

# Disc Brake Pad Wear

# Introduction

This example demonstrates how to compute wear of the friction material in a disc brake. Wear is modeled using a generalized form of the well-known Archard equation. The sliding velocity and the friction forces are computed from simple kinematic considerations. In addition, it is assumed that the disc has a much higher wear resistance than the pad, so that only wear of the friction material has to be considered. Thermal effects on the wear rate and thermal expansion are neglected.

# Model Definition

The simplified geometry of the disc and brake pad assembly is shown in Figure 1. Assuming a symmetric geometry, only half of the assembly needs to be modeled.

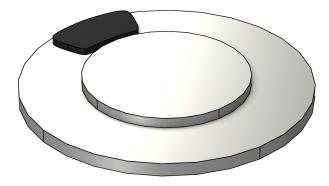


Figure 1: Disc brake geometry.

The entire assembly is considered to be linear elastic, and the brake disc is given material properties of steel. The material of the brake pad is assumed to have a stiffness that is one order or magnitude lower than that of the disc. All material properties are summarized in Table 1.

PROPERTY	DISC	PAD
Young's modulus	210 GPa	10 GPa
Poisson's ratio	0.3	0.1
Density	7850 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	2000 kg/m <sup>3</sup>

The interaction between the disc and the pad is modeled using a contact condition. To ensure that the contact pressure is well resolved, the augmented Lagrangian method is used. The contact pressure is initiated by adding a boundary load to the top surface of the brake pad, and the effect of friction forces is accounted for by prescribing a relative slip velocity between the two parts. The angular velocity,  $\omega$ , of the brake disc is assumed to be constant during the analysis. Since the origin of the global coordinate system is located in the center of the disc, the relative slip velocity,  $\mathbf{v}_{slip}$ , between the pad and the disc is given as

$$\mathbf{v}_{slip} = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}$$

where  $\mathbf{r}$  is the position vector to any point on the pad.

Wear involves a gradual removal of material at the surfaces in contact, and the process can be described with a rate equation. In this example, a generalized form of the Archard wear model is used, where the wear rate is given as

$$\dot{h}_{\text{wear}} = k_{\text{wear}} \left(\frac{T_{\text{n}}}{T_{\text{n,ref}}}\right)^n \left\| \mathbf{v}_{\text{slip}} \right\|$$

Here,  $h_{\text{wear}}$  is the wear depth,  $k_{\text{wear}}$  is a dimensionless wear constant,  $T_n$  is the contact pressure,  $T_{n,\text{ref}}$  is a reference pressure, n is a dimensionless exponent. By default,  $T_{n,\text{ref}}$  is set to 1 MPa and n to 1, which makes the above equation correspond to the classical form of the Archard wear equation.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of the von Mises stress at the end of the simulation. At this point, material has been removed due to wear causing any initial peak in the stress to be smoothened out.

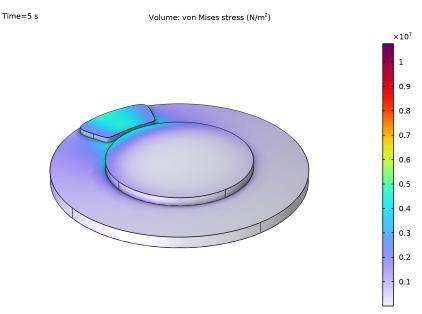


Figure 2: Distribution of von Mises stress in the pad and disc assembly.

If the contact between the pad and the disc was frictionless, the contact pressure would have a symmetric distribution over the pad surface. However, including friction forces results in a higher contact pressure at the leading edge of the brake pad compared to its trailing edge. This is shown in Figure 3 for the worn brake pad. As a result of the locally higher pressure, the wear rate, and subsequently the wear depth, is larger at the leading edge, see Figure 4. Due to the geometric changes resulting from the removal of material, the pressure distribution changes and the pressure peak at the leading edge eventually decreases over time.

