



THE EFFECT OF HAND DRYER FAN PARAMETER ON NOISE AND AERODYNAMIC LEVEL

This report is submitted in accordance with requirement of the University Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) for Bachelor Degree of Manufacturing Engineering (Hons.)



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2022

BORANG PENGESAHAN STATUS LAPORAN PROJEK SARJANA MUDA

Tajuk: **THE EFFECT OF HAND DRYER FAN PARAMETER ON NOISE AND AERODYNAMIC LEVEL**

Sesi Pengajian: **2020/2021 Semester 1**

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APPROVAL

This report is submitted to the Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering of Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka as a partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Bachelor Manufacturing Engineering (Hons). The member of the supervisory committee is as follow:



ABSTRAK

Matlamat penyelidikan ini adalah untuk menambah baik reka bentuk semasa pengering tangan dengan memanipulasi parameter input berbeza yang boleh dilaksanakan untuk mengoptimumkan tindak balas output. Parameter input ditakrifkan dari segi dua aspek iaitu jenis reka bentuk muncung dan jenis penebat. Manakala tindak balas keluaran yang akan dinilai termasuklah halaju udara (MPH), tahap kebisingan (dB) dan masa pengeringan dalam (s). Kaedah menjalankan penyelidikan ini adalah dengan melaksanakan reka bentuk Faktor Penuh dalam Reka Bentuk Eksperimen (DoE) di mana jumlah eksperimen adalah sebanyak 9 kali berdasarkan 2 faktor pada 3 tahap. Muncung krom, muncung penumpu dan muncung peresap mewakili jenis reka bentuk muncung manakala kadbod telur, baji dan buih akustik piramid mewakili jenis penebat. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa kombinasi terbaik yang dicadangkan oleh perisian Design Expert adalah kombinasi muncung krom dengan buih baji dan buih piramid sebagai muncung yang dipasang di saluran keluar udara dan juga digunakan sebagai penebat dalam perumah motor dalaman pengering tangan, masing-masing. Ketiga-tiga gabungan parameter ini telah memberikan output yang paling diinginkan dan telah mencapai matlamat projek ini iaitu untuk mempunyai tahap kebisingan yang paling rendah, masa pengeringan yang paling singkat dan halaju udara yang paling tinggi. Tambahan pula, ini juga telah membuktikan bahawa kesan parameter kipas pengering tangan yang melibatkan gabungan muncung krom dengan buih baji dan buih piramid telah menghasilkan kesan yang paling besar terhadap pengurangan tahap kebisingan dan tahap aerodinamik pengering tangan.

ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to improve the current design of the hand dryer by manipulating different input parameters that can be implemented to optimise the output responses. The input parameters are defined in terms of two aspects which are the type of nozzle design and the type of insulation. Whereas the output responses to be evaluated are the air velocity in (MPH), noise level in (dB) and drying time in (s). The method of conducting this research is by implementing the Full Factorial design in the Design of Experiment (DoE) with a total of 9 runs of experiments provided with 2 factors at 3 levels. The chrome nozzle, concentrator nozzle and diffuser nozzle represent the type of nozzle design whereas the egg carton, wedge and pyramid acoustic foam represent the type of insulation. The results revealed that the best combination suggested by the Design Expert software are the chrome nozzle with wedge foam and pyramid foam as the nozzle installed at the air outlet and also used as insulations in the internal motor housing of the hand dryer, respectively. All three of these parameters combination has given the most desirable output and have achieved the aim of this project which is to have the lowest noise level, shortest drying time and highest air velocity. Furthermore, this has also proven that the effect of hand dryer fan parameter which involved the combination of chrome nozzle with wedge foam and pyramid foam has produced the greatest impact on the reduction of noise level and aerodynamic level of the hand dryer.

