

Effects of Piston Surface Treatments on Performance and Emissions of a Methanol-Fueled, Direct Injection, Stratified Charge Engine

B. West
J. B. Green
*Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Oak Ridge, Tennessee*

NREL technical monitor: C. Colucci



National Renewable Energy Laboratory
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393
A national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy
Operated by Midwest Research Institute
for the U.S. Department of Energy
Under Contract No. DE-AC36-83CH10093

Prepared under Subcontract Number DZ-2-11166-1

July 1994

MASTER

NOTICE

NOTICE: This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States government. Neither the United States government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States government or any agency thereof.

Printed in the United States of America

Available to DOE and DOE contractors from:

Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI)

P.O. Box 62

Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Prices available by calling (615) 576-8401

Available to the public from:

National Technical Information Services (NTIS)

U.S. Department of Commerce

5285 Port Royal Road

Springfield, VA 22161

(703) 487-4650



Printed on paper containing at least 50% wastepaper and 10% post-consumer waste

Contents

Introduction	1
Background	1
Description of the Experiment	3
Results	5
Summary and Conclusions	11
Acknowledgments	13
References	13

List of Figures

Figure 1. Modified piston and bowl inserts: (a) section view with air-gap insert and (b) piston with inserts	2
Figure 2. Brake thermal efficiency at 1800 rpm for four piston insert surfaces	6
Figure 3. Brake thermal efficiency at 1400 rpm for four piston insert surfaces	6
Figure 4. Average volumetric efficiency at two engine speeds for four piston insert surfaces	7
Figure 5. Emissions index HC at 1800 rpm for four piston insert surfaces	7
Figure 6. Emissions index HC at 1400 rpm for four piston insert surfaces	8
Figure 7. Emissions index NO_x at 1800 rpm for four piston insert surfaces	9
Figure 8. Emissions index NO_x at 1400 rpm for four piston insert surfaces	9
Figure 9. Emissions index HC versus emissions index NO_x at 1800 rpm for four piston insert surfaces	10
Figure 10. Emissions index HC versus emissions index NO_x at 1400 rpm for four piston insert surfaces	10
Figure 11. Stainless steel/air-gap insert with TEMPLUGS installed	12

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of thermal barrier coatings and/or surface treatments on the performance and emissions of a methanol-fueled, direct-injection, stratified-charge (DISC) engine. A Ricardo Hydra Mark III engine was used for this work and in previous experiments at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) (Kahl 1989). The primary focus of the study was to examine the effects of various piston insert surface treatments on hydrocarbon (HC) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) emissions. Previous studies have shown that engines of this class have a tendency to perform poorly at low loads and have high unburned fuel emissions (Kahl 1989; Giovanetti et al. 1983).

A blank aluminum piston was modified to employ removable piston bowl inserts, as shown in Figure 1. Four different inserts were tested in the experiment: aluminum, stainless steel with a 1.27-mm (0.050-in.) air gap (to act as a thermal barrier), and two stainless steel/air-gap inserts with coatings. Two stainless steel inserts were dimensionally modified to account for the coating thickness (1.27-mm) and coated identically with partially stabilized zirconia (PSZ). One of the coated inserts then had an additional seal-coat applied. The coated inserts were otherwise identical to the stainless steel/air-gap insert (i.e., they employed the same 1.27-mm air gap). Thermal barrier coatings were employed in an attempt to increase combustion chamber surface temperatures, thereby reducing wall quenching and promoting more complete combustion of the fuel in the quench zone. The seal-coat was applied to the zirconia to reduce the surface porosity; previous research suggested that despite the possibly higher surface temperatures obtainable with a ceramic coating, the high surface area of a plasma-sprayed coating may actually allow fuel to adhere to the surface and increase the unburned fuel emissions and fuel consumption (Kahl 1989; Beardsley and Larson 1992).

Background

The DISC engine is a hybrid engine; it possesses characteristics of both diesel and spark-ignition engines. The DISC engine is unthrottled; hence the load is a function of the amount of fuel injected per cycle (for a given engine speed) only and the air inducted into the engine is a function of engine speed only. The DISC engine has two distinct advantages: operation on many different fuels as a result of fuel tolerance (e.g., it can burn low-octane fuels despite the high compression ratio), and improved part-load fuel economy as a result of unthrottled operation and overall lean operation (Norris-Jones and Russell 1982; Wood 1978).

The DISC engine utilizes intake-generated swirl and fuel jet momentum to keep a stratified stream of fuel-rich mixture moving across the spark plug during ignition. The spark initiates combustion in the fuel-rich stream, creating a flame that ignites the swirling mixture of fuel and air contained within the piston bowl. Swirl is caused by a helical port design and is intensified by squish. Squish is caused by the radial motion of gas into the piston bowl toward the end of the compression stroke as the piston moves toward top dead center (TDC). Theoretically, an engine of this class should exhibit appreciable part-load fuel economy that is superior to that of a throttled spark-ignition engine because of the combination of a low fuel-air ratio, high compression ratio, and absence of throttling (Norris-Jones and Russell 1982; Wood 1978; Heywood 1988).

A disadvantage of DISC engines is that they are prone to higher unburned fuel emissions at low loads than are homogeneous-charge engines. This is primarily because of fuel jet diffusion at low fueling rates. This diffusion produces regions with fuel-air mixtures that are too lean to burn completely (Wood 1978). It has also been observed that either wall quenching or fuel impingement on the piston bowl surface can be a mechanism for producing HC emissions in an engine of this type (Frank and Heywood 1991).

