

## DEVELOPMENT OF A LABORATORY METALLOGRAPHIC GRINDING/POLISHING MACHINE

### ABSTRACT

This study centered on the development of a laboratory metallographic grinding/polishing machine using locally sourced materials and indigenous technology to help in polishing metals for production of a flat, smooth and mirror-like surface of any metallic materials in order to determine their physical structure using microscopy for metallographic examinations. The designed was made and 3-dimensional architectural design was done to obtain clear vision of the design; The laboratory grinding/polishing machine was fabricated using the following components: angle-bars, mild steel plate, electric motor, shaft, belt, pulley, coupling, side pulley disc; following the specified dimensions from the 3-dimensional drawing; assembling of the various components follows; and finally, tested and performance evaluation was equally done. In testing the developed machine, the specimen was mounted, grinded and then polished using emery paper with frequent application of water to act as coolant while the side pulley disc is rotating. The result obtained from the developed laboratory grinding/polishing machine showed a metallic specimen that was well grinded and well-polished to mirror-like form for further metallographic examination. Based on the efficiency of this developed machine, we therefore recommend this research work for the end users and the metallography industry for metallographic purpose.

Keywords: Development, Laboratory, Metallographic, Grinding/Polishing, Evaluation and Machine.

### INTRODUCTION

One of the most useful pieces of equipment for the grinding and polishing metallic materials in order to determine their physical structure using microscopy is metallographic specimen polishing machine. Due to the very small depth of field obtained from an optical microscope, it is essential that the surface is flat; in fact, it needs to be optically flat, acting as a perfect mirror. The specimen therefore has to be polished. This is done using rotating wheels covered with a cloth impregnated with a very fine abrasive compound. The common compounds used are diamond and alumina [16].

Most laboratory grinding machines being used are imported and expensive yet, they do breakdown frequently due to power supply and weak capacity of their electric motor even though they have in-built transformer and they also make noise during operation thereby causing noise pollution. Thus, the need to develop a laboratory grinding machine locally with an electric motor that will not require any transformer and yet, deliver efficiently irrespective of the power situation, will both withstand environmental impact and users friendly, and will also be noise pollution free.

This grinding machine will be produced using our indigenous technology, design and locally sourced materials. Students and investors (machine builders) can later on produce similar ones on their own. This will create job opportunity, save our foreign earns, contribute to and improve the technological development of our dear nation. The

46 entrepreneurial programme and local content initiative of this government will be  
47 achieved.

48 This research work centered on the development of a laboratory grinding machine  
49 using locally sourced materials and our indigenous technology will help in polishing  
50 metals for metallographic examinations and production of a flat, smooth and mirror-like  
51 surface of any metallic materials in order to determine their physical structure using  
52 microscopy. This will also reduce over dependence on developed countries in the  
53 procurement of laboratory grinding / polishing machine at expensive cost.

54 The study assists in developing a laboratory grinding machine from our indigenous  
55 technology and design using locally sourced materials to achieve a cheap but highly  
56 efficient grinding machine with longer service life compared to imported ones.

57 Various relevant works done by past researchers were reviewed to know the stage they  
58 have gone. It was found that little or no work had been done on this project. This is  
59 justified by the huge numbered of these machines that were daily imported by various  
60 research institutes, universities and polytechnics in Nigeria to this country.

61 To utilize locally available materials and our indigenous technology to develop  
62 laboratory grinding/polishing machine that will be useful for engineering and science  
63 research applications/fields. It entails sketching the new design of metallographic  
64 specimen grinding / polishing machine (consist of 4 designs); evaluate the design and  
65 come out with new design (final design); using the solid work software, make the  
66 isometric, orthographic and 3-D drawing.

## 67 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 68 Materials and Equipment

69 The following materials were used for this research:

70 Angle bars, mild steel, electric motor, side pulley disc, galvanized sheet, speed control,  
71 pulley, belt, shaft and coupling.