DEDICATION

Only

my beloved father, Eric Cheak Yoong Peng

my appreciated mother, Tay Siok Eng

my adored sister and brother, Diana, Christina and Jason

for giving me moral support, money, cooperation, encouragement and also understandings

Thank You So Much & Love You All Forever



اونيورسيتي تيكنيكل مليسيا ملاك

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I would like to express my greatest gratitude to my parents for giving me endless support to build confidence in me. Also, I would like to thank them for giving me encouragement throughout the entire progress of this project. Besides, I would like to express my utmost and sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Profesor Madya Dr. Mohd Shahir bin Kasim for his wonderful supervision, guidance and continuous support throughout the project. I would like to thank him for always providing me guidance and useful advices by teaching me extra knowledge than I am required. I believe that all the knowledge and experience gained will be very useful for my future. Apart from that, I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation especially to the panels who provided me useful advice and suggestions in order to improve this project. Last but not least, I would like to thank all my friends that has been helping me throughout the project in this semester.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRAK.....	I
ABSTRACT	II
DEDICATION	III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	IV
TABLE OF CONTENTS	V
LIST OF TABLE.....	X
LIST OF FIGURES.....	XII
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	XIV
LIST OF SYMBOLS.....	XVI
CHAPTER 1.....	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.0 Overview.....	1
1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Problem Statement.....	2
1.3 Objectives.....	3
1.4 Scope.....	3
1.5 Importance of Study.....	4
1.6 Organization of Thesis	5
1.7 Summary	6
CHAPTER 2.....	7
LITERATURE REVIEW	7
2.0 Overview.....	7
2.1 Introduction.....	7
2.2 Noise Sources Identification in Hand Dryer.....	8
2.2.1 Vibrational Noise.....	8
2.3 Alternatives to Reduce Noise Level with Various Applications	9

2.3.1	Insulating Foam	10
2.3.2	Sound Level Meter	10
2.3.3	Soundproof Box.....	11
2.3.4	Porous Material.....	11
2.4	Engineering Noise Control Strategies.....	11
2.4.1	Partial Enclosure.....	12
2.4.2	Fan Installations and Efficiency	13
2.4.3	Fan Speed Reduction	13
2.4.4	Ductwork	14
2.4.5	Aerodynamic Fan Noise Control.....	15
2.4.6	Rubber Motor Mounting.....	16
2.4.7	Increase the Number of Fan Blades.....	16
2.5	Measures of Acoustical Materials Effectiveness.....	16
2.5.1	Sound Absorption Coefficient.....	17
2.5.2	Specific Acoustic Impedance	17
2.5.3	Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC).....	17
2.5.4	Sound Transmission Class (STC).....	18
2.5.5	A-Weighting	18
2.6	Technical Specifications of Hand Dryers in the Market.....	19
2.7	Comparison of the Sound Intensity of Hand Dryers.....	23
2.8	Optimum Flow Directing Outlet Design.....	23
2.9	Full Factorial Design.....	24
2.10	Design of Experiment (DoE)	24
2.11	Input Parameters to be Studied	25
2.11.1	Type of Nozzle Design	25
2.11.2	Type of Insulation.....	26
2.12	Summary	27

CHAPTER 3.....	30
METHODOLOGY	30
3.0 Overview.....	30
3.1 PSM 1 Gantt Chart.....	30
3.2 Research Methodology Overview.....	33
3.2.1 Design of Experiment (DoE).....	33
3.2.2 Screening Design.....	34
3.2.3 Full Factorial Design	34
3.3 Flowchart of the Project.....	36
3.4 Process of Developing Nozzle Design.....	38
3.5 Experimental Layout Plan.....	38
3.6 Experimental Tools and Apparatus.....	40
3.7 Experimental Set Up.....	42
3.8 Summary.....	46
CHAPTER 4.....	47
RESULT AND DISCUSSION	47
4.0 Overview.....	47
4.1 Data Collection.....	47
4.2 Status of Design	49
4.3 Evaluation of Design.....	51
4.4 Analysis of Air Velocity	51
4.4.1 Fit Summary	52
4.4.2 ANOVA.....	53
4.4.3 Regression Statistic.....	54
4.4.4 Final Equations	54
4.4.5 Diagnostics Case Statistics	55
4.4.6 Model Diagnostics Plots.....	56
4.4.7 Perturbation Plot of Air Velocity.....	58