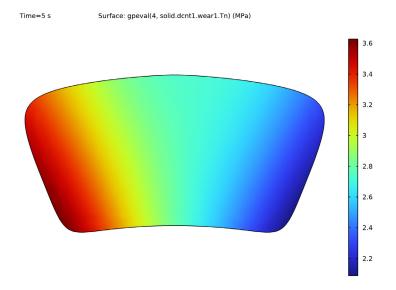


Figure 3: Pressure distribution of the worn pad surface.

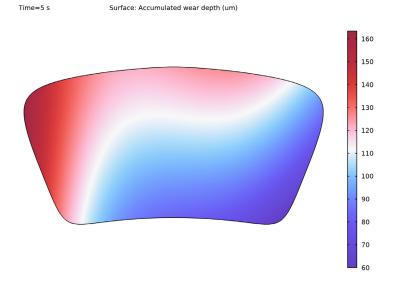


Figure 4: Distribution of the accumulated wear depth.

# Notes About the COMSOL Implementation

The initial contact problem is solved in a first stationary study. By adding a **Slip Velocity** subnode to the **Contact** node, you can solve for dynamic friction forces even in a stationary study. To solve for the wear depth, add a second time-dependent study, and initialize the study with the values from the first study.

Wear is in this example modeled using the deformed geometry concept. This means that the geometry of the brake pad changes with time by using an adaptive meshing technique. Using this method to model wear thus also updates the contact conditions accordingly during the simulation.

Usually, wear problems require long time periods to generate any significant wear depths. One approach to avoid running long-term studies is to multiply the wear rate with an acceleration factor. The result may be interpreted as running the simulation for a time t times the wear acceleration factor, where t is the actual time period used in the simulation.

Application Library path: Structural\_Mechanics\_Module/ Contact\_and\_Friction/disc\_brake\_wear

# Modeling Instructions

From the File menu, choose New.

# NEW

In the New window, click 🔗 Model Wizard.

# MODEL WIZARD

- I In the Model Wizard window, click 间 3D.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select Structural Mechanics>Solid Mechanics (solid).
- 3 Click Add.
- 4 Click 🔿 Study.
- 5 In the Select Study tree, select General Studies>Stationary.
- 6 Click 🗹 Done.

#### GLOBAL DEFINITIONS

#### Parameters 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Global Definitions click Parameters I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parameters, locate the Parameters section.

**3** In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Value	Description
v	60[km/h]	16.667 m/s	Vehicle speed
r_wheel	0.25[m]	0.25 m	Wheel radius
omega	v/r_wheel	66.667 1/s	Wheel angular velocity
wear_accel	100	100	Wear acceleration factor

# GEOMETRY I

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Insert Sequence and choose Insert Sequence.
- 2 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file disc\_brake\_geom\_sequence.mph.

Form Assembly (fin)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Geometry I click Form Assembly (fin).
- 2 In the Settings window for Form Union/Assembly, locate the Form Union/Assembly section.
- **3** Select the **Create pairs** check box.
- 4 From the Pair type list, choose Contact pair.
- 5 In the Geometry toolbar, click 🟢 Build All.

# DEFINITIONS

Contact Pair I (ap I)

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Component I (comp1)>Definitions node, then click Contact Pair I (ap1).
- 2 In the Settings window for Pair, locate the Advanced section.
- **3** From the Mapping method list, choose Initial configuration.

# Cylindrical System 2 (sys2)

A boundary system is used to define the orientation of the relative slip velocity between the pad and the disc. In this case it is convenient to define the orientation of the boundary system axes based on cylindrical coordinates. In the Definitions toolbar, click  $\sum_{x}^{y}$  Coordinate Systems and choose Cylindrical System.

Boundary System 1 (sys1)

- I In the Model Builder window, click Boundary System I (sys1).
- 2 In the Settings window for Boundary System, locate the Settings section.
- **3** From the Frame list, choose Reference configuration.
- 4 Find the Coordinate names subsection. From the Create first tangent direction from list, choose Cylindrical System 2 (sys2).
- 5 From the Axis list, choose phi.

