

Abstract Submitted  
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**A tensile split Hopkinson pressure bar for low impedance materials** DAVID WILLIAMSON, University of Cambridge — A split Hopkinson pressure bar that is specifically designed for testing low impedance materials in uniaxial tension is discussed. The input and output bars are each 2.5 m long and formed of titanium alloy tubes and are of low mechanical impedance (Grade 9 alloy, 16 mm outside diameter, 1mm wall thickness). Tensile pulses are generated by the action of an impedance matched striker-tube which is coaxial to, and rides over the top of, the input-tube. The striker tube is propelled along the input-tube away from the specimen by a gas-gun with a wrap-around breech to strike a stop mounted at the end of the input-tube. The subsequent compressive pulse is inverted to become tensile by reflection from a free surface, and propagates back up the input-tube to interact with the specimen, causing it to be placed into a state of uniaxial tension with associated displacement rates of between 0.5 and 5 meters per second. In addition to force-displacement information obtained from strain gauges mounted on the bars, sample deformation is monitored using high-speed video and sample strains are extracted using digital image cross-correlation. Recent results from experiments on highly filled particulate composites with polymer matrices are presented.

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