

## THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING A AND B PLASTER BY HEATING GYPSUM ORE WITH ENERGY

Patricia A. UNGUR, Ioan MIHĂILĂ

University of Oradea

**Keywords:** gypsum, ore,  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , dehydration, plaster,  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , heating process, dielectric,  $\frac{1}{2}$  microwave.

### Summary

In this paper we present the basic principles of a new fabrication procedure for  $\beta$  plaster, which is a construction material used to create phonoabsorbant panels, cased ceilings, regypsums and decogypsums as well as an added material to the fabrication of mortars and polishing plaster coats or orthopedic corsets.

Plaster is an aerial binder obtained by dehydrating gypsum ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and forming semihydrated calcium sulphate ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) at temperatures ranging between 85 – 120 degrees Celsius. Obtaining plaster based on a semihydrate is made under atmospheric pressure ( $\beta$  plaster) and pressures higher than the atmospheric one through autoclavisation ( $\alpha$  plaster) or boiling, the first being  $\beta$  construction plaster and the second being  $\alpha$  modeling plaster.

The fabrication procedures of the plaster used to the present times are uneconomical and unecological. The proposed fabrication process uses microwave energy and is based on the dielectric propriety of the gypsum. As such, the dehydration of gypsum is made possible through dielectrical heating in a resonant cavity with microwave power.

The termic energy dissipated in the dielectric with losses,  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$  in the microwave field leads to the dehydration of gypsum at a normal atmospheric pressure, transforming it into  $\beta$  plaster ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). The advantage of this procedure consists in accuracy, quality and environmental safety.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we present some theoretical aspects regarding the principle of absorption and attenuation of sounds in ambient surroundings, living chambers, show rooms, restaurants, theatres, etc. by plaquing the interior walls and ceilings with plates, panels and cased ceilings made out of light construction material that belong to the category of aerial binders like  $\beta$  construction plaster and  $\alpha$  modeling plaster.

Using such new polymeric materials as a reinforcement material opens the way to fabricating new composite materials. A polymeric material known for its thermo and phonoabsorbant proprieties that is being used in the shape of plates in construction is expanded polystyrene. Expanded perlite is also being used in fabricating lightweight construction materials along with the above mentioned thermoplastic material. At S.C. "Congips" S.A. Oradea, which is a factory of lightweight construction materials, the fabrication of compositions based on  $\alpha$  plaster is being tested, with added powders and minced expanded polystyrene grains for the building of cased panels and ceilings available with diverse decorative models.

Due to the basic material,  $\alpha$  plaster made through autoclavisation at S.C. Congips S.A. Oradea, the cased plates, panels and ceilings satisfy the highest health, sonic comfort fire resistance and durability standards. Being armed with minced expanded polystyrene grains, the plates and ceilings are lighter, do not change their shape and size and have a good level of porosity, attenuating sound and noise very well. Also they can be decorated with paint or hydraulic pulverization to stop exfoliation phenomena with different decorative models.

## 2. THEORETICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPRIETIES OF PHONOABSORBANT MATERIALS

The proprieties of materials are directly connected to their structure, crystalline state, density and important characteristics: proportionality limit, leakage limit and resistance to tearing. For normal tensions in the proportionality domain of the specific tension-length line, Hooke's law is applicable:

$$\tau = E \cdot \varepsilon \quad (1)$$

where  $\tau = \frac{F}{A_0}$  is tension and

$\varepsilon = \frac{\Delta l}{l_0}$  is the specific length,

while E is the longitudinal elasticity module.

Under the solicitation of traction, a shrinking of the bar diameter takes place:  $\Delta = d - d_0$ , a transversal contraction resulting from here:

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\Delta}{d_0} \quad (2).$$

Between the longitudinal deformation and the transversal deformation we have the following relation:

$$\varepsilon_t = -\nu \cdot \varepsilon \quad (3)$$

where  $\nu$  is the transversal contraction coefficient of Poisson, the opposite length being Poisson's constant:

$$\nu = \frac{1}{m} \quad (4)$$

For tangential tension, Hook's analog relation is:

$$\xi = G \cdot \gamma \quad (5)$$

where  $\frac{d_u}{d_y}$  is the specific slip rate and

G - is the transversal elasticity module.