## MATERIALS

Disc

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (comp1) right-click Materials and choose Blank Material.
- 2 In the Settings window for Material, type Disc in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Geometric Entity Selection section. In the list, select 3.
- 4 Click Remove from Selection.
- 5 Locate the Material Contents section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Property	Variable	Value	Unit	Property group
Young's modulus	E	210[GPa]	Pa	Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio
Poisson's ratio	nu	0.3	I	Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio
Density	rho	7850[kg/m^3]	kg/m³	Basic

- 6 Click to expand the Appearance section. From the Material type list, choose Steel.
- 7 In the Graphics window toolbar, click ▼ next to ② Colors, then choose
   Show Material Color and Texture.
- 8 In the Graphics window toolbar, click ▼ next to 
   ✓ Scene Light, then choose Ambient Occlusion.

Pad

- I Right-click Materials and choose Blank Material.
- **2** Select Domain 3 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Material, type Pad in the Label text field.

4 Locate the Material Contents section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Property	Variable	Value	Unit	Property group
Young's modulus	E	10[GPa]	Pa	Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio
Poisson's ratio	nu	0.1	I	Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio
Density	rho	2000	kg/m³	Basic

5 Click to expand the Appearance section. From the Color list, choose Black.

# SOLID MECHANICS (SOLID)

Wear is a slow process and inertial effects can be neglected.

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Solid Mechanics (solid).
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Solid Mechanics**, locate the **Structural Transient Behavior** section.
- 3 From the list, choose Quasistatic.

#### Fixed Constraint I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🔚 Boundaries and choose Fixed Constraint.
- 2 Select Boundary 8 only.

#### Symmetry I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🔚 Boundaries and choose Symmetry.
- **2** Select Boundary 3 only.

## Prescribed Displacement I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🔚 Boundaries and choose Prescribed Displacement.
- **2** In the Settings window for Prescribed Displacement, locate the Prescribed Displacement section.
- **3** Select the **Prescribed in x direction** check box.
- 4 Select the **Prescribed in y direction** check box.
- **5** Select Boundary 16 only.

#### Boundary Load 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🔚 Boundaries and choose Boundary Load.
- 2 Select Boundary 16 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Boundary Load, locate the Force section.

- 4 From the Load type list, choose Total force.
- **5** Specify the **F**<sub>tot</sub> vector as

0	x
0	у
-10[kN]	z

Contact I

- I In the Model Builder window, click Contact I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Contact, locate the Contact Method section.
- **3** From the Formulation list, choose Augmented Lagrangian.
- 4 Locate the Contact Pressure Penalty Factor section. From the Tuned for list, choose Speed.
- **5** Locate the **Initial Value** section. In the  $T_n$  text field, type 5e6.

Slip Velocity I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 层 Attributes and choose Slip Velocity.
- 2 In the Settings window for Slip Velocity, locate the Friction Parameters section.
- **3** In the  $\mu$  text field, type 0.45.
- 4 Locate the Prescribed Velocity section. Specify the  $v_{slip}$  vector as

omega*sys2.r	tl
0	t2

The input is given in the boundary system selected in the **Coordinate System Selection** section.

- **5** Click the **5** Show More Options button in the Model Builder toolbar.
- 6 In the Show More Options dialog box, in the tree, select the check box for the node Physics>Advanced Physics Options.
- 7 Click OK.
- 8 In the Settings window for Slip Velocity, click to expand the Advanced section.
- 9 Select the Store accumulated slip check box.

#### Contact I

In the Model Builder window, click Contact I.

Wear I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 📃 Attributes and choose Wear.
- 2 In the Settings window for Wear, locate the Wear Model section.
- **3** In the  $k_{\text{wear}}$  text field, type 1e-14\*wear\_accel.

The factor wear\_accel artificially accelerates the wear rate in order to reduce the computation time. In this case wear\_accel is set to 100 and the time-dependent solver spans an interval of only 5 s. Alternatively, this model could be run with no acceleration factor but over a time span of 500 s. This would yield practically identical results, though at the cost of a significantly higher computation time.

