

HM-381 & HM-381F Standard Pneumatic Direct Shear Machine

INTRODUCTION

The Gilson HM-381 Standard Pneumatic Direct Shear Machine is a tabletop unit that provides direct or direct/residual shear values for evaluating the strength and stability of soils. Manufactured in cooperation with Karol-Warner, this device utilizes a pneumatic loading piston for applying the vertical load to the sample. A calibration chart is included for setting the high load or the low load via the Fairchild Regulator while a built-in digital readout displays the vertical load in psi.

This Direct Shear Unit has a strain rate of 0.0001 – 0.3 in/min (0.0025 – 7.62 mm/min) with a maximum shear displacement of 0.8in (20.3mm) and the travel speed is set with the thumbwheels on the left side of the unit. The residual shear force is determined by a load cell while real time load settings and peak load are displayed on the digital readout. Consolidation and shear displacement are measured with analog dial indicators.

FEATURES

- Total shear capacity of 1,500lbf (6.67kN)
- Stepper motor controls strain rates to +/- 1% from 0.0001 – 0.3in/min (0.0025 – 7.62mm/min)
- Teflon coated anodized aluminum water chamber with drainage port included.
- Meets requirements for ASTM D3080 and AASHTO T 236

REQUIRED ACCESSORIES (purchased separately)

- Direct shear boxes are sold separately and are available in a wide range of inch and metric sizes with round or square shapes. See all options at www.globalgilson.com and in chart below.
 - Direct Shear Boxes and Accessories



HM-381

Direct Shear Boxes & Accessories				
Description	Shear Box	Cutters	Extruders	Porous Stones
Round Direct Shear Boxes				
50mm (1.97in) Diameter	HMA-733M	HMA-743M	HMA-763M	GSA-208
2.0in (50.8mm) Diameter	HMA-733	HMA-743	HMA-763	GSA-210
60mm (2.36in) Diameter	HMA-734M	HMA-744M	HMA-764M	GSA-213
2.42in (61.4mm) Diameter	HMA-734	HMA-744	HMA-764	GSA-217
2.5in (63.5mm) Diameter	HMA-735	HMA-745	HMA-765	GSA-219
100mm (3.94in) Diameter	HMA-737	HMA-747	HMA-767	GSA-231
4in (101.6mm) Diameter	HMA-736	HMA-746	HMA-766	GSA-232
Square Direct Shear Boxes				
50mm (1.97in) Square	HMA-733MS	HMA-743MS	HMA-763MS	GSA-208S
2.0in (50.8mm) Square	HMA-733S	HMA-743S	HMA-763S	GSA-210S
60mm (2.36in) Square	HMA-734MS	HMA-744MS	HMA-764MS	GSA-213S
2.42in (61.4mm) Square	HMA-734SA	HMA-744SA	HMA-764SA	GSA-217S
2.5in (63.5mm) Square	HMA-735S	HMA-745S	HMA-765S	GSA-219S
100mm (3.94in) Square	HMA-737S	HMA-747S	HMA-767S	GSA-231S
4in (101.6mm) Square	HMA-736S	HMA-746S	HMA-766S	GSA-232S

- A constant supply of compressed air at 90psi (6.2 bar) is required for use.

UNPACKING & SETUP

- Inspect your HM-381 for damage, remove from the pallet.
- Place Direct Shear Machine on a sturdy, level surface, such as a bench top or HMA-95 Pneumatic Shear Machine Rolling Cart.
- Review the Connections section and install necessary components.

CONNECTIONS

Vertical Displacement Rod – Screws into the top platform to the right of the rear pull-down rod.

Vertical Displacement Clamping Arm – Attach to the above rod.

Vertical Displacement Dial Gauge – Consolidation – Attach to the clamping arm with the screw provided.

Horizontal Displacement Dial Gauge – Shear – Attach to the threaded rod on the angle bracket-top platform, right front.

Air Line – A constant supply of clean, dry air is required. The air inlet air pressure should not exceed 200 psi, nor should it ever be less than 20 psi higher than the highest pressure setting. The connection is a 1/4" Swagelok, located in the rear of the cabinet. Insert the tubing into the fitting until it bottoms out. With the nut finger tight, tighten the fitting 1 1/4 turns with a wrench. Do not over tighten.

Load Cell – Connect the load cell to the support casting at the right end of the direct shear using the two knobs. Adjust the knobs so that the load cell is as far to the right as possible. This will allow room for assembling the water chamber and the shear rings with minimum interference. Connection is made at the rear of the readout cabinet.

Water Chamber – Special care should be taken to see that the four (4) roller bearings between the water chamber and the base slide tracks are properly cleaned and contain a slight amount of oil during and after use. We advise using a cover over the direct shear after use to eliminate dust from entering the precision slide assembly. The main drive shaft should be at its home position. This will place the sample load pad in the center of the crossarm for consolidation.

Shear Boxes (sold separately) – The shear boxes are held together with (2) stainless steel screws. There are also (4) screws for adjusting the gap between the rings once consolidation has been reached. The gap is adjusted by turning the screws clockwise from the finger tight position. One full turn will give .031" gap. There is a line scribed on the adjusting knob for determining how much gap each screw has provided. The screws should be turned evenly to maintain a proper gap. At the bottom of each screw is a nylon glide which keeps the top shear ring from dropping during the test.

FRONT PANEL CONTROLS

The consolidation load settings and strain rates

are controlled from the front panel. Machine must be plugged in to a properly wired grounded receptacle with appropriate electrical current.