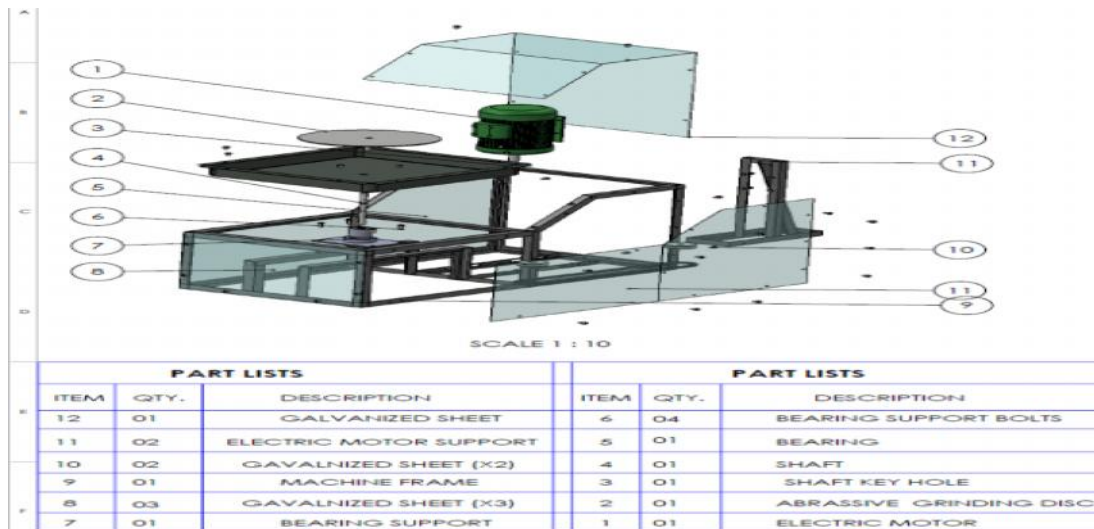
72 These are some of the equipment used for this study: screw driver; spanner; marking  
73 out tools; hacksaw; lathe machine; drilling machine; grinding machine; disc cutter  
74 machine; arc welding machine; and bending machine methods.

75

### 76 Design concept

77 To develop a laboratory grinding/polishing machine using the following components;  
78 angle-bars, mild steel plate, electric motor (1 HP), shaft (25 mm), belt, pulley, coupling,  
79 side pulley disc (250 mm).

80 The laboratory grinding/polishing machine body is made of angle bar. The machine  
81 consists of a side pulley disc made of mild steel which is drilled at the center where the  
82 pulley is connected beneath it with the aid of a shaft. The machine also consists of an  
83 electric motor of 1 HP with a pulley under it; and it is positioned vertically so that it will  
84 be directly opposite the rotating disc. A-belt (A-40) is used to connect the pulley under  
85 the rotating disc to the pulley under the electric motor so that when the machine is  
86 plugged to a power source, the speed from the electric motor will cause the disc to  
87 rotate. The machine is covered with galvanized steel sheet to prevent corrosion as  
88 shown in Fig.1.



89

90 Fig. 1: Exploded View of the Developed Laboratory Grinding/Polishing Machine

91 Assumptions

92 The following assumptions were made for the study: the angle bar is made of mild  
 93 steel; the diameter of the side pulley disc is taken to be 25 cm; the power of the  
 94 electric motor to be used is 1 HP; an angle belt is used; the thickness of the shaft is  
 95 taken to be 25 mm; and galvanized steel sheet will be used to cover the body of the  
 96 machine.

97 Design Calculations

98 Technical parameters: Polishing pad diameter: 250 mm (Single disk); Rotation rate:  
 99 1400 rev/min; and Motor: IP44BINS.CR; 1 HP; 0.75 KW, 220 V, 50 HZ

100 Design Analysis of the Belt Drive

101 The belt was employed to transmit power from one shaft to another where it is not  
 102 necessary to maintain an exact speed ratio between the two shafts. There are a lot of  
 103 belts to transmit power but for this design A-Belt (angle-belt) will be used because it  
 104 can be used where two pulleys are very near to each other.

105 Determination of the Speed of the Polisher

106 
$$\frac{N1}{N2} = \frac{D2}{D1} \quad [4] \quad (1)$$

107 Where:

108  $N1$  = Speed of the motor in revolution per minute (*rev/mins*)

109  $N2$  =Speed of the polisher in revolution per minute (*rev/mins*)

110  $D1$  =Diameter of the motor pulley in millimeter (*mm*)

111  $D2$  = Diameter of the polisher pulley in millimeter (*mm*)

112 Data:

$N1 = 1500 \text{ rev/mins}$

$N2 = ?$

$$D1 = 80 \text{ mm}$$

$$D2 = 60 \text{ mm}$$

113 Using equation 1

$$\frac{N1}{N2} = \frac{D2}{D1}$$

114 
$$\frac{1500}{N2} = \frac{60}{80}$$

$$60 \times N2 = 1500 \times 80$$

$$60 \times N2 = 1500 \times 80$$

115 Making  $N2$  the subject of the formula

$$N2 = \frac{1500 \times 80}{60}$$

116  $N2 = 2000 \text{ rev/mins}$  (2)

117

118 Therefore, the maximum speed for polisher  $N2$  is  $2000 \text{ rev/mins}$

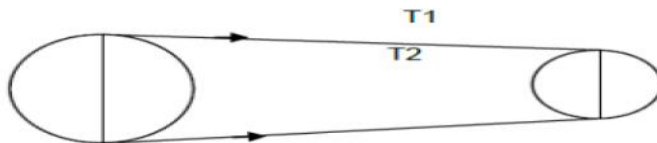
119

120 Tension in the Belt

121  $T_1$  is the tension in the tight side of the belt in Newton ( $N$ )

122  $T_2$  is the tension in the slack side of the belt in Newton ( $N$ )

