

T H E S I S

TESTS TO DETERMINE RELATIVE VALUES OF
ALCOHOL, GASOLINE, AND KEROSENE
AS FUEL FOR INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES.

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The object of this series of tests was to determine the relative value of gasoline, denatured alcohol, and kerosene as fuel for an internal combustion engine designed and built for the use of gasoline.

The fuels were tested under practically the same conditions, the only changes made in the engine were such that were necessary for obtaining the greatest brake horse power possible.

The first or trial tests were made with a strap brake but it was soon found that this was not suitable for engines or motors above five horse power. We also found that oil was the best for cooling a brake of this type. After proving that the strap brake was insufficient, a wooden Prony brake was constructed and used throughout the remaining tests. With this brake a constant supply of water proved better for cooling, but there was a small amount of chattering which could not be avoided on account of the engine being of the four cycle type.

The engine used was a ten horse power Witte Gasoline using the "hammer break" type of igniter.

The fuel tank was placed on the wall above the engine so the supply did not depend on the pump. This tank was fitted with a gage glass so the amount of fuel at the start could be marked and at the end of the test, the overflow was put back and the tank filled to the point marked at the start. The amount required to fill the tank to the starting point, after putting back the overflow, was what the engine had used

during the test.

The cooling water for the cylinder was taken from the laboratory supply which had an average pressure of forty pounds. The flow was regulated so as to have the out-flowing water as near boiling point as possible and still maintain a steady supply.

The engine as built gave fifty pounds compression and this was used throughout all the tests made with gasoline.

Two grades of gasoline were used, the ordinary "tank" gasoline and a grade which cost five cents more per gallon. There was no noticeable increase of brake horse power per gallon in the better grade but the engine cylinder and valves were more free from soot. The longer the duration in hours of the test, the less fuel required per brake horse power per hour. When running at full load, the amount of fuel used was .09222 gallon per brake horse power hour, and at half load .2059 gallon or there would be a loss of .1137 gallon for every horse power hour when running at half load.

In using alcohol the first two tests were made with the engine the same as for the gasoline, but for the remainder a one and three-eighths inch plate was put on the piston head, which increased the compression to seventy-five pounds. This is found to be all the compression that is advisable to use as the engine would run for a number of explosions at a time, with the batteries cut out, igniting from high compression and temperature after the cylinder became hot.

The second test was made to find if an increase of

temperature of the cooling water would decrease the amount of fuel required, but the only change noticeable was that the engine ran at a more constant speed. The average amount of fuel used per brake horse power hour before increasing the compression, was .1822 gallon and after increasing compression, .09877 gallon. The increase of compression did not give a corresponding increase in horse power.

For the burning of kerosene a drum was placed around the exhaust pipe through which the air for each charge was drawn. The air was thus heated, by coming in contact with the hot exhaust pipe, sufficiently to bring the oil in the cylinder up to the flash point. The drum consisted of a sheet iron casing one inch larger in diameter than the outside diameter of the exhaust pipe, with connections for attaching to the air supply pipe between the heater and the mixing chamber so any amount of cold air could be supplied to be used for starting the engine on gasoline or obtaining the proper temperature of the supply air for the kerosene. The engine and exhaust became hot before the kerosene was turned on.

The first test (K - 1) was made with the engine the same as during the gasoline test and the remainder of the tests after a one-half inch plate had been put on the piston head, bringing the compression to sixty pounds.

The amount of oil used per brake horse power hour in the first test was .1894 gallons, and the average of the last two, those with higher compression, .04629 gallons.

The engine would not develop satisfactorily more than one-half of its rated horse power when using kerosene. The

cylinder and valves soon became foul with soot and the exhaust gases were very disagreeable.

The last test (K - 3) was made with the batteries cut out after starting and the engine developed an average brake horse power of 5.735. The explosions caused by the compression and high temperature came early, making a very noticeable knock in the cylinder. Of the fuel, the alcohol gave the best power and left the engine in the cleanest condition at the end of the run, while the exhaust was clear and had but a slight odor. When using this the supply of fuel can be easily increased over the amount required without causing the engine to stop or slow up due to clogging the exhaust. In order for alcohol to be used in a gasoline engine economically, a higher compression in the cylinder must be arranged for than is necessary for the use of gasoline.