Between the size E, G and  $\nu$  we have the following relationship:

$$G = \frac{E}{2(1+\nu)} \quad (6)$$

The values E, G and  $\nu$  of materials indicate the state they are in as well as their proprieties, so that we have:

$$F_p = f(E, G, \nu) \quad (7)$$

– where  $F_p$  is a function of the propriety for composed solicitation, after the theory or hypothesis of Miles that is applicable in the case of materials that can be deformed and break at the beginning of plastic deformations, and that refers to the variation energy of the form at external physical solicitations gives out energy to the acting body.

$$\tau_{ech} = \sqrt{\tau_i^2 + 3(\alpha_0 \cdot \xi_i)^2} \quad (8)$$

– where  $\tau_{ech}$  is the expression of equivalent tension;

$$\tau_{ech} = \sqrt{3\xi}$$

$\alpha_0$  = correction coefficient resulted from the limit tensions of materials;  $\zeta$  = tangential tension resistant to shearing;  $t_i$  = tension or resistance to bending, solicitation that construction materials are not undergoing.

Phonoabsorbant construction materials are more rigid with a higher porosity level and are, in general, compositions that have the mechanic characteristics of reinforcers (E, G,  $\nu$ ) as well as very low density. The attenuation and absorption principle of sound waves is through multiple reflexions and refractions of sound in the interior of the material's pores. (Fig 1)

The sound waves that are being issued by a generator and reach the body surface are being absorbed, reflected or transmitted through a porous environment.

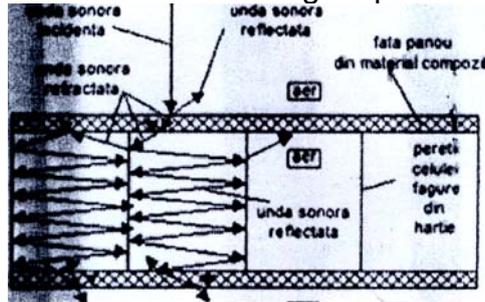


Fig. 1 – The principle of attenuating sound waves through absorption, reflection and refraction.

The incident sound wave is a reflected part, a refracted part and an absorbed part:

$$\theta_i = \theta_{\text{reflect}} + \theta_{\text{refract}} + \theta_{\text{abs}} \quad (9)$$

This relationship, after being divided to the incident sonor flux becomes:

$$\theta = \frac{\theta_{\text{refl}}}{\theta_i} + \frac{\theta_{\text{refr}}}{\theta_i} + \frac{\theta_a}{\theta_i} \quad (10)$$

Noting with  $\alpha, \beta, \delta$  the above mentioned dividing, we obtain:

$$\alpha + \beta + \delta = 1 \quad (11)$$

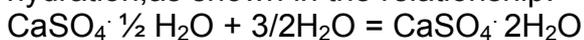
The phonoabsorbant construction materials that have a high reflexion or refraction sound absorption capacity are characterized by the phonic absorption factor  $\alpha$ , phonic refraction factor and phonic reflexion factor  $\Delta$ .

Reported to the power of an incident soundwave noted with  $W$ , we can conclude that the most wanted phonoabsorbant materials are those with the following report:  $\frac{\alpha}{W}$

This desire, corroborated with the characteristics of the materials (G, E,  $\nu$ ) as well as the theory of the variation of energy by Miles, opens the path to fabricating construction materials with very good phonoabsorbant properties that have a higher phonoabsorbant coefficient.

### 3. PRACTICAL ASPECTS

In the construction of phonoabsorbant panels and cased ceilings used in ambient surroundings and rooms for the plating of walls and ceilings, composite materials based on modeling plaster  $\alpha$  are used, reinforced with glass fibres, cellulose fibres and plated with cardboard bits, known under the name of regyps, decogyps, etc. One of the characteristics of the parts created with  $\alpha$  plaster ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) is that, through hydration, as shown in the relationship:



we can obtain hydrated calcium sulphate.

During the engagement of the plaster, the  $\text{CaSO}_4$  crystals grow and bind themselves together creating pores. On the size of these pores depends the phonoabsorbant character of the modeling plaster  $\alpha$  plates. Porosity and G, E and  $\nu$  characteristics of the plaster can be improved by adding very light and porous polymeric materials to the composition, that create a very good mechanical engagement with  $\alpha$  plaster.

At S.C. Congips S.A. Oradea, research and tries to obtain new composite materials based on the  $\alpha$  plaster matrix are being made. This material has a low density, very low E, G,  $\nu$  rates, very good plasticity and the propriety to absorb sounds, allowing the variation of internal energy through the shape of the material.