123 As shown in Fig.2.



124

125 Fig. 2: Belt Attached to the Pulleys

126

127  $2.3 \log\left(\frac{T_1}{T_2}\right) = \mu \cdot \theta \cdot \text{cosec} \beta$  [4] (3)

128  $\theta = 180^\circ - 2\alpha$  [4] (4)

129  $\sin \alpha = \frac{R-r}{c}$  [4] (5)

130 Where:

131  $\mu$  is the coefficient of friction between belt and pulley

132  $\theta$  is the angle of contact on the motor pulley in radian ( $rad$ )

133  $\beta$  is the groove angle of the pulley in degree ( $^\circ$ )

134  $\alpha$  is the coefficient of increase of the belt length per unit force in degree ( $^\circ$ )

135  $R$  is the radius of the motor pulley in millimeter ( $mm$ )

136  $r$  is the radius of the polisher pulley in millimeter ( $mm$ )

137  $c$  is the centre distance between the two pulleys

138 Centrifugal tension,  $TC$ : This is the force which tends to cause the belt to leave the  
 139 pulley and reduces the power that may be transmitted. The speed of the A-belt must be  
 140 5 to 50 m/s.

141 Maximum tension,  $T$ : This is highest tensional force that can be acted on the belt  
 142 according to the (Khurmi and Gupta, 2004) Erinle, *et al.* 2011.

$$143 \quad TC = mV^2 \quad (6)$$

$$144 \quad T = \sigma A \quad (7)$$

145

$$146 \quad T_1 = T - TC \quad [4,5] \quad (8)$$

$$V_1 = \frac{\pi N_1 D_1}{60} \quad (9)$$

$$V_2 = \frac{\pi N_2 D_2}{60} \quad (9)$$

$$147 \quad V_1 = V_2 = V \quad (10)$$

$$148 \quad m = \rho x A x L \quad (11)$$

$$149 \quad A = b x t \quad (12)$$

150

151  $TC$  is the centrifugal Tension in Newton ( $N$ )

152  $T$  is the maximum Tension in Newton ( $N$ )

153  $m$  is the mass of the belt per meter length in kilogram per meter

154  $V$  is the belt velocity in meter per second

155  $\rho$  is the belt density in kilogram per meter cube

156  $A$  is the cross sectional area in square millimeter ( $mm^2$ )

157  $b$  is the belt width in millimeter ( $mm$ )

158  $t$  is the belt thickness in millimeter ( $mm$ )

159  $\sigma$  is the allowable stress in Newton per square millimeter ( $Nmm^{-2}$ )

160

161 Determination of maximum tension,  $T$

162 Data:

$$163 \quad \sigma = \frac{1.7N}{mrr^2} \text{ for rubber belt} \quad [4] \quad (13)$$

164 Assuming:

165  $b = 15 \text{ mm},$

$t = 10 \text{ mm}$

$A = b \times t$

$A = 15 \times 10$

166  $A = 150 \text{ mm}^2 \quad (14)$

167 Recall:

$T = \sigma A \quad (7)$

$T = 1.7 \times 150$

168  $T = 255 \text{ N} \quad (15)$

169

170 Determination of mass of the belt,  $m$ :

171 Data:

172  $\rho = 1250 \text{ kgm}^3$ , Rubber density [1]