For the use of kerosene a gasoline engine of double the nominal horse power required should be installed. The air supply will require closer regulation than with gasoline or alcohol, for as the conditions of the atmosphere change the temperature of the air supplied must be changed or the engine will not develop the required power. If for any reason a number of the charges fail to ignite, the cylinder becomes foul on account of the fuel being heavy. The same engine run with gasoline or alcohol and developing the same power would be wasteful of fuel as shown by the tests and for this reason the kerosene might appear to be the more economical if the fact that the engine was running at one-half the horse power it would develop with gasoline or alcohol was not taken into account.

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, K. S. A. C.

TEST MADE AT K.S.A.C.
 ON GASOLINE. G-4
 DATE _____
 BAROMETER _____ IN _____ LBS.

LOG OF GASOLINE ENGINE TRIAL.

OBSERVERS:

 B.S. ORR.
 S. R. TILBURY
 E. JOHNSON.

CONSTANTS OF ENGINE.

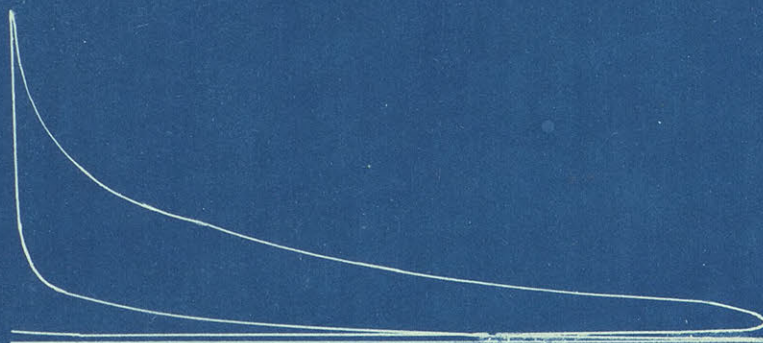
Diam. of cylinder.....7.250 in. Area of piston.....41.28 sq. in.
 Length of stroke.....1.166 ft. Engine constant......001459
 Brake constant......0010

No. Card.	Time.	R. P. M.	Brake Load	B. H. P.	Explosions per Mins.	Explosions per Minute.	M. E. P.	I. H. P.	Eff.	Remarks.
	3 : —									
1	3 : 10	290	20#	5.800		122	39.97	7.115	.8153	
2	3 : 20	284	20#	5.680		103	50.63	7.608	.7466	
3	3 : 30	290	20#	5.800		110	45.76	7.344	.7898	50# ² " COMPRESSION.
4	3 : 40	288	20#	5.760		105	47.91	7.340	.7847	
5	3 : 50	289	20#	5.780		116	46.88	7.934	.7285	2.356 GALLONS OIL USED.
6	4 : —	282	20#	5.640		115	45.52	7.638	.7384	
7	4 : 10	290	20#	5.800		90	56.48	7.416	.7821	2.059 GAL. PER B.H.P. HR.
8	4 : 20	287	20#	5.740		112	44.33	7.244	.7824	
9	4 : 30	286	20#	5.720		117	41.28	7.014	.8155	
10	4 : 40	285	20#	5.700		120	44.93	7.866	.7246	
11	4 : 50	281	20#	5.620		105	47.78	7.320	.7678	
12	5 : —	280	20#	5.600		105	46.88	7.182	.7797	
Maximum.		290	20	5.800		122	56.48	7.934	.8155	
Minimum,		280	20	5.600		90	39.97	7.014	.7246	
Total,		3432	2400	68640		1321	558.35	89.021	9.2654	
Average,		280	20	5.720		110	46.52	7.418	.7721	

GASOLINE



No. 7. G-2.



No. 22. G-3.

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, K. S. A. C.

TEST MADE AT K. S. A. C.
 ON ALCOHOL A-2
 DATE _____
 BAROMETER _____ IN _____ LBS.

LOG OF GASOLINE ENGINE TRIAL.

OBSERVERS:

CONSTANTS OF ENGINE.

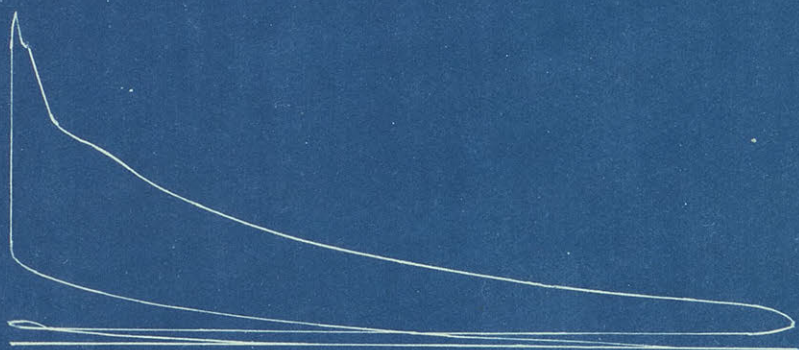
Diam. of cylinder... 7.250 in. Area of piston..... 41.28 sq. in.
 Length of stroke... 1.166 ft. Engine constant..... .001458
 Brake constant..... .0010