4.4.8	3D Surface Plot of Air Velocity	59
4.5	Analysis of Noise Level.....	60
4.5.1	Fit Summary	60
4.5.2	ANOVA.....	61
4.5.3	Regression Statistic.....	62
4.5.4	Final Equations.....	62
4.5.5	Diagnostics Case Statistics	63
4.5.6	Model Diagnostics Plots.....	63
4.5.7	Perturbation Plot of Noise Level	66
4.5.8	3D Surface Plot of Noise Level.....	67
4.6	Analysis of Drying Time	67
4.6.1	Fit Summary	68
4.6.2	ANOVA.....	69
4.6.3	Regression Statistic.....	70
4.6.4	Final Equations.....	70
4.6.5	Diagnostics Case Statistics	71
4.6.6	Model Diagnostics Plots.....	71
4.6.7	Perturbation Plot of Drying Time.....	74
4.6.8	3D Surface Plot of Drying Time.....	75
4.7	Optimization of The Parameters	75
4.8	Validation Test Through Actual Experiment.....	80
4.9	Comparison Between Default Readings and Improvised Readings	83
4.10	Summary	84
CHAPTER 5.....		85
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.....		85
5.0	Conclusion	85
5.1	Future Recommendation.....	86
REFERENCES.....		i

APPENDIX A.....	vi
APPENDIX B.....	vii
APPENDIX C.....	xv
APPENDIX D.....	xvi
APPENDIX E.....	xxii



LIST OF TABLE

Table 2.1: Causes of Each Type of Sources for Mechanical Vibration with Description.....	9
Table 2.2: Dynamic Equilibrium Between Noise and Fan Speed	14
Table 2.3: Technical Specifications of Hand Dryers in the Market	19
Table 2.4: Type of nozzle design.....	25
Table 2.5: Type of insulation.....	26
Table 2.6: Summary of Chapter 2 Literature Review	27
Table 3.1: Task description for PSM 1 Gantt chart.....	31
Table 3.2: Input parameters of the full factorial design	39
Table 3.3: Design layout.....	40
Table 4.1: Data collection.....	48
Table 4.2: Column info sheet	48
Table 4.3: Design summary.....	50
Table 4.4: Sequential model sum of squares.....	52
Table 4.5: Model summary statistics.....	53
Table 4.6: ANOVA table for air velocity.....	53
Table 4.7: Regression statistic.....	54
Table 4.8: Table to generate final equation in terms of coded factors.....	54
Table 4.9: Diagnostics case statistics	55
Table 4.10: Sequential model sum of squares	60
Table 4.11 Model summary statistics	61
Table 4.12: ANOVA table for noise level.....	61
Table 4.13: Regression statistic	62
Table 4.14: Table to generate final equation in terms of coded factors	62
Table 4.15: Diagnostics case statistics	63
Table 4.16: Sequential model sum of squares	68
Table 4.17: Model summary statistics.....	69
Table 4.18: ANOVA table for drying time.....	69
Table 4.19: Regression statistic	70
Table 4.20: Table to generate final equation in terms of coded factors	70

Table 4.21: Diagnostics case statistics	71
Table 4.22: Table of constraints	76
Table 4.23: Solutions for optimization of parameters	76
Table 4.24: Design factor specifications	80
Table 4.25: Optimization of responses	81
Table 4.26: Data Collection of Responses.....	82
Table 4.27: Measurement between the predicted versus actual value in terms of the air velocity, noise level and drying time.....	82
Table 4.28: Default readings without nozzle and insulation	83
Table 4.29: Comparison between default and improvised (with nozzle and insulation) readings.....	84



