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# TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

 $SX-616$ 

for

Bureau of Naval Weapons, Department of the Navy

TRANSONIC AND SUPERSONIC FLUTTER INVESTIGATION OF

1/2-SIZE MODELS OF ALL-MOVABLE CANARD SURFACE

OF AN EXPENDABLE POWERED TARGET

TED NO. NASA AD 3164, COORD. NO. N-AM-89

By Charles L. Ruhlin and W. J. Tuovila

Langley Research Center Langley Air Force Base, Va.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION OCT 1 0 1961 **WASHINGTON** 

**RESPONS** 

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# NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE AIMINISTRATION

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# **SUMMARY**

A transonic and a supersonic flutter investigation of  $1/2$ -size models of the all-movable canard surface of an expendable powered target has been conducted in the Langley transonic blowdown tunnel and in the Langley 9- by 18-inch supersonic aeroelasticity tunnel, respectively. The transonic investigation covered a Mach number range from  $0.7$  to  $1.3$ , and the supersonic investigation was made at Mach numbers 1.3, *2.0 <sup>1</sup>* and 2.55.

The effects on the flutter characteristics of the models of different levels of stiffness and of free play in the pitch control linkage were examined. The semispan models, which were tested at an angle of attack of  $0^0$ , had pitch springs with the scaled design and  $1/2$  the scaled design pitch stiffness and total free play in pitch ranging from  $0^{\circ}$  to  $1^{\circ}$ . An additional model configuration which had a pitch spring  $1/4$  the scaled design pitch stiffness and no free play in pitch was included in the supersonic tests.

All model configurations investigated were flutter free up to dynamic pressures 32 percent greater than those required for flight throughout the Mach number range. Several model configurations were tested to considerably higher dynamic pressures without obtaining flutter at both transonic and supersonic speeds.

#### INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Bureau of Naval Weapons, Department of the Navy, a transonic and a supersonic flutter investigation of  $1/2$ -size models of the all-movable canard surface of the Beech XKD2B-l expendable powered target has been conducted in the Langley transonic blowdown tunnel and in the Langley 9- by 18-inch supersonic aeroelasticity tunnel, respectively. These flutter tests were made to determine whether adequate safety margins existed between the flight envelope of the vehicle and the flutter boundaries of the canard surface and control system and to investigate possible flutter problem areas. The transonic tests covered a Mach number range from 0.7 to 1.3, and the supersonic tests were made at Mach numbers 1.3, 2.0, and 2.55.

The effects on the flutter characteristics of different levels of stiffness and of free play in the pitch control linkage were examined. In both investigations,  $1/2$ -size semispan models of the solid magnesium canard surface were tested with pitch springs which had the scaled design and  $1/2$  the scaled design pitch stiffness and with total free play in pitch ranging from 0<sup>0</sup> to 1<sup>0</sup>. The supersonic investigation also included tests of a model with a pitch spring which had  $1/4$  the scaled design pitch stiffness but with no free play in pitch. Presented herein are the results of these investigations.

#### SYMBOLS





 $\mathbf{u}_{\mathbf{L}}$ natural torsion frequency of model with no *tree* play in pitch, radians per sec

#### MODEIS

# Models Used in Transonic Tests

The transonic tests employed 1/2-size semispan models of the allmovable canard surface of the expendable powered target. All models and model mounting parts were furnished by the Beech Aircraft Corporation. Six similarly constructed model panels, designated as models l to 6, were used in the tests. The models were of the same type *ot* construction (solid cross section) and were made of the same material (magnesium alloy) as the full-scale canard surface. A sketch and photographs of a model are presented in figures land 2, respectively, and the geometric properties and measured mass properties of the models are presented in tables I and II, respectively.

In the tests each semispan model was mounted to a steel torque shaft which was supported by ball bearings in a mounting block (fig. 2). Attached to the torque shaft was a torque arm **(figs.** 2(b) and 2(c)), which was restrained within the fuselage between two faces of a clamptype stop. The gaps in the stop could be ad.justed to provide desired amounts *ot* tree play in pitch to the model. Torque shafts having the scaled design and  $1/2$  the scaled design pitch stiffness were provided. The mass moments *ot* inertia about the pitch axis ot a typical torque shaft and its attached parts are presented in table II. Since the torque arm is attached to and moves with the torque shaft during any pitch movement within the free-play limits *ot* a model, the moment of inertia of the torque shaft with the torque arm attached is also presented in table II. Strain gages, used to indicate the occurrence of flutter and to measure the flutter frequency, were externally mounted on the top and bottom surfaces near the model root.