### MESH I

Free Triangular 1

- I In the Mesh toolbar, click  $\bigwedge$  Boundary and choose Free Triangular.
- 2 Select Boundaries 4 and 8 only.

Size Expression 1

- I Right-click Free Triangular I and choose Size Expression.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size Expression, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- 4 Select Boundaries 4 and 8 only.
- 5 Locate the Element Size Expression section. In the Size expression text field, type if((x/ 60[mm])^2+((y-115[mm])/40[mm])^2<1, 6[mm], 40[mm]).</p>
- 6 Click to expand the Smoothing section. In the Maximum size field growth rate text field, type 1.25.

Swept 1

- I In the Mesh toolbar, click 🦓 Swept.
- 2 In the Settings window for Swept, locate the Domain Selection section.
- **3** From the **Geometric entity level** list, choose **Domain**.
- **4** Select Domains 1 and 2 only.

#### Distribution I

- I Right-click Swept I and choose Distribution.
- 2 In the Settings window for Distribution, locate the Distribution section.
- **3** In the **Number of elements** text field, type **2**.

Free Triangular 2

I In the Mesh toolbar, click A Boundary and choose Free Triangular.

**2** Select Boundary 16 only.

#### Size I

- I Right-click Free Triangular 2 and choose Size.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Element Size section.
- 3 Click the **Custom** button.
- 4 Locate the Element Size Parameters section. Select the Maximum element size check box.

5 In the associated text field, type 3.5[mm].

Swept 2

In the Mesh toolbar, click A Swept.

## Distribution I

- I Right-click Swept 2 and choose Distribution.
- 2 In the Settings window for Distribution, locate the Distribution section.
- **3** In the **Number of elements** text field, type **3**.
- 4 Click 📗 Build All.

# STUDY I

Step 1: Stationary

- I In the Model Builder window, under Study I click Step I: Stationary.
- 2 In the Settings window for Stationary, locate the Physics and Variables Selection section.
- 3 In the table, clear the Solve for check box for Deformed geometry (Component I).

Solution 1 (soll)

- I In the Study toolbar, click **here** Show Default Solver.
- 2 In the Model Builder window, expand the Solution I (soll) node.
- 3 In the Model Builder window, expand the Study I>Solver Configurations> Solution I (soll)>Dependent Variables I node, then click Contact pressure (compl.solid.Tn\_apl).
- 4 In the Settings window for Field, locate the Scaling section.
- 5 In the Scale text field, type 5e6.
- 6 In the Study toolbar, click **=** Compute.

## RESULTS

Use the default contact plot to verify that the initial friction forces on the brake pad, as computed by the **Slip Velocity** node, act in the expected direction.

# Contact I, Pressure

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Contact Forces (solid) node.
- 2 Right-click Contact I, Pressure and choose Disable.

#### Color Expression

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Contact I, Friction Force node, then click Color Expression.
- 2 In the Settings window for Color Expression, locate the Coloring and Style section.
- 3 From the Coloring list, choose Color table.
- 4 From the Color table list, choose RainbowLight.

# ADD STUDY

- I In the Study toolbar, click 2 Add Study to open the Add Study window.
- 2 Go to the Add Study window.
- 3 Find the Studies subsection. In the Select Study tree, select General Studies> Time Dependent.
- 4 Click Add Study in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Study toolbar, click 2 Add Study to close the Add Study window.

#### STUDY 2

## Step 1: Time Dependent

- I In the Settings window for Time Dependent, locate the Study Settings section.
- 2 In the **Output times** text field, type range(0, 0.1, 5).
- 3 Click to expand the Values of Dependent Variables section. Find the Initial values of variables solved for subsection. From the Settings list, choose User controlled.
- 4 From the Method list, choose Solution.
- 5 From the Study list, choose Study I, Stationary.
- 6 In the Study toolbar, click  $\underset{t=0}{\overset{\cup}{\overset{}}}$  Get Initial Value.