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: flow of the thesis	5
Figure 2.1: Estimate of sound power reduction due to a partial enclosure	12
Figure 3.1: PSM 1 Gantt chart.....	32
Figure 3.2: Research methodology overview	33
Figure 3.3: Experimental design process.....	33
Figure 3.4: Design Expert statistical software.....	34
Figure 3.5: Flow chart of the project	36
Figure 3.6: Hand dryer.....	40
Figure 3.7: Air flow anemometer	41
Figure 3.8: Sound meter	41
Figure 3.9: Stopwatch.....	41
Figure 3.10: Apparatus set-up without insulation and nozzle	42
Figure 3.11: Apparatus set-up with insulation and nozzle	43
Figure 3.12: Egg carton installed in the internal motor housing and cover of hand dryer ..	44
Figure 3.13: Wedge foam installed in the internal motor housing and cover of hand dryer	44
Figure 3.14: Pyramid foam installed in the internal motor housing and cover of hand dryer	45
Figure 3.15: Distance marking of 15 cm from the air outlet by using yellow tape	45
Figure 4.1: Standard Error Plot.....	51
Figure 4.2: (a) Normal plot vs. residuals, (b) Residuals vs. predicted plot, (c) Residuals vs. type of nozzle design plot, (d) Residuals vs. type of insulation plot.....	56
Figure 4.3: (a) Residuals vs. run plot, (b) Outlier T plot, (c) Cook's distance plot, (d) Leverage vs. run plot.	57
Figure 4.4: (a) Predicted vs. actual plot, (b) Box-Cox plot for power transforms.	58
Figure 4.5: Perturbation plot of air velocity	58
Figure 4.6: 3D surface plot of air velocity.....	59
Figure 4.7: (a) Normal plot vs. residuals, (b) Residuals vs. predicted plot, (c) Residuals vs. type of nozzle design plot, (d) Residuals vs. type of insulation plot.....	64

Figure 4.8: (a) Residuals vs. run plot, (b) Outlier T plot, (c) Cook's distance plot, (d) Leverage vs. run plot.	64
Figure 4.9: (a) Predicted vs. actual plot, (b) Box-Cox plot for power transforms.	65
Figure 4.10: Perturbation plot of noise level	66
Figure 4.11: 3D surface plot of noise level	67
Figure 4.12: (a) Normal plot vs. residuals, (b) Residuals vs. predicted plot, (c) Residuals vs. type of nozzle design plot, (d) Residuals vs. type of insulation plot.....	72
Figure 4.13: (a) Residuals vs. run plot, (b) Outlier T plot, (c) Cook's distance plot, (d) Leverage vs. run plot.	72
Figure 4.14: (a) Predicted vs. actual plot, (b) Box-Cox plot for power transforms.	73
Figure 4.15: Perturbation plot of drying time.....	74
Figure 4.16: 3D surface plot of drying time	75
Figure 4.17: Perturbation plot of desirability	76
Figure 4.18: 3D surface plot of desirability.....	77
Figure 4.19: Ramp function graph.....	78
Figure 4.20: Histogram of Desirability.....	78
Figure 4.21: (a) Desirability plot, (b) Optimization of air velocity plot, (c) Optimization of noise level plot, (d) Optimization of drying time plot.....	79
Figure 4.22: Overlay Plot	80
Figure 4.23: Pyramid and wedge foam installed in the internal motor housing and cover of hand dryer.....	81

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

3D	-	3-Dimensional
ADA	-	Americans with Disabilities Act
DoE	-	Design of Experiment
Et.al	-	Et alia
HEPA	-	High-Efficiency Particulate Absorbing
n.d.	-	No date
N/A	-	Not Applicable
NIOSH	-	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NRC	-	Noise Reduction Coefficient
OSHA	-	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PCB	-	Printed Circuit Board
PSM	-	Projek Sarjana Muda
PU	-	Polyurethane
SLM	-	Sound Level Meter
SPL	-	Sound Pressure Level
STC	-	Sound Transmission Class
Std.Dev.	-	Standard Deviation
VFD	-	Variable Frequency Drive
Vs.	-	Versus
WHO	-	World Health Organisation
Std.Dev	-	Standard Deviation
Obs	-	Observations
2FI	-	Two-Factor Interaction
ANOVA	-	Analysis of Variance
Prob > F	-	Probability of full model is true
DF	-	Degrees of Freedom
PRESS	-	Prediction Sums of Squares
C.V.	-	Coefficient of Variation
Adj R-Squared	-	Adjusted R-Squared