$A = 150 \text{ mm}^2$

$A = 150 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2$

$\rho = \frac{m}{v} \quad (16)$

$m = \rho v \quad (17)$

$v = Al \quad (18)$

$m = \rho \times A \times l \quad (19)$

$m = 1250 \times 150 \times 10^{-6} \times l$

173  $m = 0.1875 \text{ kgm}^{-1} \quad (20)$

174 Belt velocity,  $V$ :

175 Data  $N_2 = 2000 \text{ rev/min},$

176 The speed should not exceed  $2000 \text{ rev/min}$

177 Recall that:  $D_2 = 50 \text{ mm}$

$D_2 = 0.05 \text{ m}$

$V = \frac{\pi N_1 D_1}{60}$

$V = \frac{\pi \times 1500 \times 0.08}{60}$

178  $V = 6.3 \text{ m/s} \quad (21)$

179

180 Determination of speed centrifugal tension,  $T_c$ :

181 Data:

182  $m = 0.1875 \text{ kgm}^{-1} \quad (\text{From equation 20})$

183  $v = 6.3 \text{ ms}^{-1} \quad (\text{From equation 21})$

184  $TC = mv^2 \quad [1,14]$

$$TC = 0.1875 \times 6.3^2$$

$$185 \quad \mathbf{TC = 7.44 N} \quad (22)$$

186 Determination of tension in the tight side, T1:

187 Data:

$$188 \quad T = 255 \text{ N (From equation 15)}$$

$$189 \quad TC = 7.44 \text{ N (From equation 22)}$$

$$T1 = T - TC \quad (8)$$

$$T1 = 255 \text{ N} - 7.44 \text{ N}$$

$$190 \quad \mathbf{T1 = 247.56 N} \quad (23)$$

191

192 Determination of Coefficient of increase of the Belt Length per unit Force,  $\alpha$ :

193 Data:

$$R = \frac{D1}{2}$$

194 Where:

$$D1 = 80 \text{ mm}$$

$$R = \frac{80}{2}$$

$$195 \quad \mathbf{R = 40 m} \quad (24)$$

$$r = \frac{D2}{2}$$

196 Where:

$$D2 = 60 \text{ mm}$$

$$r = \frac{60}{2}$$

$$197 \quad \mathbf{r = 30 m.} \quad (25)$$

198 Taken:

$$C = 300 \text{ mm}$$

199 Recall:

$$\sin \alpha = \frac{R - r}{c}$$

$$\sin \alpha = \frac{40 - 30}{300}$$

$$\sin \alpha = 0.0333$$

$$\alpha = \sin^{-1} 0.0333$$

$$200 \quad \mathbf{\alpha = 2^\circ} \quad (26)$$

201

202 Determination of angle of contact,  $\theta$ :

203 Data:

204 Recall that:  $\alpha = 2^\circ$

$$\theta = 180^\circ - 2\alpha \quad (27)$$

$$\theta = 180^\circ - (2 \times 2^\circ)$$

$$\theta = 180^\circ - 4^\circ$$

$$\theta = 176^\circ \quad (28)$$

$$\theta = \frac{176^\circ \times \pi}{180^\circ}$$

205  $\theta = 3\text{rad}$  (29)

206

207 Determination of tension in the slack side, T2:

208 Data:

209  $T_1 = 247.56\text{N}$  (From equation 23)

210  $\mu = 0.3$ , for rubber material [5,4]

211  $\theta = 3\text{rad}$  (From equation 29)

212  $2\beta = 30^\circ$ , groove angle of the pulley

$$\beta = 15^\circ$$

213  $2.3 \log \frac{T_1}{T_2} = \mu \theta \operatorname{cosec} \beta \quad (3)$

$$2.3 \log \frac{T_1}{T_2} = 0.3 \times 3 \times \operatorname{cosec} 15$$

$$2.3 \log \frac{T_1}{T_2} = 3.4773$$

$$\log \frac{T_1}{T_2} = \frac{3.4773}{2.3}$$

$$\log \frac{T_1}{T_2} = 1.5119$$

$$\frac{T_1}{T_2} = 10^{1.5119}$$

$$\frac{T_1}{T_2} = 32.5 \text{ N}$$

$$T_2 = \frac{T_1}{32.5}$$

214 Where  $T_1 = 247.56$

$$T_2 = \frac{247.56 \text{ N}}{32.5}$$

215  $T_2 = 7.6 \text{ N}$  (30)

216

217 Design analysis of the power transmitted per belt:

218 According to the [5,4]:

219  $P = (T_1 - T_2)V \quad (31)$

220  $P =$  Power transmitted in watt ( $W$ )



221  $T_1$  = Tension in the tight side of the belt ( $N$ )

222  $T_2$  = Tension in the slack side of the belt ( $N$ )

223  $V$  = Belt velocity  $m/s^1$

224

225 Determination of power transmitted,  $P$ :

226 Data:

227  $T_1 = 247.56 N$  (From equation 23)

228  $T_2 = 7.6 N$  (From equation 30)

229  $V = 6.3 ms^{-1}$  (From equation 21)

$$P = (T_1 - T_2)V$$

$$P = (247.56 - 7.6)6.3$$

230  $P = 1512 W$  (32)

231 Design analysis of the length of the belt,  $L$ :

232  $L = \pi(R - r) + 2C + \frac{(R-r)^2}{C}$  [4] (33)

233

234 Determination of the length of the belt,  $L$ :

235 Data:

$$R = 40 mm$$

$$r = 30 mm$$

$$C = 300 mm$$

$$L = \pi(R - r) + 2C + \frac{(R - r)^2}{C} \quad (33)$$

$$L = \pi(40 + 30) + (2 \times 300) + \frac{(40 - 30)^2}{300}$$

$$L = 70\pi + 600 + \frac{10^2}{300}$$

$$L = (70 \times 3.142) + 600 + 0.3333$$

236  $L = 820 mm$  (34)

237

238

239 Design Analysis of the Shaft

240 Assumptions:

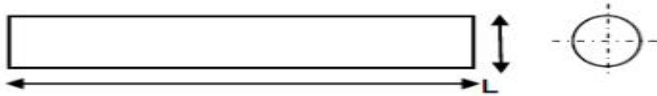
241 Fatigue and shock are considered

242 The belt on the pulley is at angle  $45^\circ$

243 Design of shaft of ductile material based on strength is controlled by the maximum shear theory [14]. The maximum permissible shear stress for the mild steel ductile

244

245 material is  $42 \text{ N/mm}^2$  with allowance for keyway [5]. Hence, the shaft of this polishing  
 246 machine is only subjected to twisting moment or torque due to torsional loads because  
 247 the belt drive employs to transmit power [4]:.