The bending and torsional stiffness distribution (EI and GJ) along the maximum thickness line  $(43$ -percent chcrd line) measured on models 1 and  $5$  are presented in figure  $3$ . The major portion of the differences between the stiffness distributions of the two models is believed to be caused by the variations in model thickness within the tolerances **allowed**  in the model construction. The measured natural-vibration frequencies and associated node lines of each model mounted to a rigidly clamped block are presented in figure  $4$ . The models were excited by means of an acoustic shaker.

The support stiffnesses and free play in the pitch, roll, and yaw directions and the resonant frequencies ar.d node lines of the models tested are presented in figure 5. With the desired free play in pitch set in the model, the resonant frequencies and node lines could not be accurately measured; therefore, only the frequencies *ot* the models with no free play in pitch are presented in figure 5. Same unintentional free play was present in the roll and yaw directions as indicated in figure 5. The stiffness in each direction (fig. 5) was obtained from the slopes of the load-deflection curves measured for this direction. The stiffnesses so measured for the pitch direction were repeatable within 5 percent or less; however, the stiffnesses in the roll and yaw degree of freedom showed scatter up to 50 percent. It is believed that the scatter in the measured stiffnesses in the roll and yaw directions may have been caused by a binding in the tearings or shifts in the alinement of the bearings in the mounting block. The addition of *tree* play in pitch produced no measurable effect on the pitch stiffnesses of the models presented in figure 5.

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#### Models Used in Supersonic Tests

The canard surface and support system are shown in figure 6 and their properties are included in tables I, II, and III. The models were essentially the same as those used in the transonic tests except that the models were mounted on the tunnel sidewall as shown in figure 7. The canard surface was supported by a steel shaft pivoted on two ball bearings with a third ball bearing supporting the end of' the torque spring. The torque-spring clamp could be adjusted to control the free play. The ball bearings used had about  $\pm 0.0007$ -inch free play in translation. Because of this free play in the bearing, the first natural vibration mode was difficult to excite accurately. Strain gages were mounted on the torque spring and at the root of the model.

#### TEST APPARATUS AND TECHNIQUE

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# Transonic Tests

**The** transonic tests were conducted in the Langley transonic blowdown tunnel at Mach numbers from about 0.7 to 1.3. The tunnel has a slotted, octagonal test section which measures approximately 26 inches between flats. This tunnel is particularly useful for flutter investigations because Mach number and air density may be varied independently. ·However, the Mach number does not uniquely define the velocity in the test section since during the operation of' the tunnel, as air in the reservoir is expended, the stagnation temperature constantly decreases.

For each run (defined as one operation of the tunnel from valve opening to valve closing) the mounting block with the semispan model installed was fitted into a sting in such a way as to form a cylindrical fuselage 3 inches in diameter. The fuselage sting extended upstream into the subsonic flow region of the tunnel in order to prevent the formation of' bow shock waves. The sting and model weighed approximately 290 pounds, and the system had a fundamental bending frequency of about 15 cps. A sketch of a model mounted on the sting and installed in the tunnel is shown in figure  $8$ . The model with no free play in pitch was mounted at an angle of attack of  $0^0$ . With free play in pitch incorporated in the model, the mean angular position of the model between the pitch stops was set at an angle of attack of  $0^\circ$ . However, the flow angle varied somewhat with the operating conditions of the tunnel so that the model was not always trimmed for zero lift throughout a given run. In addition, the tunnel stream has a certain amount of turbulence, the level of which is also a function of the tunnel operating conditions.

The technique employed in most runs was to increase the dynamic pressure gradually until either flutter occurred or a dynamic pressure

32 percent greater than that required for sea-level f'ligbt was reached.  $\frac{32}{2}$  percent greater than that required for sea-level flight was reached.<br>In an effort to obtain flutter, several model configurations were tested<br>up to or near the maximum dynamic pressure available in the tunnel.<br> up to or near the maximum dynamic pressure available in the tunnel.<br>During each run, the output of the strain gages on the model, the testsection stagnation temperature, and the test-section stagnation and static pressures were continuously recorded by means *ot* a recording oscillograph. Models used in more than one run were checked for structural damage by visual inspection, and the models tested with no free play in pitch were also checked by canparing the natural frequencies measured in the tunnel before and after each run. **As a** check of the structural integrity of a model tested with free play in pitch, the natural frequencies of the model in the no-free-play condition were measured after the tests were completed and were compared with those measured before the tests.