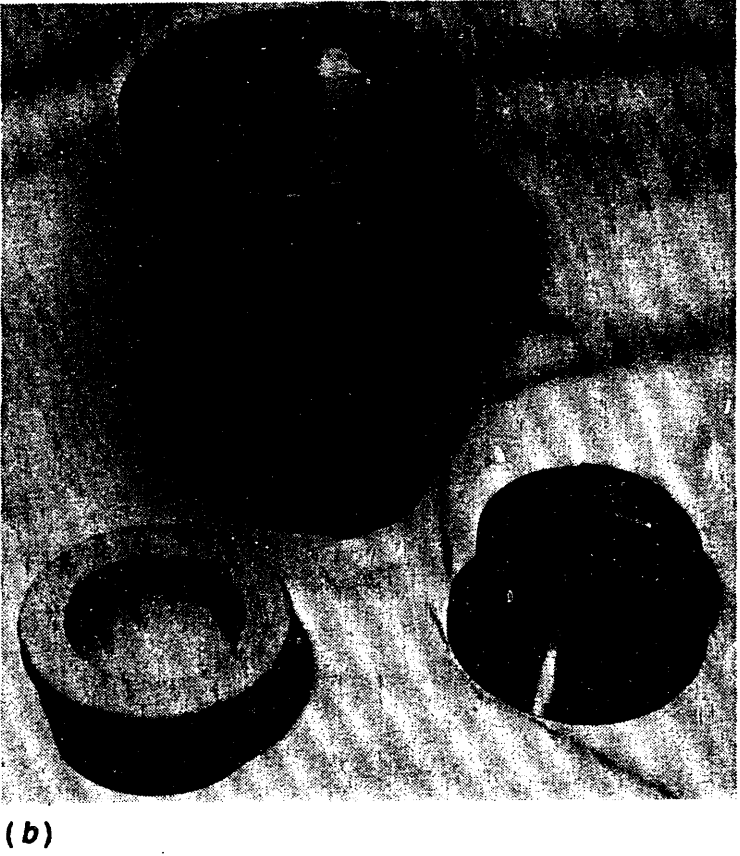
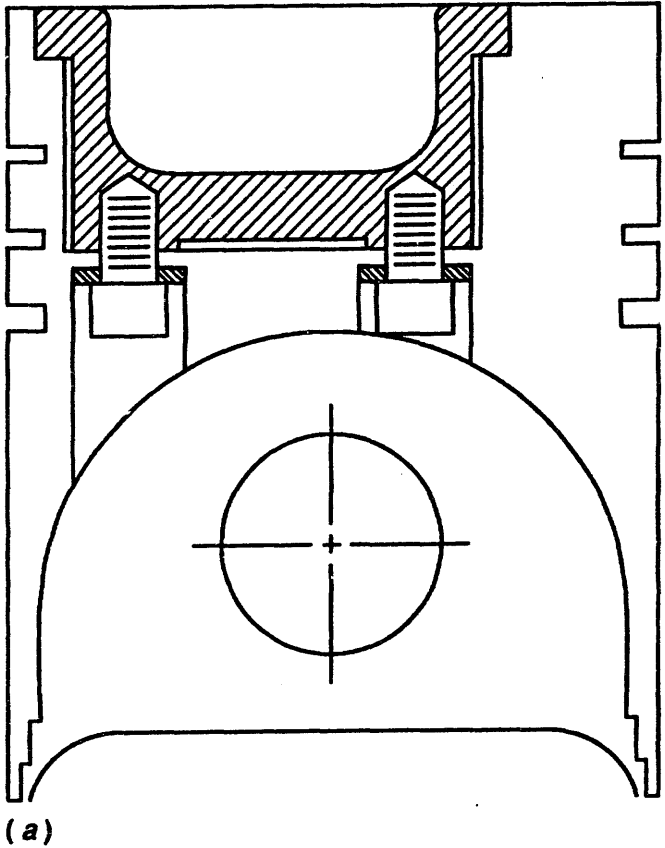


Figure 1. Modified piston and bowl inserts: (a) section view with air-gap insert and (b) piston with inserts

Description of the Experiment

The engine used in the experiments was a Ricardo Hydra Mark III single-cylinder research engine (Table 1). The DISC combustion system used by Ricardo was the MAN-FM system of Maschinenfabrik Augsburg-Nurnberg (Norris-Jones and Russell 1982). The MAN-FM system uses a spherical chamber in the piston, with direct fuel injection like a diesel, and a spark plug for ignition. This particular engine's original MAN-FM piston was destroyed during a previous experiment, so the engine was baselined with an aluminum piston insert. The removable inserts maintain the same combustion chamber volume as the spherical chamber in the MAN-FM piston, but with a more cylindrical (as opposed to spherical) geometry. The shape of this pseudo-cylindrical design actually somewhat paralleled subsequent development efforts by MAN in their own methanol-fueled bus engines (Kahl 1989).

Table 1. Ricardo Engine Specifications

Bore	9.4 cm
Stroke	9.0 cm
Displacement	625 cm ³
Compression ratio	13.2:1
Cylinder block	Cast iron with steel wet cylinder liner, separate cooling
Cylinder head	Aluminum with separate cooling
Combustion chamber	Bowl-in-piston inserts, 304 stainless-steel or aluminum
Valve train	Belt-driven, single overhead cam (SOHC)
Injection	Bosch PE4A injection pump (belt-driven), CAV LR pintle-type nozzle with 0.62-mm needle lift
Ignition	Autotronics MSD-6A multistrike electronic ignition with magnetic trigger, electronic retard, triple electrode spark plug

In previous studies, the engine was fueled with M85 (85 volume % methanol, 15 volume % unleaded gasoline). For this study, M100 (pure methanol), with 0.06% Lubrizol lubricity additive, was used because heavy-duty engine manufacturers have concentrated on M100 as an alternative fuel and because using M100 simplifies exhaust gas speciation. Start of injection for all engine builds was around 42° BTDC (crank angle degrees before top dead center), with a duration of around 25° at light loads, and spark timing was about 22° BTDC. The multistrike ignition system used with this engine results in an effective spark duration of 35°–40° at 1800 revolutions per minute (rpm).

The thermal barrier coating used was an 8% yttria, PSZ, with a NiCrAlY bond coat. Zirconia was chosen as a thermal barrier because of its low thermal conductivity and relatively high coefficient of thermal expansion (compared with those of some other ceramics), and 304 stainless steel was chosen as the base material because of its low thermal conductivity and corrosion resistance. The NiCrAlY bond coat acts to lessen thermal stresses in the coating; for example, its coefficient of thermal expansion is between that of the base material and the coating. The zirconia coatings were applied by Plasma Technology

Incorporated, South Windsor, Connecticut, and the seal-coat was applied by Adiabatics, Inc, Columbus, Indiana. Table 2 lists selected properties for several materials of interest.

Table 2. Properties of selected piston insert materials¹

Material	Coefficient of thermal expansion, 10 ⁻⁶ /°C	Thermal conductivity, W/m·K
Aluminum alloy	20.8	177
Cast iron ²	12.1	80.2
Carbon steel ²	12.1	63.9
304 Stainless steel	17.3	14.9
NiCrAlY	14	-4
Partially stabilized zirconia	10	0.5–2.5 ³
¹ (Beardsley and Larson 1992; Incropera and DeWitt 1981; Weast et al. 1984) ² Information provided for comparison ³ Conductivity of solid material is 2.5. Actual conductivity of coating depends on porosity.		