B. S. ORR.
S. R. TILBURY.
E. JOHNSON.

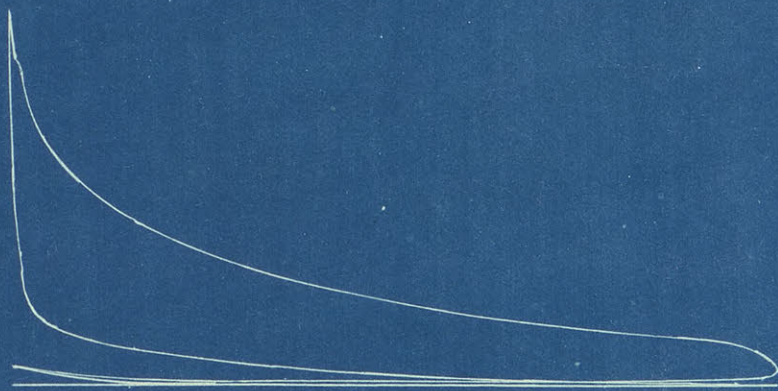
No. Card.	Time.	R. P. M.	Brake Load	B. H. P.	Explosions per Mins.	Explosions per Minute.	M. E. P.	I. H. P.	Eff.	Remarks.
	<u>2</u> —									
<u>1</u>	<u>2:10</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>34[#]</u>	<u>9.112</u>		<u>134</u>	<u>52.44</u>	<u>10.25</u>	<u>.8890</u>	
<u>2</u>	<u>2:20</u>	<u>284</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.656</u>		<u>138</u>	<u>49.13</u>	<u>9.892</u>	<u>.9762</u>	
<u>3</u>	<u>2:30</u>	<u>282</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.588</u>		<u>134</u>	<u>50.13</u>	<u>9.801</u>	<u>.9783</u>	<u>50[#] COMPRESSION.</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>2:40</u>	<u>276</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.384</u>		<u>130</u>	<u>52.29</u>	<u>9.918</u>	<u>.9462</u>	
<u>5</u>	<u>2:50</u>	<u>284</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.656</u>		<u>132</u>	<u>51.38</u>	<u>9.895</u>	<u>.9758</u>	<u>3.432 GALLONS OIL USED</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>3:00</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.282</u>		<u>134</u>	<u>50.25</u>	<u>9.824</u>	<u>.9448</u>	
<u>7</u>	<u>3:10</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.520</u>		<u>134</u>	<u>51.26</u>	<u>10.02</u>	<u>.9501</u>	<u>.1815 GAL. PER B.H.P. HR.</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>3:20</u>	<u>278</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.452</u>		<u>136</u>	<u>47.01</u>	<u>9.328</u>	<u>1.0130</u>	
<u>9</u>	<u>3:30</u>	<u>282</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.588</u>		<u>140</u>	<u>50.63</u>	<u>10.340</u>	<u>.9273</u>	
<u>10</u>	<u>3:40</u>	<u>284</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.656</u>		<u>140</u>	<u>52.02</u>	<u>10.630</u>	<u>.9084</u>	
<u>11</u>	<u>3:50</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.112</u>		<u>134</u>	<u>50.12</u>	<u>9.799</u>	<u>.9299</u>	
<u>12</u>	<u>4:00</u>	<u>278</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.452</u>		<u>136</u>	<u>49.37</u>	<u>9.796</u>	<u>.9649</u>	
Maximum.		<u>284</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.656</u>		<u>140</u>	<u>52.44</u>	<u>10.63</u>	<u>1.013</u>	
Minimum,		<u>268</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.112</u>		<u>130</u>	<u>47.01</u>	<u>9.328</u>	<u>.8890</u>	
Total,		<u>3277</u>	<u>408</u>	<u>113.458</u>		<u>1642</u>	<u>606.05</u>	<u>119.493</u>	<u>11.4059</u>	
Average,		<u>273</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9.455</u>		<u>136</u>	<u>50.54</u>	<u>9.959</u>	<u>.9505</u>	

174

ALCOHOL.