Pred R-Squared	-	Predicted R-Squared
Adeq Precision	-	Adequate Precision
CI	-	Confidence Interval
PI	-	Prediction Intervals
VIF	-	Variance Inflation Factors
LSD	-	Least Significant Difference
SE Mean	-	Standard Error of the Mean
SE Pred	-	Predicted Standard Error



LIST OF SYMBOLS

"	-	Inch
%	-	Percent
μPa	-	Micro Pascal
A	-	Ampere
CFM	-	Cubic Feet per Minute
dB	-	Decibels
dBA	-	A-weighted decibels
ft	-	Feet
h	-	Hour
Hz	-	Hertz
I	-	Current
k	-	Kilo
LFM	-	Linear Feet per Minute
m/s	-	Meter per second
MPH	-	Miles per hour
P	-	Power
rpm	-	Revolution per minute
s	-	Seconds
V	-	Voltage
V	-	Volts
W	-	Watt
+	-	Plus
-	-	Minus



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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Overview

The Chapter 1 Introduction basically comprises seven subtopics. The subtopics include the background of study, problem statement, objectives, scope, importance of study, organization of the thesis and lastly the summary. The details of each element will be discussed comprehensively in the following subtopics.

1.1 Background of Study

The effects of the noise levels for the high speed hand dryers have been investigated on the population. The most common concerns that have been raised among these studies are the loudness of the hand dryer itself and the high frequency content of the noise (Desvard et al., 2014). High level of noise can be considered as an unsettling influence that can impact indirectly to the human environment (Owoyemi et al., 2017). In industries, noise is always aimed to be reduced since it is an occupational hazard that can gives impacts on workers' wellbeing for a long run.

In terms of industrial operations, noise also presents the wellbeing and social issues whereby the source is most often related to the utilization of machines or appliances within the industries (Owoyemi et al., 2017). In general, noise can be found everywhere including the workplace especially in industries whereby most of the noise sources came from either the machines or the appliances. The sound pressure level (SPL) which is measured in decibels (dB) generated differs from one another depending on several aspects which include the type of the noise source, distance between the noise source and the receiver, and the working environment nature (Therrien & Tummala, 2020).

At the same time, noise can also cause stress, discomfort and even worse with some degree of disorder to an exposed individual which may potentially affect one's privacy and concentration in performing tasks within the affected working environment (Becker & Lavee, 2003). Additionally, those workers who work in heavy industries that involve particularly higher noise levels are more prone to have health at risk (Bamane et al., 2019). Hence, it is very crucial to find out effective yet harmless methods for noise control in order to improve the workplace environment and reduce unwanted noise in industries (Bamane et al., 2019).

1.2 Problem Statement

Fundamentally, the general rule of thumb for a hand dryer states that the faster the hand-dryer, the louder the sound will be (J. L. Drever, 2017). In other words, it also means that when the fan speed in (rpm) increases, the noise or the sound pressure level (SPL) which is measured in decibel (dB) will also increase. Since the fan speed is operating at a high speed, thus it operates efficiently with a shorter drying time but also produces a lot of noise at the same time (*Fan Speed, Bearings, and Noise*, n.d.). Thus, the general rule of thumb for the hand dryer is not fully applicable in this study since the noise level will not be reduced but instead it has high probability that the noise level might increase.

Apart from that, noise can also be a great concern when it comes to deal with applications such as the industrial ventilation as high acoustic levels tend to promote worker fatigue (IOSH, 2018). In some cases, parameters such as the airflow rate, type of fan, and pressure may also generate noise in fan motor. Often, inefficient fan operation will be indicated by a relatively high noise level for a specific type of fan. Still, an oversized fan or motor assembly creates an opposite set of operating problems which include excess airflow noise, inefficient fan operation, poor reliability, and duct or pipe vibrations (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Washington, 2003).