The 1.27-mm ceramic coating was applied to two 304 stainless steel piston inserts designed with the same 1.27-mm air gap as the stand-alone stainless insert, but modified dimensionally on the combustion-chamber-side to allow for the coating thickness. One of the two coated inserts was used as-is, and the second received a surface densification coating or seal-coat. Seal-coating has been recommended by some to improve the properties of ceramic coatings used in internal combustion engines (Beardsley and Larson 1992). In previous studies (with the same engine) at ORNL, results indicated that the ceramic-coated insert actually increased the unburned fuel emissions (Kahl 1989). This phenomenon was thought to be caused, at least in part, by the high surface porosity of the PSZ coating (Kahl 1989; Beardsley and Larson 1992).

In previous experiments with this Ricardo engine, the thermal efficiency of the test engine with modified piston was found to be extraordinarily low, with a peak of only 10%–12% (Kahl 1989). Before acquiring any new data, the cylinder liner was resleeved, new piston rings were installed, and the valves and valve seats were ground to restore efficiency to more typical levels.

At least two data sets were taken for each of the four engine builds. A data set consisted of five loads (torque) at 1800 rpm, and five loads at 1400 rpm. Cylinder pressure, fuel injection pressure, and crank angle were all recorded at high-speed (100,000 samples/s) for each setting. Exhaust gas samples were drawn through a heated sample line into emissions measurement equipment. A Thermo-Environmental Model 51 Heated Flame Ionization Detector (FID) was used to measure total hydrocarbon emissions (largely methanol and formaldehyde). A flame ionization detector was added to an Antek gas chromatograph with the intent of speciating unburned fuel emissions. The instrument calibrated well and exhibited good repeatability with alkanes, but this particular FID's response to methanol was unfortunately too poor for use in these experiments. The total HC emissions were measured as methanol using the

Thermo-Environmental FID. Flame ionization detectors are typically calibrated using propane, and measurements are manipulated using response factors for the various constituents in the exhaust. Flame ionization detectors are known to respond only partially to methanol in exhaust gas, so a standard gas with known methanol concentration was used for calibration. This is a reasonable approach because methanol typically accounts for some 90%–95% of fuel-related emissions from direct-injection, methanol-fueled engines (Lipari and Keski-Hynnila 1986). A Beckman 951 NO/NO_x analyzer was used for measuring the NO_x emissions.

Results

Effects of Piston Insert Materials

Figure 2 shows the brake thermal efficiency as a function of brake mean effective pressure (BMEP) for the four engine builds at 1800 rpm. The curves shown in the figure are to aid the reader in comparing the data sets and are of the simplest order that would show the expected trends. While no single piston insert shows an appreciable improvement in thermal efficiency, the PSZ coating appears to improve efficiency at high loads, although the scatter in the data preclude making this observation with a high level of confidence. The thermal efficiency at a lower speed (1400 rpm) is shown in Figure 3. Again, all four inserts perform equally well.

Figure 4 shows the average volumetric efficiency for each of the four builds at both engine speeds. The volumetric efficiency is defined as the actual air consumption rate divided by the theoretical air consumption rate (displacement per revolution times rpm). Note that the best volumetric efficiency is achieved with the baseline aluminum insert. Use of the stainless-steel/air-gap insert seems to degrade the volumetric efficiency, and the zirconia coating appears to degrade it further. The loss in volumetric efficiency is undoubtedly caused by the higher in-cylinder temperatures with the use of these piston inserts. Using measured cylinder pressure at similar conditions for each build (half load, 15° ATDC), the bulk cylinder temperature was estimated (using the ideal gas equation). Results of these calculations showed that the zirconia-coated insert yielded the highest bulk temperature, followed by the seal-coated zirconia, stainless steel/air gap, and aluminum, respectively. The calculated bulk temperatures for the seal-coat and stainless steel/air gap inserts were nearly the same, and as shown in Figure 4, their volumetric efficiencies are very similar.

Emissions index hydrocarbons (EIHC) at 1800 rpm are shown in Figure 5. The stainless steel/air-gap piston insert clearly produces the lowest unburned fuel emissions, followed by the seal-coated and aluminum and zirconia-coated inserts. These results support the presumption that the zirconia coating may trap fuel during the combustion process and release it during blowdown, resulting in higher unburned fuel emissions (Kahl 1989; Beardsley and Larson 1992). The seal-coating (surface densification) had the expected effect of improving the performance of the zirconia coating, but the emissions were still higher than those with the stainless steel/air-gap insert. Unburned fuel emissions for the zirconia-coated insert are similar to those with bare aluminum. Figure 6 shows the HC emissions at 1400 rpm. Differences in the aluminum, zirconia, and seal-coat are not clear at the lower speed, but the stainless-steel/air-gap insert is still the superior configuration tested in this engine. It is evident that simply increasing the cylinder temperature via surface coatings is not sufficient to alleviate unburned fuel emissions. These emissions levels are unusually high for even a DISC engine. In fact, Frank and Heywood have published HC emissions on the order of 20 to 40 g/kg fuel at light loads in a similar engine, albeit on gasoline fuel (Frank and Heywood 1991). Reasons for this particular engine's poor performance are unclear.