248

249 Fig. 3: Shaft of Ductile Material under Torsional Load

250

251 In Fig.3 For the belt drive, the torque,  $T$ :

252  $T = (T_1 - T_2)R$  [5,4] (35)

253  $T_1$  is the tension in the tight side of the belt

254  $T_2$  is the tension in the slack side of the belt

255  $R$  is the radius of the motor pulley

256  $T$  is the twisting moment or torque pulley in Newton-meter ( $Nm$ )

257 Determination of the torque,  $T$

258 Data:

259  $T_1 = 245 \text{ N}$  (From equation 23)

260  $T_2 = 7.5 \text{ N}$  (From equation 30)

$$R = \frac{D_1}{2}$$

$$R = \frac{100}{2}$$

$R = 50 \text{ mm}$  (36)

$$T = (T_1 - T_2)R$$

$$T = (245 - 7.5)50$$

261  $T = 11875 \text{ Nm}$  (37)

262 Torsion Equation according to the [5,4]:

263  $\frac{T}{J} = \frac{\tau}{r}$  (38)

264  $T$  is the twisting moment or torque pulley

265  $J$  is the polar moment of inertia of the shaft about the axis of rotation in millimeter  
 266 square ( $\text{mm}^2$ )

267  $\tau$  is the torsional shear stress in Newton per millimeter square ( $\text{Nmm}^{-2}$ )

268  $r$  is the distance from neutral axis to the outermost fibre

$$r = \frac{d}{2}$$

269 Where:

270  $d$  is the diameter of the shaft in millimeter ( $mm$ )

271

272 Determination of the shaft diameter,  $d$

273

274 Data:

275  $T = 11875 N$  (From equation 30)

$$\tau = 42 Nmm^{-2}$$

$$r = \frac{d}{2}$$

$$J = \frac{\pi d^4}{32} mm^4$$

$$\frac{T}{J} = \frac{\tau}{r}$$

$$T = \frac{\pi \times 42 \times d^3}{16}$$

$$11875 = \frac{\pi \times 42 \times d^3}{16}$$

$$42\pi d^3 = 11875 \times 16$$

$$d^3 = \frac{190000}{42\pi}$$

$$d^3 = 1440$$

$$d = \sqrt[3]{1440}$$

$$d = 11 \text{ mm} \quad (39)$$

276 The polisher shaft diameter will be at least twice of the motor shaft diameter for  
277 efficient of the machine.

278 Design analysis of the key:

279 Key is a piece of mild steel inserted between shaft and hub or boss of the together in  
280 order to prevent relative motion between them. It is inserted parallel to the axis of the  
281 shaft. Key is subjected to considerable crushing and shearing stresses. Keyway is a  
282 slot in a shaft and hub of the pulley to accommodate a key [5,4].

283

284 Assumption:

285 If the exact position of the acting force is not known, so it is convenient to assume that  
286 it acts tangentially to the shaft. This force produces both shear and compressive  
287 stresses in the key [14].

288 Shear stress = Force/Area ( $Nmm^{-2}$ ) [5,10]:

$$289 \quad \tau = \frac{F}{A} \quad (40)$$

$$290 \quad F = \tau \times A \quad (41)$$

291 Cross sectional area = length  $\times$  width ( $mm^2$ )

$$A = l \times b$$

292 Torque = Force  $\times$  radius ( $Nm$ )

$$293 \quad \mathbf{T = F \times r} \quad (42)$$

$$294 \quad \mathbf{T = \tau \times r \times A} \quad (43)$$

295 Where  $A = l \times b$

$$296 \quad \mathbf{T = \tau \times r \times l \times b} \quad (44)$$

297

298 Determination of the torque for motor shaft,  $T$ :

299 Data:

$$\tau = 42Nm^{-2}$$

300  $d = 10.51mm$  (From equation 39)

$$\frac{T}{J} = \frac{\tau}{r}$$

$$T = \frac{\pi \times 42 \times d^3}{16}$$

$$T = \frac{\pi \times 42 \times 10.51^3}{16}$$

$$301 \quad \mathbf{T = 9574Nm} \quad (45)$$

302

303 Determination of the length of the key for motor shaft,  $l$ :

304 Data:

305  $T = 9574Nm$  (From equation 45)