Create a Transformation 3D dataset to easily visualize the disc's rotation with an arrow plot.

#### RESULTS

## Transformation 3D 1

- I In the **Results** toolbar, click **More Datasets** and choose **Transformation 3D**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Transformation 3D, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Study 2/Solution 2 (sol2).
- 4 Locate the Transformation section. Select the Rotate check box.
- 5 In the Angle text field, type omega\*t/200.

#### Surface 1

- I In the **Results** toolbar, click **More Datasets** and choose **Surface**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Study 2/Solution 2 (sol2).
- 4 Locate the Parameterization section. From the x- and y-axes list, choose XY-plane.
- **5** Locate the **Selection** section. Click **Paste Selection**.
- 6 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 15 in the Selection text field.
- 7 Click OK.

#### Wear Depth

- I In the **Results** toolbar, click **I 3D Plot Group**.
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, type Wear Depth in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Data section. From the Dataset list, choose Study 2/Solution 2 (sol2).
- 4 Click to expand the **Title** section. From the **Title type** list, choose **Label**.
- 5 Locate the Plot Settings section. Clear the Plot dataset edges check box.
- 6 Locate the Color Legend section. Select the Show units check box.

#### Volume 1

- I Right-click Wear Depth and choose Volume.
- 2 In the Settings window for Volume, locate the Expression section.
- **3** In the **Expression** text field, type **1**.

#### Selection 1

- I Right-click Volume I and choose Selection.
- **2** Select Domains 1 and 2 only.

## Material Appearance 1

In the Model Builder window, right-click Volume I and choose Material Appearance.

#### Arrow Surface 1

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Wear Depth and choose Arrow Surface.
- 2 In the Settings window for Arrow Surface, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Transformation 3D I.
- **4** Locate the **Expression** section. In the **x component** text field, type **y\*omega**.
- **5** In the **y component** text field, type -**x**\*omega.
- 6 In the z component text field, type 0.
- 7 Locate the Arrow Positioning section. In the Number of arrows text field, type 100.
- 8 Locate the Coloring and Style section. From the Color list, choose Black.

# Selection 1

- I Right-click Arrow Surface I and choose Selection.
- **2** Select Boundary 4 only.

#### Surface 1

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Wear Depth and choose Surface.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Surface I.
- **4** Locate the **Expression** section. In the **Expression** text field, type **solid**.htot.
- 5 In the **Unit** field, type um.
- 6 Click to expand the Quality section. Locate the Coloring and Style section. From the Color table list, choose WaveLight.

## Translation 1

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Surface I and choose Translation.
- 2 In the Settings window for Translation, locate the Translation section.
- **3** In the **z** text field, type 2[mm].

# STUDY 2

#### Step 1: Time Dependent

- I In the Model Builder window, under Study 2 click Step I: Time Dependent.
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Time Dependent**, click to expand the **Results While Solving** section.
- **3** Select the **Plot** check box.
- 4 From the Plot group list, choose Wear Depth.

#### Solver Configurations

In the Model Builder window, expand the Study 2>Solver Configurations node.

#### Solution 2 (sol2)

- In the Model Builder window, expand the Study 2>Solver Configurations> Solution 2 (sol2)>Dependent Variables I node, then click Contact pressure (compl.solid.Tn\_apl).
- 2 In the Settings window for Field, locate the Scaling section.
- 3 In the Scale text field, type 5e6.
- 4 In the Model Builder window, click Time-Dependent Solver I.
- **5** In the **Settings** window for **Time-Dependent Solver**, click to expand the **Time Stepping** section.
- 6 From the Steps taken by solver list, choose Strict.
- **7** Find the Algebraic variable settings subsection. From the Consistent initialization list, choose Off.
- 8 In the Model Builder window, expand the Study 2>Solver Configurations> Solution 2 (sol2)>Time-Dependent Solver I>Segregated I node, then click Solid Mechanics.
- 9 In the Settings window for Segregated Step, locate the General section.
- **IO** Under Variables, click + Add.
- II In the Add dialog box, select Material mesh displacement (compl.material.disp) in the Variables list.
- I2 Click OK.
- **13** In the **Settings** window for **Segregated Step**, click to expand the **Method and Termination** section.
- 14 From the Nonlinear method list, choose Constant (Newton).
- **I5** From the **Termination technique** list, choose **Tolerance**.
- 16 In the Model Builder window, under Study 2>Solver Configurations>Solution 2 (sol2)> Time-Dependent Solver I>Segregated I right-click Material frame coordinates and choose Delete.
- **I7** In the **Home** toolbar, click **= Compute**.