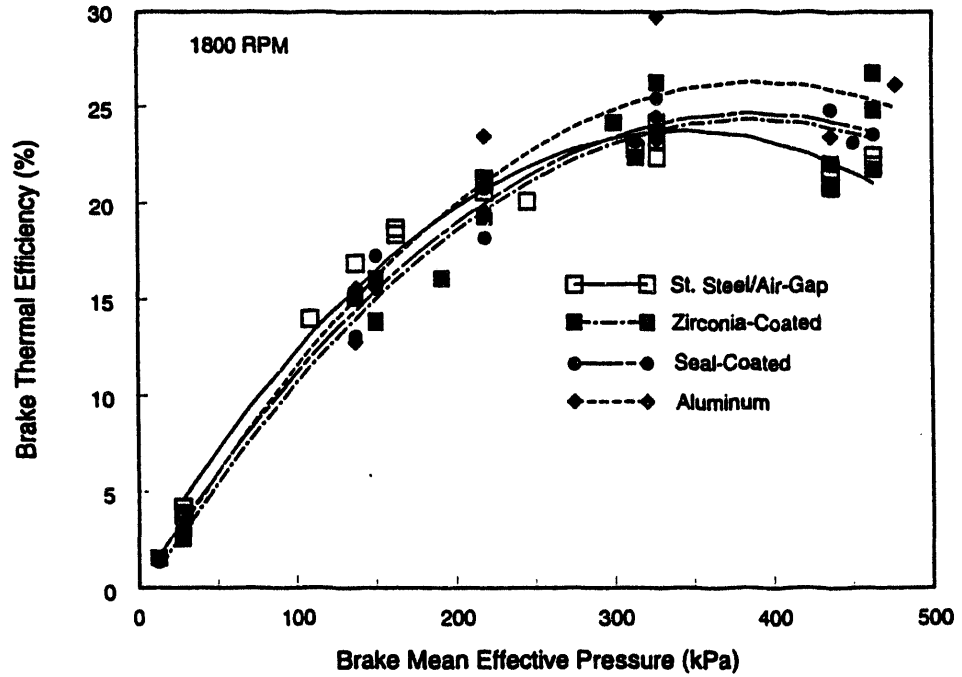


Figure 2. Brake thermal efficiency at 1800 rpm for four piston insert surfaces

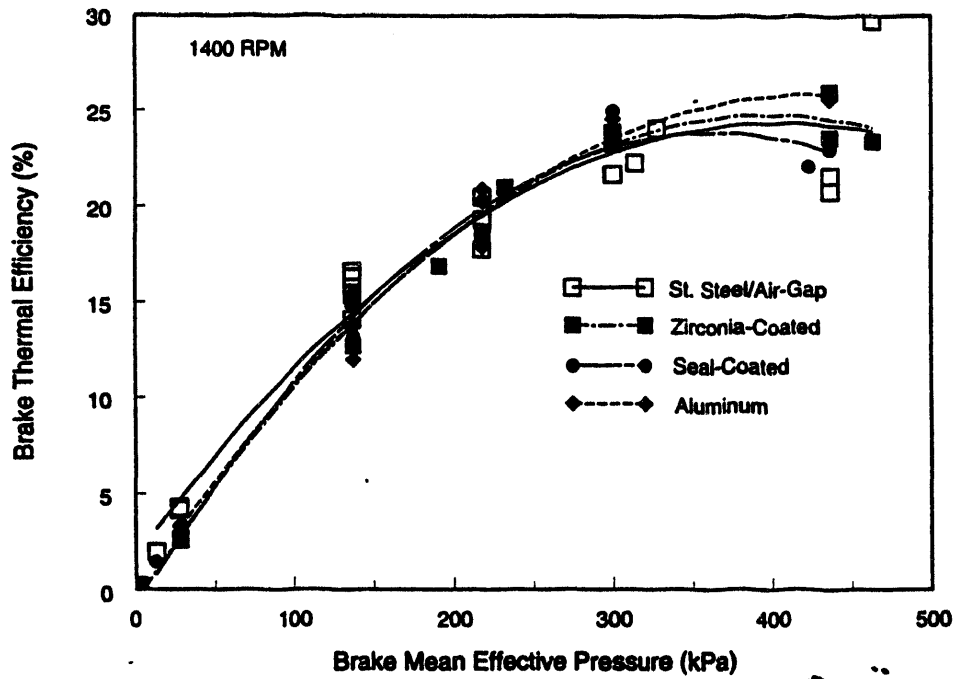


Figure 3. Brake thermal efficiency at 1400 rpm for four piston insert surfaces

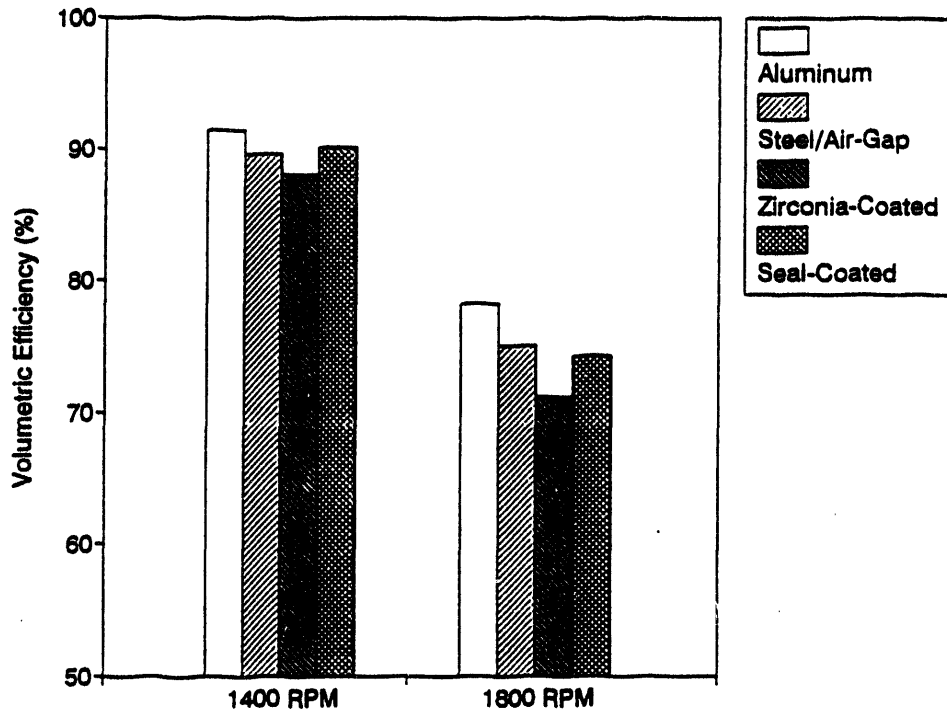


Figure 4. Average volumetric efficiency at two engine speeds for four piston insert surfaces