The characteristics of the newly obtained material will be presented after the brevetation of the product.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

1. Among new materials with phonoabsorbant and termoisolation proprieties we can also integrate the compositions of materials based on  $\alpha$  plaster, armed with plastic material (polymeric grains).

2. By arming  $\alpha$  plaster with minced expanded polystyrene grains, the cased ceilings, plates and panels do not modify their shape and size.

3. From the newly obtained material made at S.C. Congips S.A. Oradea, a new variety of ceilings can be constructed using a multitude of available decorative models.

#### 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- [1] Hubco., G., Sava, H., 1999, *Composite Materials*, Technical Editor, Bucharest, Romania;
- [2] Balart, R., Lopez, L., Nadal, A., 2001, *Introduction a la ciencia e ingenieria de polimeros*, Alfagrafic Editor, Alcoy ;
- [3] Palfalvi, A., 1998, *Metallurgy of Powder*, Technical Editor, Bucharest;
- [4] Popescu, M., Serban, L, Matei, V., *Composition on Base of Alpha-Plaster*, Patent NO. 11488B RO;
- [5] Nanu, A., Marcusanu, A., 2005, *Treatise of Nonconventional Technologies. Cutting of Nonconventional Materials*, Art Press Editor, Timișoara, România;
- [6] SR EN ISO 2580-2, 2003, *Impact Resistant Polystyrene*, Romanian Standard from ISO;
- [7] SR EN ISO 1622-1, 2003, *Plastic Materials on Base of Polystyrene*, Romanian Standard from ISO;
- [8] SR EN ISO 1622-2, 2003, *Plastic Materials on Base of Polystyrene*, Romanian Standard from ISO;
- [9] Mihut, 1, *Proceeding of Obtaining of Fibro-Gips Plates*, Patent No. 113551B1 RO;
- [10] Hellerich, H, 1989, *Guja de los materiales plasticos Propriedades y ensayos*, Manser Editor;
- [11] Teoreanu, I., 1977, *Theory of Concrete and Asbestos-Concrete*, Didactical and Pedagogical Editor, Bucharest;
- [12] Todinca, S., Cor, D., *Proceeding of Obtaining of Modeling Alpha-Plaster*. Patent NO 113459 B1 RO;
- [13] Ceprocechim, *Special Plaster of Modeling*, Patent NO. 76780 RO;
- [14] SR EN ISO 1587, 1996, *Gypsum*, Romanian Standard from ISO;
- [15] SR EN ISO 13279-1, 2005, *Gypsum Binder and Gypsum Plaster. Definitions And Conditions*. Romanian Standard from ISO;
- [16] Rufe, P., 2002, *Fundamentals of Manufacturinhg, Second Edition*, SME Editor, Dearbon, Michigan, USA;
- [17] Dubbel, 1998, *Handbook of Mechanical Engineering*, Technical Editor, Bucharest;
- [18] Nanu, A., 1983, *Technology of Materials*, Didactical & Pedagogical Editor, Bucharest;
- [19] Smith, W.F, 1998, *Fundamentos de la ciencia e ingenieria de materials*, a 3-th Edition, McGraw-Hill Edition, Madrid;

- [20] Operation Sheets and Prospects from "Congips" Co. Oradea, Romania;
- [21] Nicula, Al., Pușcaș, F., *Dielectrici și Fotoelectrici*. Scrisul Românesc, Craiova 1992;
- [22] Collins, G.B. (1948). *Microwave Magnetrons*, McCrow Hill Book, London, vol. II; Hinkel, R (1963). *Les magnetrons*, Dunod, Paris;
- [23] Lewis, F.P. (1993). *Magnetron muni din blingage*, Patente France, Nr. 2680912/05.03. 1993 ;
- [24] Maghiar, T. ; Ungur, P. ; Voicu, N. ; Moga, I. ; Budois, T. ; (2000) *Magnetronul, Elemente de teorie, construcție, tehnologie*, Universitatii din Oradea ;
- [25] Maghiar, T. ; Ungur, P. ; Voicu, N. ; Mudura, P. ; Moga, I. ; (2002) *Multiple resonant coaxial magnetron with bimetal anode body*, *Annals of DAAAM for 2002 & Proceeding of the International DAAAM Symposion*, ISBN 3-901509-29-1.