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### ALUMINIUM CAN CRUSHING UNIT AND RECYCLING

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#### ABSTRACT

Aluminum can be recycled without any loss of quality and hence aluminum scrap has significant value. This property of infinite recyclability has led to a situation where today around 75% of the almost one billion tons of aluminum ever produced is still in productive use, some having been through countless loops of its lifecycle. The energy needed to manufacture a single beverage can can be used to recycle 10 beverage cans with the same amount of energy. Aluminum can is the most recycled packing material because of the high value of the scrap and ease of collection, unlike other materials aluminum retains its properties throughout the process so, no matter how many times a can is recycled. Recycling saves energy, reduces wastage, and reduces use of city landfills. Our research deals with the recycling of aluminum cans and their casting into aluminum ingots which can be supplied to aluminum steel manufacturers who provide raw material for manufacturing aluminum foils and beverage cans.

#### INTRODUCTION

Important metal and is the third most common element. Aluminum is the world's most common, compared to 8% of the earth's crust. The versatility of aluminum makes it the most widely used metal after steel. Aluminum compounds have been used for many years, aluminum metal was first produced around 170 years ago. World-wide demand for aluminum is increasing up to 29 million per year. It is the second most available metal in the world, being lighter in weight and possessing non-corrosive properties. Compared with iron, aluminum has a fast-growing future. The application of aluminum in the packaging industry has already been a long practice, due to its low weight, good heat conductivity, strength, and non-corrosiveness. These outstanding properties also led to the application in areas such as automation, construction, the aerospace and car industry and (fast) shipbuilding. Because of these reasons, aluminum production has doubled in the past 20 years. In Western Europe, the consumption of primary aluminum grew at an average rate of 2% to 4.7 million tons per year; this is approximately 20% of the world-wide consumption.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

##### Material

- Pneumatic cylinder for can crushing (10 bar pressure)
- Conveyor system for material handling
- Furnace (volume -251200 mm<sup>2</sup>)
- Motor to run conveyor (10 rpm, 4 to 12 volt)
- Adapter
- Direction control valve (5/2 DCV)
- Mould

##### Methods

The setup was assembled and the process was carried out thoroughly. The figure shows the setup. In that crusher is designed for a single can at a time. A single can is placed one after another. The time required for crushing a single can was considered. Then the crushed can is passed to the conveyor. The conveyor was designed for handling material for the crusher to the furnace. The time taken for transmitting the crushed can from the crusher to the furnace is noted down. Then the fuel required was 1.5 kg. The furnace was designed with a volume of 251200 mm<sup>2</sup>. Then the temperature of the furnace for melting the aluminum at 660 degrees Celsius was checked. Then the next step is casting of molten metal. The mould was used to cast ingots of a certain dimension. The time required for cooling a certain set of melted cans was noted down.



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## RESULTS

### Crushing

The crushing of can take place in the crusher. The crushing time of crusher is 16 can per minutes by consideration

### Material handling

The material handling is done by the conveyor which carries the material from crusher to the furnace. The conveyor is powered by 10 rpm 12 v dc motor

### Melting

The material is carried to the furnace by the crushed the crushed cans are dropped into the furnace the heating time for the furnace is 40 min the the capacity of crucible is 18 can the material of the crucible is stainless steel the melting point of the crucible is 1340 degree Celsius the melting of the cans takes 20 min

### Casting

The cast is made up of mild steel the melting temperature of the mild steel is 1100 degree Celsius. The molten metal is poured in the cast. The cooling time for the ingot is 15 minutes .the dimensions of the cast billet is 650\*650mm

## DISCUSSION

This is research for existing system in the world which would be similar to our project but we find some research paper about our project which is electrically operated and very smile in that we improve and operate pneumatically

## FORMULE

Cylinder force (kg)

The cylinder Force is a function of:

F = Cylinder force in N.

D = Diameter of piston in cm

D = Diameter of piston rod in cm.

p = Operating air pressure in "bar".

f = spring force in Kg.

fr = frictional resistance.(Though in case of static thrust, the frictional resistance is zero.)

Thrust exerted by various types of Cylinders:

1) Single acting push type:

$$F = \{\pi \times D^2 \times P\}/4 - f$$

2) Single acting pulls type:

$$F = \{\pi \times (D^2 - d^2) \times P\}/4 - f$$

3) Double acting in forward stroke

$$F = \{\pi \times D^2 \times P\}/4$$

4) Double acting in return stroke

$$F = \{\pi \times (D^2 - d^2) \times P\}$$

Example:-

Bore:- 40mm

Pressure:-5bar

$$F = \{\pi \times D^2 \times P\}/4$$

$$= \{3.14 \times 4^2 \times 5\}/4$$

$$= 60.1 \text{ kg/s}$$

## TABLES

*Table 1: material properties.*

MATERIAL	Max Stress ( N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	Maximum Deformation, (mm)	Maximum Temperature, (°C)
Aluminum	Value	Value	Value
Mild steel	Value	Value	Value



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### CONCLUSION

The actual aluminum recycling process which is on a large-scale was prototyped on a small scale the large scale factory was prototyped on a small scale involving each and every detail of the actual processes with this project we were able to achieve

1. optimize how scrap is recycled into processed aluminum ingots
2. employ recycling of aluminum on a small scale especially in rural market
3. enable the selling of processed aluminum ingot on the scrap commodity market
4. also the processed aluminum obtained can be used for various industrial application

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