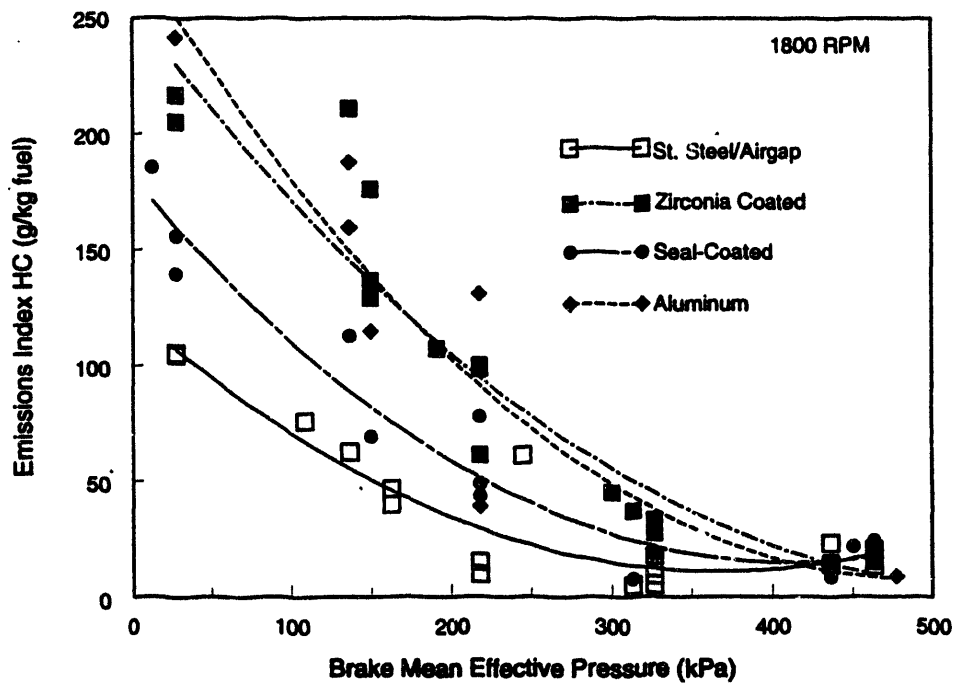


Figure 5. Emissions index HC at 1800 rpm for four-piston insert surfaces

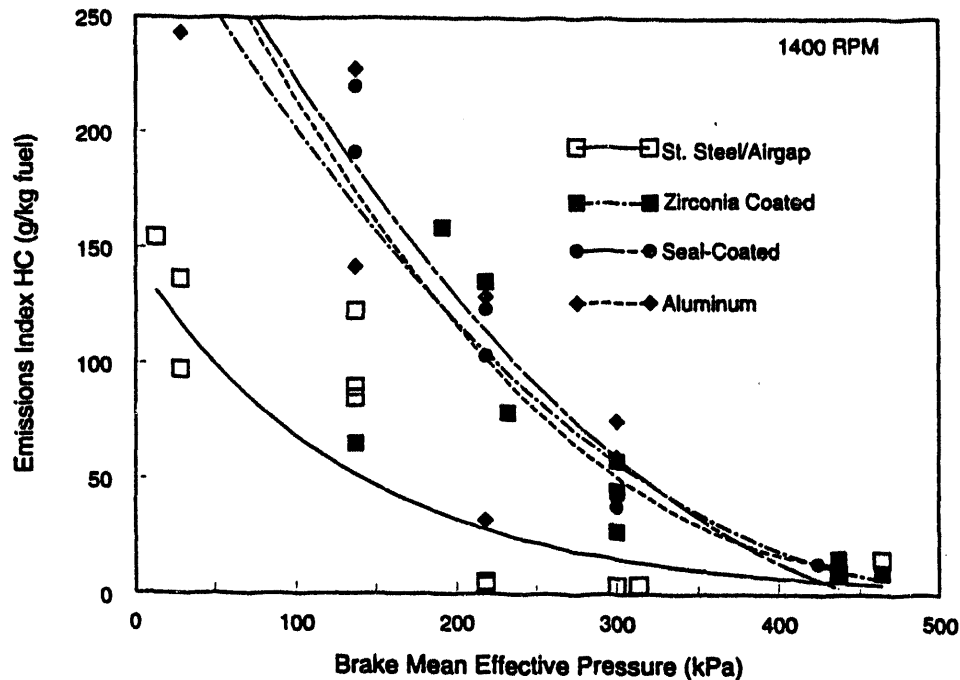


Figure 6. Emissions index HC at 1400 rpm for four piston insert surfaces

Figures 7 and 8 show that the NO_x emissions are highest for the stainless steel/air-gap insert, followed by the aluminum, seal-coat, and zirconia-coated inserts, with little or no discernible difference. Given that the stainless-steel/air-gap insert produced the lowest unburned fuel emissions, one might expect higher NO_x emissions. Oxides of nitrogen emissions are generally attributed to higher combustion temperatures. Although the data indicate higher bulk temperatures for the coated inserts, local combustion temperatures were evidently highest for the stainless steel/air-gap insert. In premixed flames, maximum NO_x is typically formed when the air:fuel ratio is just lean of stoichiometric. Diffusion burning typically yields lower NO_x because the locally rich mixtures are cooler and there is a lack of excess oxygen available for NO_x conversion. Rich premixed flames or excessively lean premixed flames also produce low NO_x emissions. Fuel evaporation off of the piston bowl surface might possibly be occurring at the highest rate with the stainless-steel/air-gap insert. The air-gap insulation around this insert could enable it to store substantial thermal energy that more rapidly vaporizes the fuel film on the piston bowl surface, leading to more premixed flame combustion near stoichiometry, and higher NO_x emissions. The thermal barrier coatings have low heat capacity, and might be quenched quickly by the fuel spray. This low heat capacity combined with low thermal conductivity might preclude rapid heating of the fuel film, resulting in combustion at more locally rich conditions, and lower NO_x .

Figures 5 and 6 show that the EIHC as a function of BMEP are lowest for the stainless steel/air-gap piston insert at light loads, and Figures 7 and 8 show that this configuration yields the highest emission index oxides of nitrogen (EINO_x). A well-accepted premise is that most engines exhibit a HC- NO_x tradeoff, e.g., these emissions constituents are inversely proportional. Increases in HC emissions because of changes in load, spark timing (in a homogeneous charge engine), or injection timing (in a diesel engine) generally result in declines in NO_x emissions, and vice-versa. Emissions index HC are plotted as a function of EINO_x in Figures 9 and 10. The HC- NO_x tradeoff is apparent in these figures. Again, the highest NO_x and lowest HC emissions are apparent for the stainless steel/air-gap insert.