No 21. A-4.



No 11. A-1.

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, K. S. A. C.

 TEST MADE AT K. S. A. C.

LOG OF GASOLINE ENGINE TRIAL.

OBSERVERS: _____

 ON KEROSENE K-1

CONSTANTS OF ENGINE.

 Diam. of cylinder..... 7.250 in. Area of piston..... 4.128 sq. in.

 Length of stroke..... 1.166 ft. Engine constant..... .001459

 Brake constant..... .0010
B. S. ORR.
S. R. TILBURY.
E. JOHNSON.

DATE _____

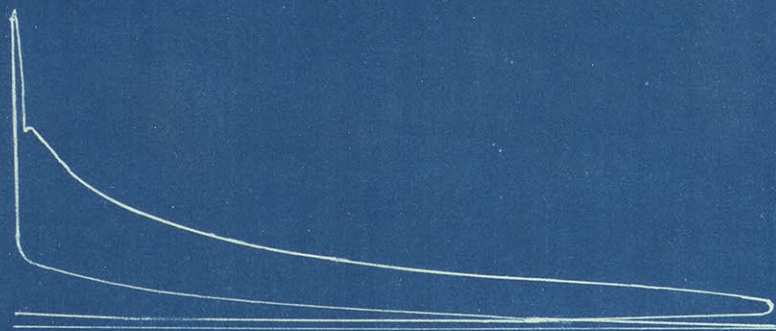
BAROMETER _____ IN _____ LBS.

No. Card.	Time.	R. P. M.	Brake Load	B. H. P.	Explosions per Mins.	Explosions per Minute.	M. E. P.	I. H. P.	Eff.	Remarks.
	<u>4: —</u>									
<u>1</u>	<u>4: 10</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>20[#]</u>	<u>5.360</u>		<u>134</u>	<u>39.29</u>	<u>7.681</u>	<u>.6978</u>	
<u>2</u>	<u>4: 20</u>	<u>286</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5.720</u>		<u>142</u>	<u>37.04</u>	<u>7.674</u>	<u>.7454</u>	
<u>3</u>	<u>4: 30</u>	<u>290</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5.800</u>		<u>140</u>	<u>38.54</u>	<u>7.872</u>	<u>.7368</u>	<u>50[#] COMPRESSION.</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>4: 40</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>6.050</u>		<u>138</u>	<u>36.07</u>	<u>7.261</u>	<u>.8332</u>	
<u>5</u>	<u>4: 50</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5.400</u>		<u>136</u>	<u>33.58</u>	<u>6.663</u>	<u>.8104</u>	<u>2.130 GALLONS OIL USED.</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>5: —</u>	<u>276</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5.520</u>		<u>138</u>	<u>30.78</u>	<u>6.198</u>	<u>.8906</u>	
<u>7</u>	<u>5: 10</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5.600</u>		<u>136</u>	<u>37.59</u>	<u>7.459</u>	<u>.7508</u>	<u>.1894 GAL. PER B.H.P. HR.</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>5: 20</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5.400</u>		<u>136</u>	<u>35.53</u>	<u>7.050</u>	<u>.7660</u>	
<u>9</u>	<u>5: 30</u>	<u>285</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5.700</u>		<u>138</u>	<u>40.68</u>	<u>8.191</u>	<u>.6959</u>	
<u>10</u>	<u>5: 40</u>	<u>286</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5.720</u>		<u>136</u>	<u>29.63</u>	<u>5.879</u>	<u>.9733</u>	
<u>11</u>	<u>5: 50</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5.600</u>		<u>136</u>	<u>38.23</u>	<u>7.586</u>	<u>.7382</u>	
<u>12</u>	<u>6: —</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5.600</u>		<u>138</u>	<u>35.09</u>	<u>7.065</u>	<u>.7927</u>	
Maximum.		<u>290</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5.800</u>		<u>142</u>	<u>40.68</u>	<u>8.191</u>	<u>.9732</u>	
Minimum.		<u>270</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5.400</u>		<u>134</u>	<u>35.09</u>	<u>5.879</u>	<u>.6959</u>	
Total.		<u>3346</u>	<u>2400</u>	<u>67.470</u>		<u>1648</u>	<u>432.05</u>	<u>86.519</u>	<u>94.311</u>	
Average,		<u>278.8</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5.6225</u>		<u>137.3</u>	<u>36.00</u>	<u>7.214</u>	<u>.7859</u>	

KEROSENE



No. 9. K-1



No. 3. K-2.