306 For 22 mm diameter shaft, the width of the key,  $b = 4.5mm$  and the thickness,  $t = 4.5 mm$   
307 [5,4]

$$r = \frac{10.51}{2}$$

$$r = 5.255mm$$

$$T = \tau \times r \times l \times b$$

$$9598 = 42 \times 5.255 \times l \times 4.5$$

$$l = \frac{9598}{42 \times 5.255 \times 4.5}$$

$$308 \quad \mathbf{l = 9.66n} \quad (46)$$

308

309 Determination of the torque for polisher shaft,  $T$ :

310 Data:

$$T = 42Nm^{-2}$$

$$d = 21mm$$

$$\frac{T}{J} = \frac{\tau}{r}$$

$$T = \frac{\pi \times \tau \times d^3}{16}$$

$$T = \frac{\pi \times 42 \times 21^3}{16}$$

$$311 \quad T = 76372Nm \quad (47)$$

312

313

314 Determination of the length of the key for polisher shaft,  $l$ :

315 Data:

$$316 \quad T = 76372Nm \text{ (From equation 47)}$$

317 For 22 mm diameter shaft, the width of the key,  $b$  is 16 mm and the thickness,  $t$  is 14  
318 mm according to the [5,4].

$$r = \frac{21}{2}$$

$$r = 10.51mm$$

$$T = \tau \times r \times l \times b$$

$$76372 = 42 \times 10.51 \times l \times 16$$

$$l = \frac{76372}{42 \times 10.51 \times 16}$$

$$l = 10.81 mm \quad (48)$$

319

320 From the above design calculations, the following parameters are obtained:

321 (a) The size of the pulley is 50 mm radius;

322 (b) The size of the belt is 820 mm length;

323 (c) The size of the shaft is 11 mm;

324 (d) The size of the electric motor is 1 HP; 0.75 KW, 220 V, 50 HZ

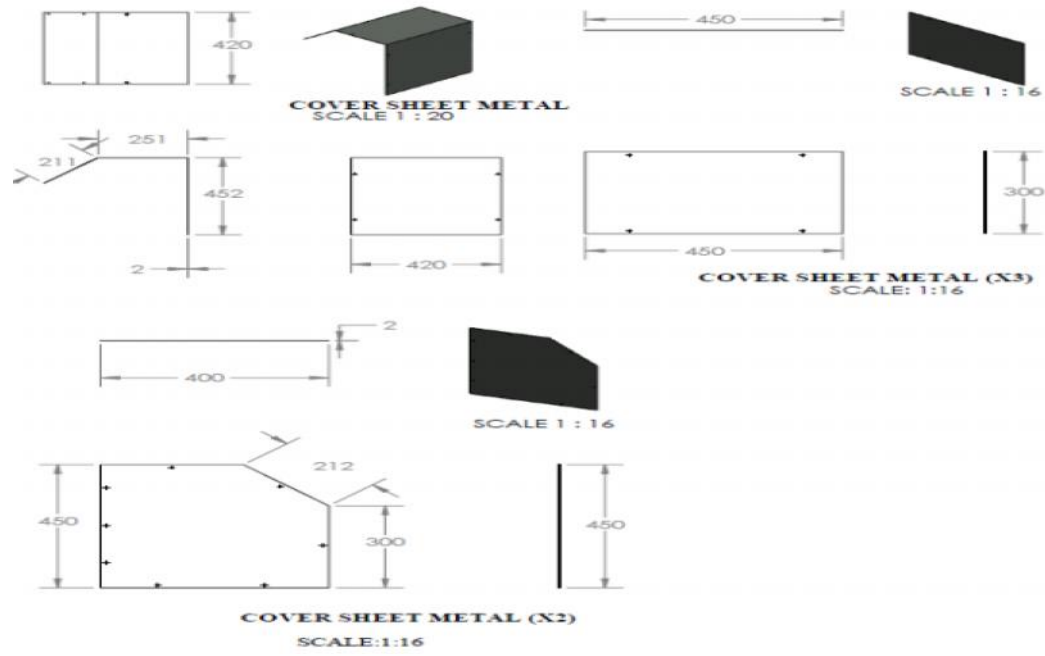
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326

327 Assembling

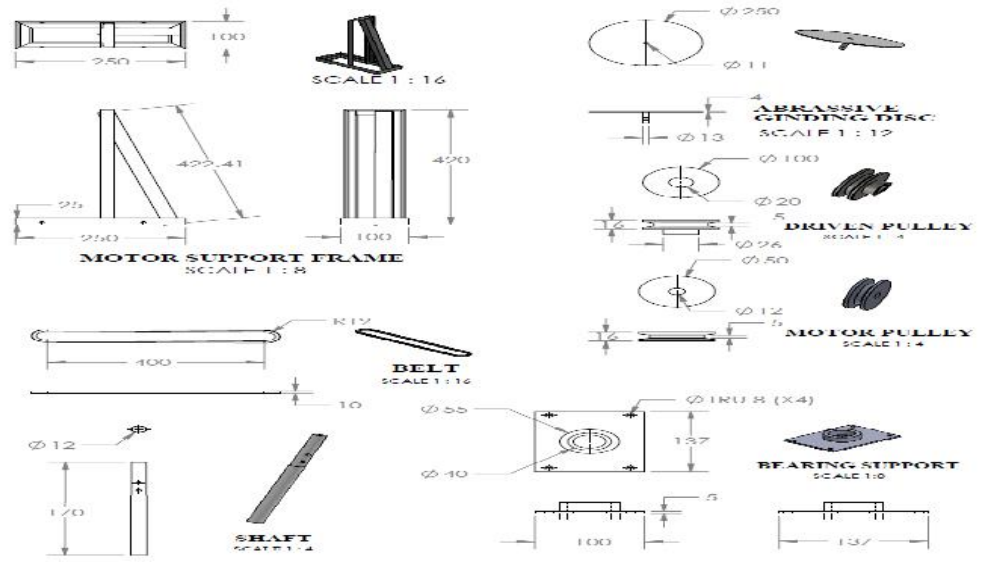
328 The assemblies of each component of the grinding/polishing machine as shown in Figs.