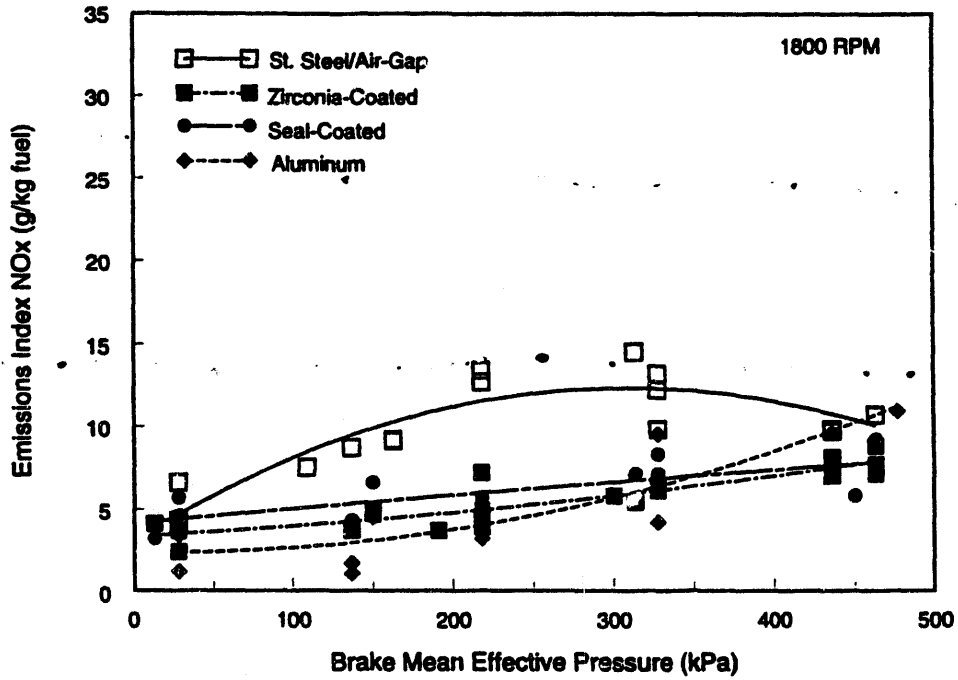


Figure 7. Emissions index NO_x at 1800 rpm for four piston insert surfaces

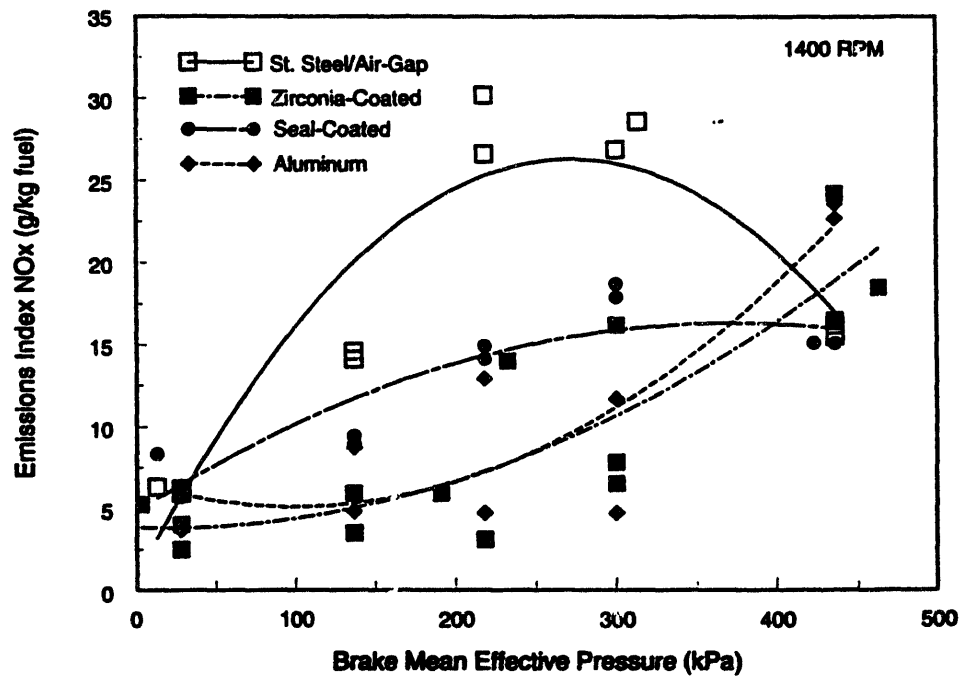


Figure 8. Emissions index NO_x at 1400 rpm for four piston insert surfaces

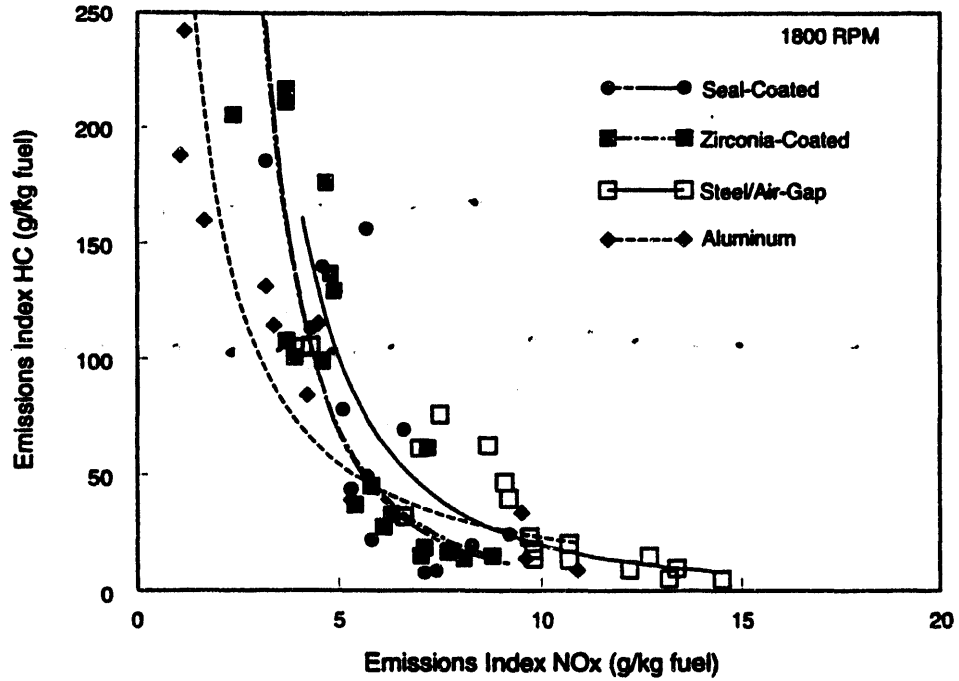


Figure 9. Emissions index HC versus emissions index NO_x at 1800 rpm for four piston insert surfaces