# Supersonic **Tests**

The Langley 9- by 18-inch supersonic aeroelasticity tunnel **is a**  wind tunnel of the blowdown type operating from a high-pressure source and exhausting into a vacuum chamber. The Mach number is fixed by nozzle configuration, and for these tests Mach number 1.3, 2.0, and 2.55 nozzles were used. The useful running time was about 3 seconds.

The model was mounted from the tunnel sidewall (fig.  $7$ ) and the angle of attack was  $0^0$ . After the tunnel was closed, it was evacuated to approximately  $1/4$  pound per square inch absolute. The pressure valve was then opened gradually until either flutter occurred or the desired dynamic pressure was reached, and then the valve was closed quickly. **A**  dynamic pressure was reached, and then the valve was closed quickly. A high vacuum start was used to minimize the effect of the starting tran• sient flow. In a typical tunnel test, the dynamic pressure is continu-<br>evely in sient flow. In a typical tunnel test, the dynamic pressure is continu-<br>ously increased from a very low value (simulating a high altitude) to a high value ( simulating a low altitude). **'l'he** tunnel stagnation **pressure**  and temperature and the outputs of the model strain gages were recorded on an oscillograph which operated continuously for the duration of a tunnel run.

# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

# Presentation of Results

The flight envelope of the target **.is shown** in figure 9, along with the approximate altitude and Mach number regions covered in the present investigations. The results of the transonic and supersonic tests are presented in table III and plots of the maximum dynamic pressure obtained against Mach number are presented in **figures** 10 to 13. An altitudestiffness parameter  $\frac{b a}{a}$  is included in table III for reference purposes.

# Transonic Tests

The transonic results (figs. 10 and ll) indicate that all model configurations were flutter free to dynamic pressures at least 32 percent greater than those required for sea-level flight through the transonic regime. Models having a pitch spring with the scaled design pitch stiffness were tested to considerably higher dynamic pressures without obtaining flutter (fig. 10). As an indication of the dynamic-pressure range covered by the transonic investigation, the variation of dynamic pressure with the Mach number during three typical runs in the transonic blowdown tunnel is presented in figure 12. Also presented is the dynamic pressure variation with Mach number for various altitudes in standard atmosphere (ref. 1).

The model both with and without free play in pitch was statically unstable in pitch through the Mach number range. Therefore, at the higher dynamic pressures, most of the model configurations remained at one pitch attitude for long periods or for the entire run; this was particularly true of models with free play in pitch. However, at the low dynamic pressures, the airstream turbulence was usually sufficient to "kick" or move the model from a nose-up to a nose-down pitch attitude or vice versa. A model was assumed to be adequately trimmed (table III) when the model alternated irregularly between a nose-up and nose-down angle of attack at the low dynamic pressures of a run. When a model flew constantly or predominantly at one pitch attitude for the entire run, the angle of attack of the sting was changed (the model retrimmed) in an effort to correct for this condition before the next run. Several runs were aborted at low dynamic pressures when unusually large deflections were observed. The model deflections in pitch **at a Mach** number of 1.3 were noticeably less than those observed for the same dynamic pressures at subsonic Mach numbers, indicating a reduction in the static moment about the pitch axis as the Mach number became supersonic.

In the course of the investigation, one panel was lost and two torque shafts deformed permanently in twist during high dynamic pressure runs at subsonic Mach numbers {table III, runs 2, 12, and 38) due to the large static aerodynamic moments. These model failures occurred at dynamic pressures much higher than those required for sea-level flight at these Mach numbers.