# RESULTS

#### Arrow Surface 1

I In the Model Builder window, under Results>Wear Depth click Arrow Surface I.

- 2 In the Settings window for Arrow Surface, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Solution parameters list, choose From parent.

# Surface 1

- I In the Model Builder window, click Surface I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Data section.
- **3** From the Solution parameters list, choose From parent.

Plot the contact pressure. In order to correctly interpolate from discrete Gauss point data to a continuous field, the pressure variable is wrapped in a gpeval() operator.

# Pressure Distribution

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🚛 Add Plot Group and choose 2D Plot Group.
- 2 In the Settings window for 2D Plot Group, type Pressure Distribution in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Data section. From the Dataset list, choose Surface I.

# Surface 1

- I Right-click Pressure Distribution and choose Surface.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Expression section.
- **3** In the **Expression** text field, type gpeval(4, solid.dcnt1.wear1.Tn).
- 4 From the Unit list, choose MPa.
- **5** In the **Pressure Distribution** toolbar, click **O Plot**.

#### Slip Distance

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Pressure Distribution and choose Duplicate.
- 2 In the Settings window for 2D Plot Group, type Slip Distance in the Label text field.

#### Surface 1

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Slip Distance node, then click Surface I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Expression section.
- 3 In the Expression text field, type gpeval(4, solid.sliptot)\*wear\_accel.
- 4 From the **Unit** list, choose **km**.
- **5** In the **Slip Distance** toolbar, click **I** Plot.

# Wear Rate

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Slip Distance and choose Duplicate.
- 2 In the Settings window for 2D Plot Group, type Wear Rate in the Label text field.

# Surface 1

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Wear Rate node, then click Surface I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Expression section.
- 3 In the Expression text field, type gpeval(4, solid.h\_tEff).
- 4 In the **Unit** field, type um/s.
- 5 In the Wear Rate toolbar, click 🗿 Plot.

# Evaluation Group 1

- I In the **Results** toolbar, click **L**evaluation Group.
- 2 In the Settings window for Evaluation Group, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Study 2/Solution 2 (sol2).
- **4** From the **Time selection** list, choose **Last**.

## Surface Average 1

- I Right-click Evaluation Group I and choose Average>Surface Average.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface Average, locate the Selection section.
- **3** Click **Paste Selection**.
- 4 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 15 in the Selection text field.
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Surface Average, locate the Expressions section.
- 7 In the table, enter the following settings:

Expression	Unit	Description
solid.htot	um	Average wear depth

#### Surface Minimum I

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Evaluation Group I and choose Minimum> Surface Minimum.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface Minimum, locate the Selection section.
- 3 Click **Paste Selection**.
- 4 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 15 in the Selection text field.
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Surface Minimum, locate the Expressions section.

7 In the table, enter the following settings:

Expression	Unit	Description
solid.htot	um	Minimum wear depth

Surface Maximum 1

- I Right-click Evaluation Group I and choose Maximum>Surface Maximum.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface Maximum, locate the Selection section.
- 3 Click Paste Selection.
- 4 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 15 in the Selection text field.
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Surface Maximum, locate the Expressions section.
- 7 In the table, enter the following settings:

Expression	Unit	Description
solid.htot	um	Maximum wear depth

8 In the Evaluation Group I toolbar, click = Evaluate.