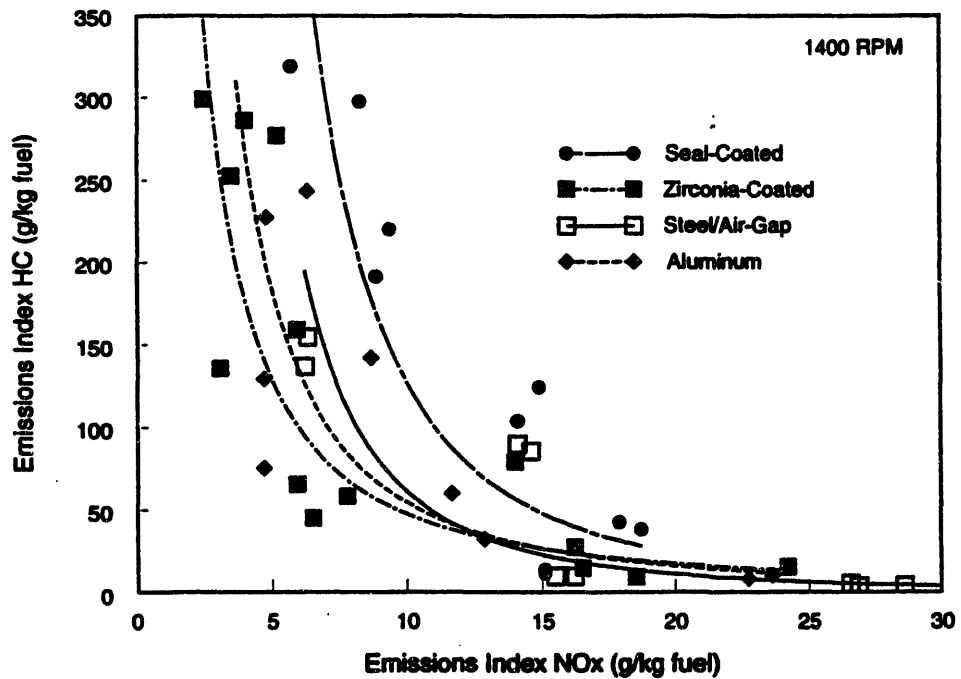


Figure 10. Emissions index HC versus emissions index NO_x at 1400 rpm for four piston insert surfaces

In-Cylinder Catalysis

The use of removable piston inserts in the Ricardo engine used in this research facilitates development and testing of catalytic coatings for in-cylinder use. A cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) has been signed between ORNL and AC Rochester Division of General Motors (CRADA X92-0115). Under the terms of the CRADA, information regarding in-cylinder catalysis is proprietary to AC Rochester. Planning of engine experiments is currently under way, and AC Rochester is recommending catalyst materials for in-cylinder use.

To help guide catalyst selection, piston-bowl surface temperature measurements were made utilizing nine TEMPLUG temperature measurement devices installed in a stainless steel/air-gap insert. TEMPLUGs are heat-treated steel setscrews with known thermal tempering (softening) characteristics. Nine TEMPLUGs were installed with their sensitive ends flush with the piston bowl surface, as shown in Figure 11. The engine was run at half-load for several minutes. Hardness testing after exposure showed that the TEMPLUGs had reached sustained peak temperatures averaging 620°C, ranging from 540°–720°C. These measurements represent "bulk," or average temperatures of the piston insert, and actual temperatures during the combustion process are no doubt somewhat higher. Modern catalytic converters operate at 600°–700°C, so these results are encouraging for the prospects of in-cylinder catalysis.

Summary and Conclusions

A DISC engine was used to examine the effects of piston surface coatings on performance and emissions. A blank aluminum piston was modified to employ removable piston bowl inserts. An aluminum insert was used as the baseline case, approximating the MAN-FM combustion system. Modified bowls included a bare stainless-steel insert with a 1.27-mm air gap, and two similar stainless steel/air-gap inserts coated with partially-stabilized zirconia. One of the two zirconia-coated inserts received a surface densification coating, or seal-coat. For the range of operation tested, the stainless-steel/air-gap insert produced the lowest EIHC, at the expense of higher NO_x emissions. The zirconia-coated insert produced the highest EIHC and the lowest EINO_x. Unburned fuel emissions for the coated inserts were improved by the addition of the seal-coating. Thermal efficiency at high loads was improved using the thermal barrier-coated inserts, while the baseline aluminum insert maintained the advantage at lighter loads.

While the DISC engine offers advantages such as fuel tolerance and the potential for superior fuel economy (because of unthrottled, lean operation), it is prone to high unburned fuel emissions at light loads. The experiments reported on here compare its performance with various piston inserts while keeping injection timing and ignition timing constant, and the results should be viewed in light of these facts. Although it was not in the scope of this project, piston bowl materials and coatings would be better compared when the engine has been optimized for each configuration. The experiments have shown that the use of coatings can actually degrade unburned fuel emissions, while improving oxides of nitrogen emissions. The use of piston surface treatments has been shown to alter the characteristic HC vs NO_x tradeoff for this engine. Consequently, these surface treatments represent an additional design parameter which may be used to make the DISC engine a viable light-duty powerplant. These results also reinforce the importance of using seal-coats with sprayed coatings, as observed by other research teams.