#### Supersonic Testa

No flutter was obtained during the supersonic tests (fig. 13) even at dynamic pressures well in excess of those encountered by the vehicle in its supersonic flight envelope. During the tests with free play in at dynamic pressures well in excess of those encountered by the vehicle in its supersonic flight envelope. During the tests with free play in pitch, the model always rested against a stop indicating that the static pitching instability obtained in the transonic tests extended into the supersonic speed regime. The model was remotely moved from one stop to the other during runs with maximum free play and the very-low-amplitude oscillations that resulted from the sudden stops decayed rapidly. Some still-air damping tests were made on one model, and the results show that the damping coefficient in the first natural torsion vibration mode varied from a  $g = 0.04$  at low amplitudes to a  $g = 0.14$  at larger amplitudes.

# Interpretation of Results

The models used in the present investigations were of the **same type**  of construction and were made of the same material as the full-scale canard surface, but were  $1/2$  of full size. For wings so constructed, at a given mass ratio and Mach number, the flutter dynamic pressure is independent of' wing size. Therefore, the flutter dynamic pressure for the present model should be exactly equal to that for the full-scale vehicle at the same  $\mu$  and M.

Because the temperature is not a controllable factor in the blowdown tunnels used for the present tests, at any given dynamic pressure the mass ratio of the model in the tunnel was, in general, somewhat different from that of the full-scale target at the operating condition. However, the dynamic pressures attained in the present tests far exceeded the flutter margin requirements so that the effects of the differences in the mass ratio are considered to be more than compensated for by the margin in dynamic pressure. Some quantitative indication of the effects of varying mass ratio may be found in reference 2.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

A transonic and a supersonic flutter investigation of  $1/2$ -size models of the all-movable canard surface of the Beech XKD2B-1 expendable powered target has been made. The transonic tests covered a Mach number range from about  $0.7$  to  $1.3$ , and the supersonic tests were made at Mach numbers 1.3, 2.0, and 2.55. Models were investigated which had pitch springs with the scaled design and  $1/2$  the scaled design pitch stiffness and with free play in pitch ranging from  $0^{\circ}$  to 1°. Investigated only at supersonic Mach numbers was a model configuration having a pitch

spring with  $1/4$  the scaled design pitch stiffness and with no free play in pitch. The results of the investigations have indicated the following:

1. All model configurations investigated **were** flutter free to dynamic pressures 32 percent greater than those required *to~* flight throughout the Mach number range.

2. Several model configurations were tested to much higher dynamic pressures without obtaining flutter at.both transonic and supersonic speeds.

Langley Research Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Langley Air Force Base, Va., September 15, 1961.

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# **REFERENCES**

- 1. Ames Research Staff: Equations, Tables, and Charts for Compressible Flow. NACA Rep. 1135, 1953. (Supersedes NACA TN 1428.)
- 2. Yates, E. Carson, Jr.: Some Effects of Variations in Density and Aerodynamic Parameters on the Calculated Flutter Characteristics of Finite-Span Swept and Unswept **Wings** at Subsonic and SU.personic Speeds. **NASA TM** X-182, 1960.

# TABLE I.- GEOMETRIC PROPERTIES OF MODELS

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"'Planf'orm based on extension *ot* model to **f'usel.age-sting** center line.

TABLE II. - MASS PROPERTIES OF MODELS





a Ipitch axis does not include the moment of inertia of the torque shaft, which in the transonic tests **was**  3.16 x 10<sup>-6</sup> slug-ft<sup>2</sup> without the torque arm and  $6.43 \times 10^{-6}$  slug-ft<sup>2</sup> with the torque arm. In the supersonic tests, the moment of inertia of the torque shaft was  $4.75 \times 10^{-6}$  slug-ft<sup>2</sup> without the torque arm.

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#### TABLE III.- COMPILATION OF EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS



# (a) Transonic test results; scaled design pitch stiffness

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# TABLE III.- COMPILATION OF **EXPERIMENTAL** RESULTS - Continued

# $(b)$  Transonic test results;  $1/2$ -scaled design pitch stiffness

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# TABLE III.- COMPILATION OF EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS - Concluded

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# (c) Supersonic test results





 $\sim 10^{11}$  km s  $^{-1}$ 

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Section A-A



Front view

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Note: 3-inch-diameter fuselage sting was used only for the transonic tests.

**Figure 1.- Sketch of model. All dimensions are in inches unless otherwise specified.** 



(a) Model assembled in mounting block. L- 60-426 . 1 Figure 2.- Photographs of models and support used in transonic investigation.

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(b) Exploded view of model and support. L-60-427.1

Figure 2. - Continued.