329 4 to 9



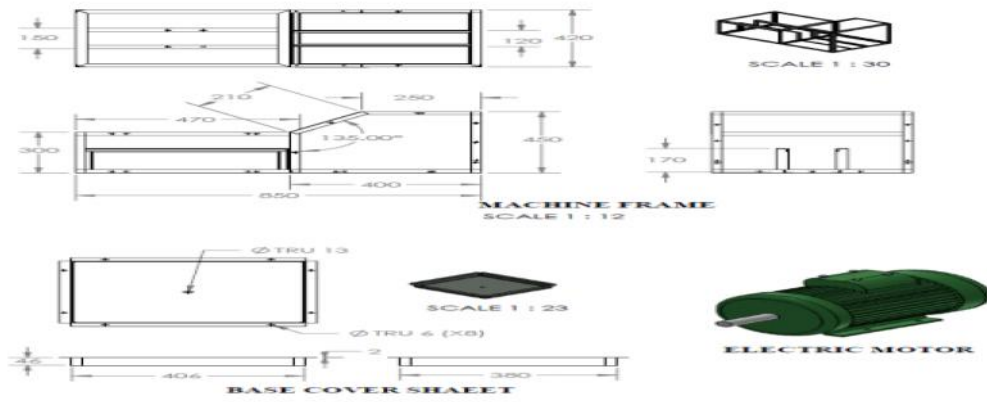
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331 Fig. 4: Different Machine Components of the Laboratory Grinding/Polishing machine



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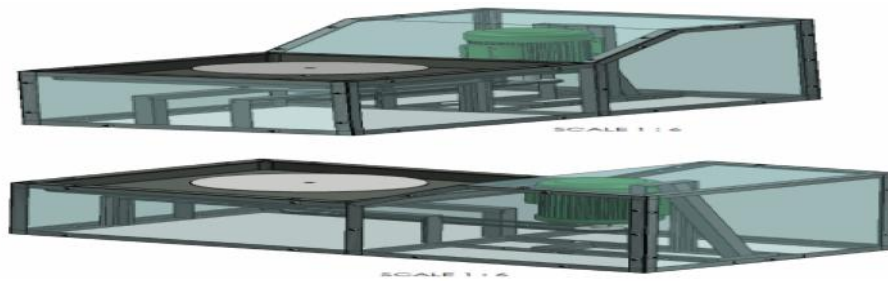
333 Fig. 5: Different Machine Components of the Laboratory Grinding/Polishing machine



334

335 Fig. 6: Different Machine Components of the Laboratory Grinding/Polishing Machine

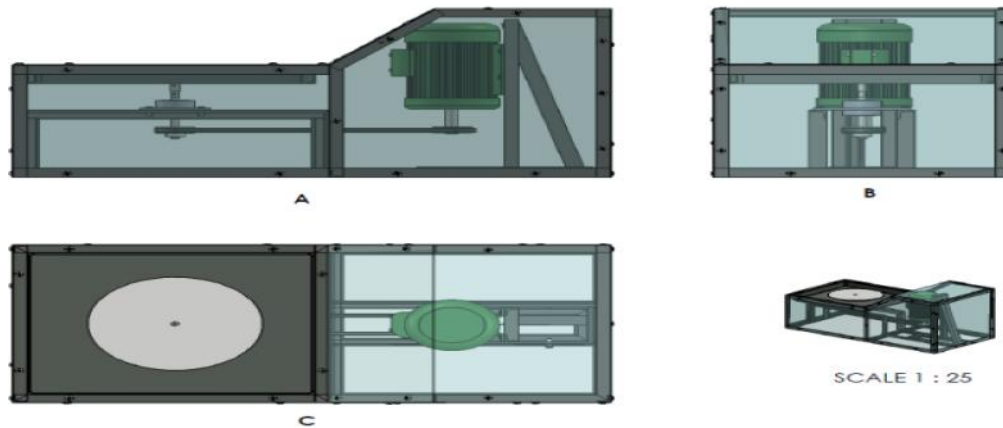
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338 Fig. 7: Isometric View of the Laboratory Grinding/Polishing Machine