PANEL CONTROLS — LOAD SETTING

Residual Shear Force LCD Readout – The digital readout will display real time load settings and peak load of the horizontal load cell. Use the tare button to zero the display before starting test.

Load Regulator – A precision Fairchild regulator is used to set and maintain the air pressure to the pistons which provides load to the sample. The regulator is sensitive to 1/8" variations in water column. Select the load required from the load setting table.

Note: The consolidation load pad, porous stone, and stainless-steel ball have not been included in the load setting calibrations.

High Load/Low Load Selector Valve – This valve has two positions. The LOW LOAD position is used for loads up to 100lbs depending on the model. The HIGH LOAD position is used for loads up to 1500lbs.

Load Valve – This valve is actuated by 90-degree rotation of the handle. When open it allows air to flow from the regulator to the pistons (HIGH or LOW LOAD) selected.

PANEL CONTROLS — POWER & SHEAR RATE

Power Switch – An indicator light is present when power is turned on.

Strain Rate Selector – The strain rate is set with thumbwheel selectors. The switches are direct reading in inches/minute with an implied leading decimal point. Once the rate is set and the test is started, the switch setting is ignored until the stop switch is pressed or a limit switch is tripped.

Limit Switches – These switches are located on the platform behind the water chamber.

Adjustment of these switches is made by loosening the Phillips-head screws and moving the limit switch assembly in the direction desired. The home position has been set so that the load crossarm is in the middle of the shear rings.

Note: The limit of travel of the drive shaft is dependent on the limit switch settings. Do not operate the drive motor with the water chamber disconnected because this will make the limit switches inoperable.

Stop Switch – Momentary push button to stop the motor.

Direction Switch – Momentary (spring loaded) switch. After setting the desired shear rate, moving the switch in the desired direction will initiate movement. This switch will then become inactive until the stop button is pressed, or a limit switch is activated. The left position will move the water chamber to the left. It will continue until the water chamber activates the limit switch. At this time, the limit indicator light will be lit. The right switch position will move the shear box to the right until the home limit switch is made. See above note...

Home & Limit Indicators – Used to indicate the limit of travel of the shear box.

Fuse – 4 amp SLO BLO fuse located in the cabinet rear.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Read all operating instructions before performing a test and refer to ASTM D3080 or AASHTO T 236 for complete test procedures and calculations.

Set Up

1. Place the shear box into the water chamber and secure the load cell shaft to the top of the shear box.
2. Tighten the two shear ring clamping knobs located on the left side of the water chamber.
3. Install the counterbalance, Model HMA-739, if necessary.
4. Tare the load cell by pressing the “Tare” button on the digital readout.
5. Adjust the top cross arm and dial gauge so there is 1/8in gap between the cross arm and loading ball. Align the cross arm pin so it is above the loading ball. Make sure the cross arm is level.
6. Adjust the dial gauge by raising or lowering the indicator rod and holder so the tip of the dial gauge is resting on the cross arm pin.

Consolidation

1. Select a seating load with the load setting calibration chart. Set the HIGH LOAD or LOW LOAD knob to LOW and the Load Valve to “LOAD.”
2. Adjust the Fairchild Pressure Regulator to the desired seating load per the load setting calibration chart, this value is displayed on the bottom digital readout.

3. Turn the “LOAD” knob to “OFF” and adjust the Pressure Regulator to the desired normal load based on the load calibration chart. If reading from the “LOW” calibration chart keep the knob on the LOW LOAD position. If reading from the “HIGH” calibration chart, turn the knob to “HIGH LOAD”
4. Read the dial indicator to note the initial reading.
5. Turn the Load Valve to “LOAD” to begin consolidation.

Direct Shear

1. After consolidation phase is complete, add a small seating shear load by adjusting the two knurled nuts on the load cell support.
2. Adjust or zero the horizontal dial indicator.
3. Remove the two holding screws on the shear box to separate the top and bottom sections. Adjust the four adjusting screws on the shear box to set the gap between the top and bottom of the shear box. One full turn of these adjusting screws will give a 0.031in (0.78mm) gap.
4. Set the shear/strain rate with the thumbwheels on the left side of the machine. Each number is set by pushing the thumbwheel button, the rate is in inches per minute (0001 = 0.0001 in/min).
5. To begin shear, switch the DIRECTION toggle switch to the left towards the LIMIT light. Record shear readings at the prescribed intervals.
6. The water chamber with shear box will continue to move at the set rate until the limit switch is activated or the STOP button is pressed.
7. At the test completion, switch the DIRECTION toggle to the right towards the HOME light. Press the stop button when Zero load is reached on the load cell readout.
- 7A. If Residual Shear values are needed, these can be determined during this time.
8. Reduce the vertical load to Zero by adjusting the Fairchild Pressure Regulator until Zero psi is reached on the pressure readout.
9. The Shear Box can now be removed from the water chamber and the sample can be inspected.

MAINTENANCE

Special care should be taken to see that the four roller bearings between the water chamber and the base slide track are properly cleaned and contain a slight amount of oil during and after use. It is recommended to cover the Direct Shear machine when not in use to prevent dust buildup.

Empty the water chamber after each test to prevent soil and sand buildup inside the chamber. The water can be drained from the port or the chamber can be removed from the Direct Shear Machine for thorough cleaning.

ACCESSORIES

HMA-95 Pneumatic Shear Machine Rolling Cart

HMA-739 Shear Box Counterbalance

HMA-610 Direct/Residual Shear Data Acquisition Software