(c) Two views of model on torque shaft outside of mounting block.  $L - 61 - 5093$ Figure 2. - Concluded.

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Figure 3,- Measured bending- and torsional-stiffness distribution along maximum thickness line of models 1 and 5,



Item	Model number					
$f_1$ , cps			420 438 425 436 440 440			
$f_2$ , cps			995   1040   1045   1060   1060   1040			
$\lceil r_3 \rceil$ cps $\lceil \frac{1}{450} \rceil \frac{15}{40} \rceil \frac{1}{80} \lceil \frac{1520}{1540} \rceil \frac{1}{1490} \rceil$						
$\lceil\pmb{f}_{\pmb{\mu}}\pmb{,} \rceil$ cps $\lceil\,\pmb{1825}\,\rceil\,\pmb{1910}\,\lceil\,\pmb{1900}\,\rceil\,\pmb{1900}\,\lceil\,\pmb{1950}\,\lceil\,\pmb{1870}\,\rceil$						

Figure  $4.$  - Measured natural vibration frequencies and associated node lines of models mounted to a rigidly clamped block.



for determining stiffnesses



- (a) Model  $4$ ; design scaled pitch stiffness; no free play in pitch; runs 1 and 2.
- Figure 5.- Measured stiffnesses, free play, resonant frequencies, and associated node lines of models used in transonic tests. The number with each node line gives the associated frequency in cycles per second.





(b) Model 6; design scaled pitch stiffness; no free play in pitch; run 12.

Figure 5. - Contlnued.





(c) Model 2; design scaled pitch stiffness; tested with  $0.86^{\circ}$  free play in pitch; runs 15 to 26. (Note: Frequencies and node lines are presented for the model with no free play in pitch. When free play in pitch was permitted in the model, frequencies and node lines could not be measured accurately.)

Figure 5. - Continued.



(d) Model 3; l/2 design scaled pitch stiffness; no free play in pitch; runs 3 to 11, 13 and 14.

Figure 5-- Continued.



for determining stiffnesses



(e) Model  $3$ ;  $1/2$  design scaled pitch stiffness; tested with  $0.52^{\circ}$  free play in pitch; runs 27 to 31. (Note: Frequencies and node lines are presented for the model with no free **play** in pitch. When free play in pitch was permitted in the model, frequencies and node lines could not be measured accurately.)

Figure 5.- Continued.





(f) Model 1;  $1/2$  design scaled pitch stiffness; tested with 1.06<sup>°</sup> free play in pitch; runs  $32$  to  $38$ . (Note: Frequencies and node lines are presented for the model with no free play in pitch. When free play in pitch was permitted in the model, frequencies and node lines could not be measured accurately.)

Figure 5.- Concluded.



Figure 6.- Supersonic model.



(b) Assembly. Figure 6.- Concluded.

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Figure 7. - Model mounted in supersonic tunnel. L-60-342.1



Figure 8.- Plan view of Langley transonic blowndown tunnel showing model installed.

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Figure 9.- Altitude and Mach number flight envelope of target and operating ranges of Langley transonic blowdown tunnel and Langley 9- by 18-inch supersonic aeroelasticity tunnel.

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**(b) Model with 0.86° free play in pitch.** 

**Figure 10.- Maximum dynamic pressure obtained without flutter at various Mach numbers for models having scaled design pitch stiffness.** 



(c) Model with 1.05° free play in pitch.

Figure 11.- Maximum dynamic pressure obtained without flutter at various Mach numbers for model with 1/2 scaled design pitch stiffness.



O Maximum dynamic pressure obtained during run

Figure 12.- Variation of dynamic pressure with Mach number during three typical runs in the Langley transonic blowdown tunnel.



Figure 13.- Maximum dynamic pressure obtained without flutter at various Mach numbers and expected flight dynamic pressure in supersonic range.

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# ABSTRACT

The experimental investigations covered a Mach number range from 0.7 to 2.55. The semispan models were tested at  $0^{\circ}$  angle of attack with three pitch spring stiffnesses and with free play in pitch ranging from  $0^0$  to  $1^0$ . All model configurations investigated were flutter free to dynamic pressures  $32$  percent greater than those required for flight throughout the Mach number range. No flutter could be obtained although several model configurations were tested to considerably higher dynamic pressures.

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