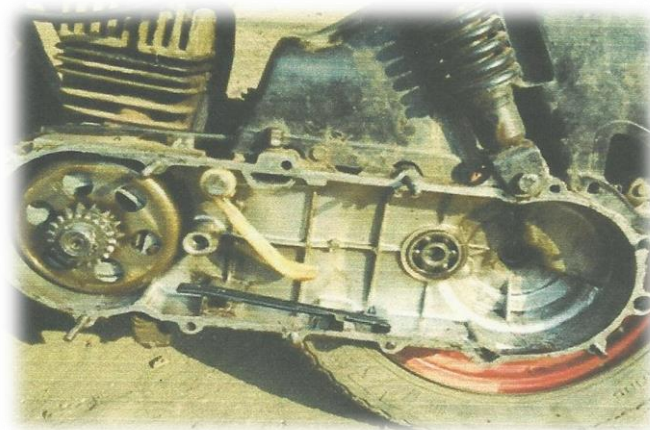
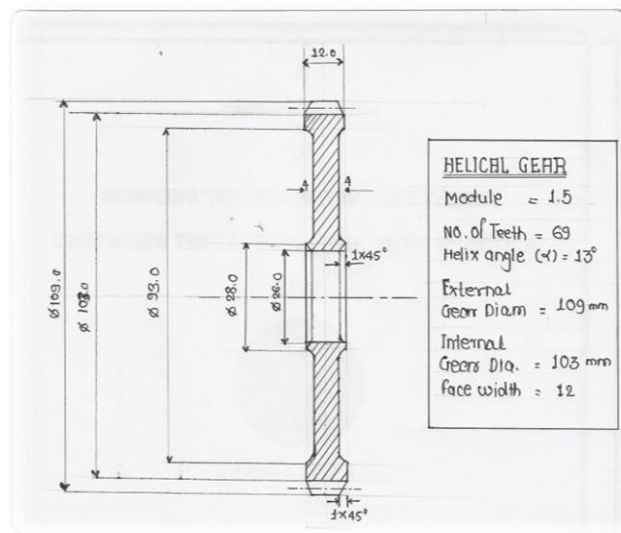


FIG. NO. 3 Gear box of sunny moped



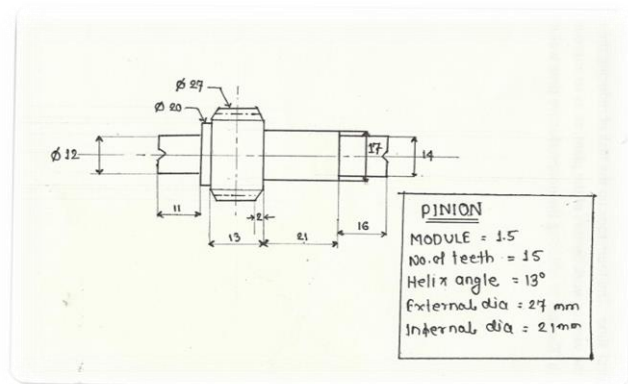


FIG. NO. 4 Dimensions of gears

**4.3 DESIGN PROCEDURE FOR PLASTIC GEAR4**

**4.3.1 ANALYTICAL DESIGN**

**THEORETICAL CALCULATIONS**

Under this section we will go through the theoretical analysis of the gear and pinion i.e will find the values of different forces and load which would act on the gear as per the collected and measured dimensions.

- Number of teeth on gear = 69
- Number of teeth on pinion = 15
- Helix angle = 13°
- External gear diameter = 109mm
- Internal gear diameter = 103mm
- Face width = 12mm

Given,

$mn = 1.5\text{mm}$ ,  $tg = 69$ ,  $tp = 15$ ,  $\Psi = 13^\circ$ ,  $b = 12\text{mm}$ ,  $Pr = 2.8\text{hp}$  and  $N = 6000\text{rpm}$

**DESIGN POWER**

$Pd = Pr \cdot kl \cdot kw$

$kl = 1.25$  and  $kw = 1.15$  ( $kl$  for light shock and  $kw$  for conti. lubrication)

$Pd = 2.8 * 1.25 * 1.15$

$= 3 \text{ kw}$

$vp = \frac{\pi Dp \cdot Np}{1000 \cdot 60}$

$Dp = mt \cdot tp$

$= \frac{mn \cdot tp}{\cos \Psi} = 23\text{mm}$

$vp = \frac{\pi \cdot 23 \cdot 6000}{60 \cdot 1000} = 7.22\text{m/s}$

$ft = \frac{pd}{vp} = \frac{3 \cdot 10 \cdot 1000}{7.22} = 332.4\text{N}$

$y = 0.485 - \frac{2.87}{tf}$

$tf = \frac{tp}{\cos 13} = 16$

$y = 0.305$

$fb = so \cdot cv \cdot y \cdot b \cdot mn$

$cv = \frac{6}{6 + vp} = 0.453$

$fb = 245 \cdot 0.453 \cdot 0.305 \cdot 12 \cdot 1.5$   
 $= 601.30\text{N}$

$fb > ft$  (safe)

$fd = ft + \frac{21vp(Ceb \cdot \cos 213 + ft)}{21vp + \sqrt{Ceb \cos 213 + ft}}$

$eprob = 0.012\text{mm}$ ,  $eper = 0.04\text{mm}$

choose smaller value i.e  $e = 0.012\text{mm}$

$fd = 1329.2\text{N}$

$fw = \frac{k \cdot b \cdot Dp \cdot Q}{\cos 2\Psi}$

$Q = \frac{2tg}{tg + tp} = 1.642$

$Dp = \frac{mn \cdot tg}{\cos 13} = 106\text{mm}$

therefore,

$fw = 2093\text{kb}$

$1329 = 2093\text{kb}$

$kb = 0.634$

$kb = .721$

200BHN for gear

250BHN for pinion

$fw = 1509\text{N}$

$feb = Seb \cdot b \cdot Y \cdot mn$

$Seb = 350\text{MPa}$

$fen = 350 \cdot 12 \cdot 0.305 \cdot 1.5$

$fen = 1921.5\text{N}$

$fen > fw$ , therefore design of gear is safe.

**5. GEAR MANUFACTURING METHODS5**

The various manufacturing techniques used for gear production are as follows:

- a) Casting and injection moulding method
- b) Gear forming method
- c) Gear generation process

## 6. DEVICES USED FOR EXPERIMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT

The various devices used during the entire experiment for measurement and analysis are as follows:

- 1) Dial vernier calliper
- 2) Digital vernier calliper
- 3) Sound level meter
- 4) Digital tachometer
- 5) Vibration meter
- 6) Thermometer

## CONCLUSION

Plastic Gears can be applicable in the gearbox of two wheeler moped. Plastic gear will be implemented in the gear box of Bajaj Sunny moped. And this can reduce the cost of vehicle.

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