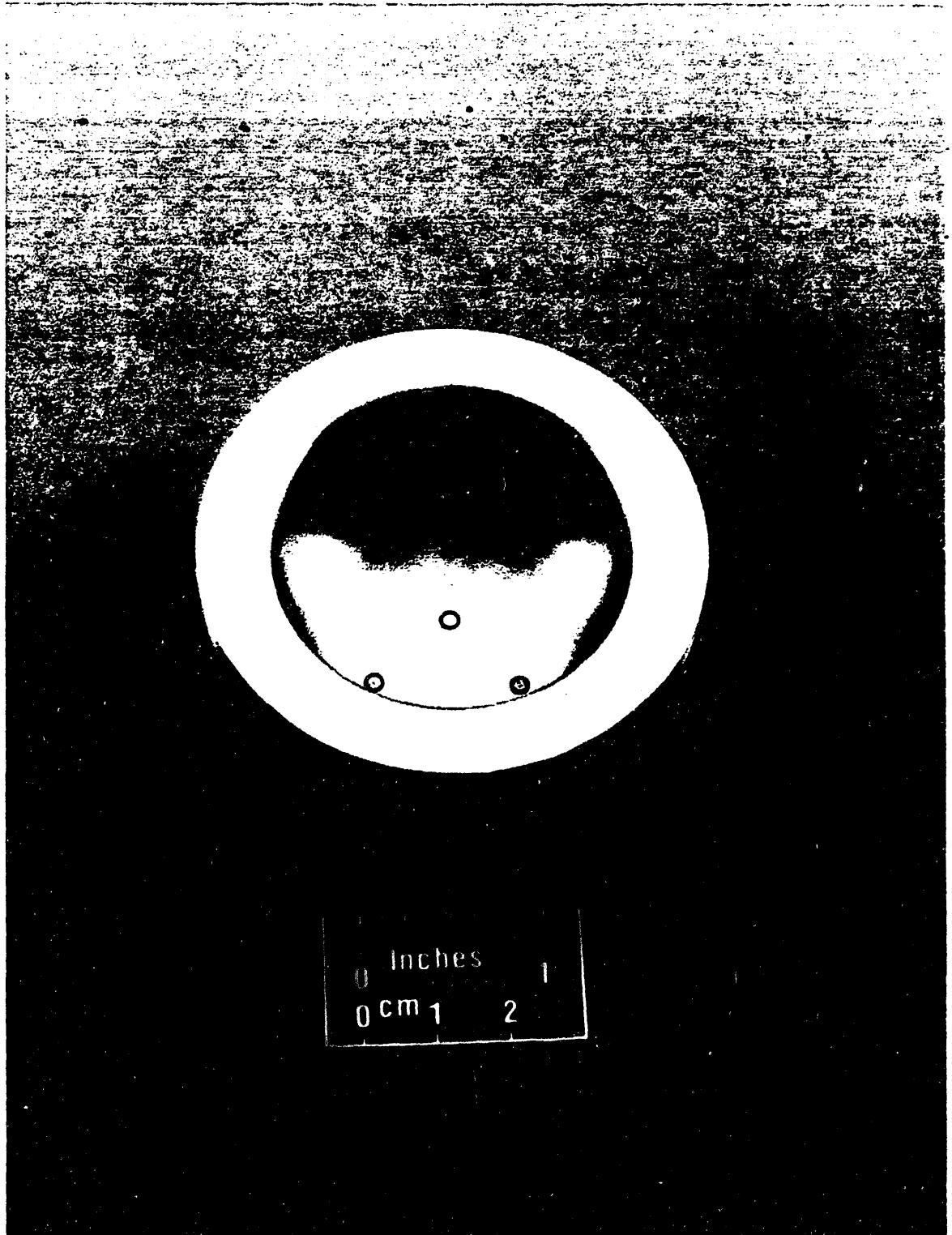


Figure 11. Stainless steel/air-gap insert with TEMPLUGs installed

Acknowledgments

The authors wish to thank the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for financial support of this work. Thanks also to D.E. Blair, J.C. Wilkinson, and D.H. Hall for their help in setting up and running experiments; to R.L. Graves, R.N. McGill, and N. Domingo for their consultation and guidance; and to Barbara Saiter of Lubrizol for providing the methanol lubricity additive.

References

Beardsley, M.B. and H.J. Larson. 1992. *Thick Thermal Barrier Coatings For Diesel Components*. DOE/NASA Report.

Frank, R.M. and J.B. Heywood. 1991. "The Effect of Piston Temperature on Hydrocarbon Emissions from a Spark-Ignited Direct-Injection Engine." Society of Automotive Engineers Paper No. 910558.

Giovanetti, A.J. , J.A. Ekchian, J.B. Heywood, and E.F. Fort. 1983. "Analysis of Hydrocarbon Emissions in a Direct Injection Stratified Charge Spark Ignition Engine." Society of Automotive Engineers Paper No. 830587.

Heywood, J. B. 1988. *Internal Combustion Engine Fundamentals*, New York: McGraw-Hill Publishing.

Incropera, F.P. and D.P. DeWitt. 1981. *Fundamentals of Heat Transfer*. New York: John Wiley and Sons.

Kahl, W.K. 1989. "Thermal Barrier Effects on Performance and Emissions of a Methanol Fueled DI Engine." Society of Automotive Engineers Paper No. 892163.

Lipari, F. and D. Keski-Hyynila. 1986. "Aldehyde and Unburned Fuel Emissions from Methanol-Fueled Heavy-Duty Diesel Engines." Society of Automotive Engineers Paper No. 860307.

Norris-Jones, S.R. and J.T. Russell. 1982. "FM - A High Efficiency Combustion System for the Future Light Duty Engine?" Society of Automotive Engineers Paper No. 820760.

Weast, R.C. , M.J. Astle, and W.H. Beyer, eds. 1984. *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, Inc..

Wood, C.D. 1978. "Unthrottled Open-Chamber Stratified Charge Engines." Society of Automotive Engineers Paper No. 780341.

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved
OMB NO. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)	2. REPORT DATE July 1994	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Subcontract Report	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Effects of Piston Surface Treatments on Performance and Emissions of a Methanol-Fueled, Direct Injection, Stratified Charge Engine		5. FUNDING NUMBERS (C) DZ-2-11166-1 (TA) FU421010	
6. AUTHOR(S) B. West and J. B. Green		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER DE94011851	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Oak Ridge National Laboratory Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-6285			
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) National Renewable Energy Laboratory 1617 Cole Boulevard Golden, CO 80401-3393		10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER NREL/TP-425-6161	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES			
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT National Technical Information Service U.S. Department of Commerce 5285 Port Royal Road Springfield, VA 22161		12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE UC-335	
13. ABSTRACT (<i>Maximum 200 words</i>) The purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of thermal barrier coatings and/or surface treatments on the performance and emissions of a methanol-fueled, direct injection, stratified charge (DISC) engine. The primary focus of the study was to examine the effects of various piston insert surface treatments on hydrocarbon (HC) and oxides of nitrogen (NO _x) emissions. Four different piston bowl inserts were tested in the experiment: aluminum, stainless steel with an air gap, and two stainless steel/air-gap inserts with coatings. For the range of operation tested, the stainless-steel/air-gap insert produced the lowest emissions index hydrocarbons (EIHC), at the expense of higher NO _x emissions. The zirconia-coated insert produced the highest EIHC and the lowest EINO _x . Unburned fuel emissions for the coated inserts were improved by the addition of the seal-coating. These experiments showed that the use of coatings can actually degrade unburned fuel emissions, while improving oxides of nitrogen emissions. Results also reinforced the importance of using seal-coats with sprayed coatings, as observed by other research teams.			
14. SUBJECT TERMS DISC engine, hydrocarbon emissions, oxides of nitrogen emissions, piston bowl inserts, seal-coats		15. NUMBER OF PAGES 18	16. PRICE CODE A03
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT

**DATE
FILMED**

8/19/94

END