Commonly, the type of fan found in the hand dryer motor is the axial fan which is typically moves airstream along the axis of the fan. The working principle of the axial fan is by pressurizing the air alongside with the aerodynamic lift generated by the fan blades which is similar to an airplane wing and propeller. In addition, an axial fan tends to be noisier since it has higher rotational speeds compared to an in-line centrifugal fans of the same capacity (Gustafson et al., 2003). Nonetheless, this noise can be controlled by high frequencies and reduced gradually (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Washington, 2003).

1.3 Objectives

- 1) To investigate the existing default design of the hand dryer model.
- 2) To analyse the correlation between the input parameters and the response.
- 3) To suggest the best combinations of input parameters that gives the optimum response in order to obtain the best result.

1.4 Scope

The aim of this project is to improve the current design of the hand dryer. The scope of the project will be focusing based on the following:

- 1) To find the optimum fan speed at minimum noise level with acceptable drying time.
- 2) To propose optimum flow directing outlet design (shape and dimension) with respect to air flow rate.
- 3) To propose additional damping mechanism and noise insulator on the component.

In order to find the optimum fan speed at minimum noise level with acceptable drying time, the detail works comprises of the design and fabrication of test rig, experimental setup or the speed controller. The elements that can be used to reduce noise to the minimum level with optimum fan speed are including the speed controller, soundproof container, sound level meter, acrylic, insulator foam, anemometer, printed circuit board (PCB), and labour. The cost needed to accomplish this method is RM3000 in which it gives an outcome with a new optimum fan speed value and PCB speed controller.

Secondly, to propose optimum flow directing outlet design (shape and dimension) with respect to air flow rate, the detail works comprises of design and fabricating flow directing outlet whereby the factor to be considered in this case will be the air flow shape and speed. In order to perform this method, sound level meter, drying time, anemometer, and moisture meter will be needed. There are various types of design for the outlet shape whereby all of the design shapes can be produced by using 3D printing for prototyping which gives a various shape design and size as the output. The outcome is a new optimum flow directing

outlet design with cost of RM 3500. Please refer to [Appendix A](#) for image of the various types of air outlet design shape.

Lastly, to propose additional damping mechanism and noise insulator on the component, the detail works comprises of installing rubber coupling between the motor and fan shaft and also to install rubber motor mounting. In this case, the factors to be considered are the type of material, damping coefficient and size. Apart from that, soundproofing acoustic foam inner cover can also be introduced. The factors to be considered in this case will be the type of material, type and shape like pyramid, egg carton, wedges and pyramid. Also, rubber seal can be installed in between the matting part. The total cost required to perform this method is RM1300 provided that the outcome produced are the damping mechanism and noise insulator to minimize vibration and noise. Please refer to [Appendix A](#) for the images of rubber coupling and motor mounting and the various soundproofing acoustic foam.

1.5 Importance of Study

According to the experts, any noise level which is higher than 85 decibels is equivalent to a heavy traffic. Thus, there might be chances that long term exposure to this level of noise might causes hearing damage (TRC, 2019). In other words, the risk of hearing loss increases as the decibels increases. Likewise, people who experience long term exposure to extremely loud noises will have a much higher possibility in developing hearing problems. In order to prevent hearing problem, ones should always obey to the general rule of thumb which is to never take in sounds that are above the decibel threshold for longer than two minutes (TRC, 2019).

Nothing is more irritating at work for many people than a lot of noise, whether it comes from outside or inside the house. Excessive occupational noise has a variety of negative effects, including lower efficiency, more difficult communication, permanent hearing loss, and a rise in health conditions and hearing-related injuries among workers (TRC, 2019). To prevent these negative effects, it is important to assess the noise levels at the workplace on a regular basis and fix anything that is too noisy to be disruptive or dangerous. There are a variety of indicators of disruptive workplace sounds, as well as a variety of approaches and control measures. By understanding how the ear functions and the noise levels that are suitable for the workplace while still complying with OSHA are the first steps are very essential to prevent hearing impairment (TRC, 2019).