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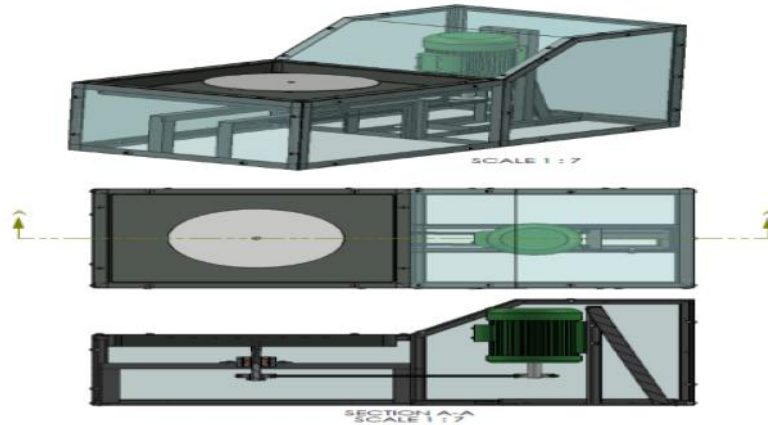


NOTE: A: FRONT ELEVATION  
 B: SIDE ELEVATION  
 C: PLAN ELEVATION  
 SCALE : 1:8

340

341 Fig. 8: Orthographic View of the Laboratory Grinding Machine

342



343

344 Fig. 9: Sectional View of the Laboratory Grinding/Polishing machine

345

346 Cost estimate

347 The estimated costs of actualizing this research work are as shown in Table 1

348 Table 1: Cost Estimate of the Developed Laboratory Grinding / Machine

S / N	ACTIVITIES	AMOUNT (#)
1	Design and 3-dimensional AutoCAD drawing with dimension	50,000
2	Materials Sourcing	50,000
3	Fabrication	25,000
4	Transportation & Miscellaneous	5,000
	TOTAL	130,000

349

350 RESULT

351 The result obtained from the operation of the developed laboratory grinding/polishing  
 352 machine shows the following: The design was perfectly done. The fabrication of the  
 353 machine is properly done with consideration to rigidity; the testing result produced a  
 354 metallic specimen that was well grinded and well-polished to a mirror-like form for  
 355 further metallographic examination. The specimen was mounted, grinded and then  
 356 polished using emery paper with frequent application of water to act as coolant while  
 357 the side pulley disc is rotating at 2800 rev / mins.

358

359 COST COMPARISM

360 Comparing this research work with the available ones (imported) in the market in terms  
 361 of cost, we realize that the imported ones are more expensive than the locally  
 362 produced grinding/polishing machine. The market survey carried out shows that the



363 cost price of the imported ones excluding VAT and freight ranges from \$3000- \$110000  
364 (N615,000- N22.55million) at the prevailing exchange rate of \$1 to N205 while the cost  
365 of producing our own developed laboratory grinding / polishing machine is # 130,000

366

#### 367 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

368 The ability of the machine to perform effectively determines the overall success of the  
369 project for high performance level. The machine is expected to grind/polish metal  
370 specimen to produce smooth, flat and mirror-like surface within few seconds. This was  
371 achieved with relative success with an efficiency of 70 % at the speed of 2800 rev/min  
372 during its operation. These results vary as the speed and grinding/polishing method is  
373 dependent on the operator.

374

#### 375 CONCLUSIONS

376 The following conclusions were drawn from this study:

377 The locally made metallographic specimen polishing machine gave good results when  
378 compared with the imported machine.

379 It gave accurate results when used to grind and polish metallic materials during testing  
380 and evaluation.

381 The satisfactory performance of the metallographic specimen polishing machine proved  
382 that aim and objective of the project was achieved. During the test, it was discovered  
383 that all the level of speeds has important role to play in giving good, smooth and fine  
384 grinding and polishing.

385 The machine has the ability to grind and polish any kind of metals, simple to operate,  
386 users friendly and requires minimum maintenance.

387

388

#### 389 RECOMMENDATIONS

390 The following recommendations were made:

391 Based on the efficiency of this machine, we recommend this research work for the end  
392 users of metallographic purpose such as Research institutes like Engineering Materials  
393 Development Institute, Akure, FIIRO Lagos, PRODA Enugu, PEDI Ilesha, NMDC  
394 Jos.etc. Other end users are Nigerian Universities and Polytechnics running  
395 programmes such as Geology, Mineral Processing, Mining Engineering, Physics with  
396 Materials/Electronics, Chemistry, Mechanical/ Production Engineering and Metallurgical  
397 and Materials Engineering.

398 Finally, the technology behind the production of the laboratory grinding/polishing  
399 machine is relatively easy and users-friendly; we therefore advise commercial  
400 production of this machine by various parastatals such as NASENI, NBTI, FIIRO,  
401 PTDF and Raw Materials Research and Development Council by partner with us to  
402 achieve this goal. This will help exploit our indigenous technology and design to  
403 contribute to the technology advancement goal of our dear nation NIGERIA.

404

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