Explosive welding: Crossland and Williams

Table I. Properties of explosives²⁰

More recently, Shribman and Crossland³⁰ have published data on the detonation velocity of the following explosives, which are readily available in Great Britain:

- I. Metabel sheet explosive, produced by Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., and normally provided in sheets 10×5 $\times \frac{1}{8}$ in $(254 \times 126 \times 3)$ mm). It has a density of 1.47 g/cm³, a detonation velocity of 7000 m/s, and an energy release of 900-1050 cal/g (3760-4500 J/g).
- 2. Trimonite No. 1, a powder explosive produced by Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., with a density of 1·10 g/cm³ (and in the granulated form 0·7 g/cm³) and an energy release of 1260 cal/g (5260 J/g). A detonation velocity is not given as it is very sensitive to thickness of layer.
- 3. Trimonite No. 3, as for No. 1 but with a density of 0.98 g/cm³ and an energy release of 1034–1260 cal/g (4330–5260J/g).
- 4. Nitroguanadine (picrite) is a powder explosive that is extremely difficult to handle because of its light feathery nature. At a density of 0·16 g/cm³, and a layer thickness of 1-2 in (25-50 mm), it has a detonation velocity of ~ 2300 m/s and an energy release of 950 cal/g (3960 J/g).

The detonation velocity was measured by three methods: Dautriche, parallel plate with pin contactors, and insertion of pins in the explosive at a known distance apart.

For Nitroguanadine the detonation velocity for thicknesses from 1 to 2 in was found to be 2400 $^{+4.5}_{-4.0}\%$ m/s and for Metabel sheet explosive the detonation velocity for thicknesses of 0·125–0·5 in (3·175–12·7 mm) was 7000 \pm 5%, 6990 \pm 3·8%, and 7100 \pm 2·8% m/s, respectively, for the three methods used. For Trimonite No. 1 and No. 3, the detonation velocity varied considerably with thickness, and the data are given in Fig. 8 and 9.

Experimental information on flyer-plate velocity is very sparse. However, Shribman and Crossland³⁰ give data for the explosives mentioned above. For *Metabel* sheet explosive they cite the values of the ratio V_P/V_D for various values of R, the ratio of mass of explosive to mass of flyer plate, where the explosive is uniformly distributed over the plate. They compared these data wth various equations that have been proposed and found that the best agreement was obtained with the equation proposed by Gurney³¹

$$\frac{V_P}{V_D} = \frac{0.612R}{2+R} \qquad \dots [8]$$

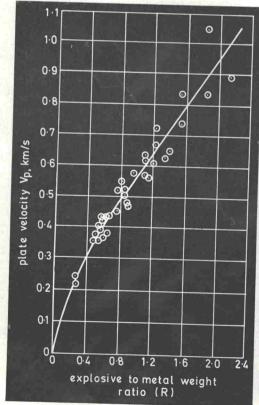
Table III gives the experimental values and those predicted by this equation.

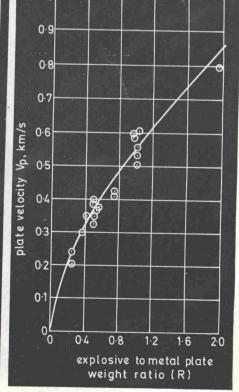
METALLURGICAL REVIEWS

Explosive	Calorific value, cal/g J/g		Detonation velocity, m/s	Density, g/cm³
TNT	1080	4500	6700	1.56
RDX	1280	5350	8180	1.65
PETN	1390	5400	8300	1.70
PETN	1390	5400	3500	0.5
Tetryl	1100	4600	7850	1.71
Composition B	1240	5190	7840	1.68
EL-506D	870	3640	7100	1.40

Table II. Effect of diameter on detonation velocity29

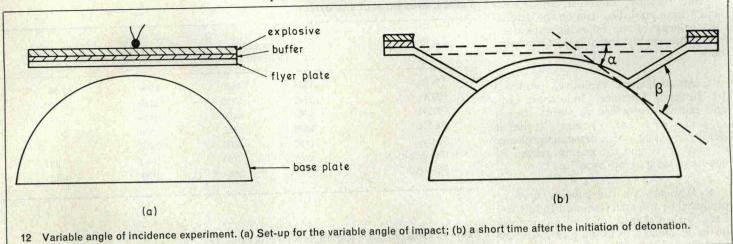
Di	ameter	Velocity of Detonation, m/s		
in	mm = -	TNT powder	Nitroglycerine powder	
0.75	19	3190	1830	
1.25	32	3680	2250	
2.00	51	4060	2610	
2.5	64	4030	2010	
3.0	76	4100	2450	
4.0	102	4560	3150	
5.0	127	4300	3290	
6.0		_	3440	
	152	4815	_	
8.5	216	_	3920	





Variation of V_P with R for *Trimonite* No. 1 explosive. $\rho = 1.1$ g/cm³.

11 Variation of V_P with R for Trimonite No. 3 explosive. $\rho = 0.98$ g/cm³.



For Trimonite No. 1 and No. 3, the value of VD varies with thickness of explosive charge and in these cases it was found that the scatter of data was a minimum when V_P was plotted against R, as in Fig. 5, 10, and 11. These values were obtained on small plates and there is some indication for very large plates with a uniform layer of explosive that the value of V_P increases significantly with the distance from the point of initiation of the detonation. Williams et al.³² found it necessary to use a non-uniform thickness of charge to ensure a constant impact velocity, but no experimental data or theoretical analysis of this aspect appear to have been published.

It is also apparent from the analysis that the sonic velocities of the materials being welded are very important. The values given in the International Critical Tables33 are shown in Table IV.

For satisfactory welds there appear to be three essential requirements. First, it is necessary that a re-entrant jet should be formed and for this to occur the main jet velocity, V_P/tan β, must be less than or only slightly greater than the sonic velocity in the flyer plate, so that either there are no shock waves or only detached shock waves. Secondly, a hump is needed in front of the collision point, either to disrupt the oxide film or to assist in the scouring action of the re-entrant jet. This requires that $V_P/\sin \beta$ should be less than the sonic velocity in the parent plate. Thirdly, the impact pressure must be sufficiently great to produce a fluid-like behaviour necessary for the formation of a re-entrant jet, and it is also essential that the re-entrant jet velocity should be sufficiently high to give the desired scouring action. Fourthly, the flyer plate is subject to a bending action and according to Carpenter et al.³⁴ it must be able to withstand a 5% strain. There is also the possibility that a reflected tension wave in either the flyer plate or the parent plate can cause a 'spalling' failure, though this has only rarely been noted. Such a failure is more likely to occur with a high-detonation-velocity explosive, which gives a higher pressure pulse and hence a greater reflected tension pulse, and with materials that contain planes of weakness parallel to the surface. If spalling of the flyer plate occurs in flight, welding of the two pieces of the flyer plate

Table III. Variation of ratio of flyer plate to detonation velocity/ratio of mass of explosive to mass of flyer plate (R) for Metabel

	V_P/V_D			
R	Experiment	Equation [8]		
0.2	0.062	0.056		
0.4	0.104	0.102		
0.6	0.143	0.141		
0.8	0.180	0.175		
1.0		0.204		
1.2		0.23		

Table IV. Sonic velocity of metals33

Metal	Velocity, m/s
Aluminium	5105
Copper	3560
Gold	2645
Platinum	2500
Silver	2080
Steel	5000
Tin	2490
Zinc	3680

Table V. Metal combinations bonded by explosive cladding 21

