



Stone Matrix Asphalt

Theory and Practice



Krzysztof Błażejowski



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Contents

List of Figures	xv
List of Tables	xxv
Foreword	xxix
Acknowledgments	xxxii
Author	xxxiii
Some Words on Terminology	xxxv

Chapter 1	The Concept of Stone Matrix Asphalt	1
1.1	A Brief History	1
1.2	From Germany to...or SMA All Over the World.....	4
1.3	Strengths and Weaknesses of SMA.....	5
1.4	Differences in SMAs around the World.....	6
1.5	Content of SMA.....	6

Chapter 2	Skeleton of Coarse Aggregates	9
2.1	Definition of an SMA Aggregate Skeleton.....	9
2.2	Formation of a Coarse Aggregate Skeleton.....	11
2.3	Gap Gradation	13
2.4	Definition of an SMA Skeleton According to the Original German Method.....	14
2.5	Definition of an SMA Skeleton with Other Methods.....	15
2.6	Comments on the Presented Methods	18
2.7	Among the Skeleton Grains	19
2.8	Summary	20

Chapter 3	Mastic	21
3.1	Fine Aggregate	21
3.2	Filler	23
3.2.1	Concept of Specific Area.....	24
3.2.2	Idea of Voids in Dry-Compacted Filler.....	25
3.2.3	Mortar—F:B Index.....	28
3.2.4	Review of Materials Applied as Fillers.....	29
3.2.4.1	Commercially Produced Fillers (Added Fillers).....	29
3.2.4.2	Fly Ashes	29
3.2.4.3	Hydrated Lime	30
3.2.4.4	Baghouse Fines from Asphalt Plants.....	30
3.2.5	Fillers: Résumé.....	30

3.3	Binder	31
3.3.1	Types of Applied Binders	31
3.3.2	Selection of a Binder	32
3.4	Summary	32
Chapter 4	Stabilizers (Drainage Inhibitors).....	35
4.1	The Draindown Effect.....	35
4.2	Stabilizers (Drainage Inhibitors).....	35
4.2.1	Binder-Absorbing Additives.....	36
4.2.1.1	Loose Cellulose Fibers	38
4.2.1.2	Pelletized Loose Fibers.....	39
4.2.1.3	Granulated Fibers	40
4.2.1.4	Granulated Cellulose Fibers with Additives	41
4.2.1.5	Packing and Delivery Forms	41
4.2.1.6	Summary	43
4.2.2	Binder Viscosity Promoters.....	43
4.3	Proper Selection of the Amount of a Stabilizer in a Mix	44
4.4	Testing Methods for Stabilizers.....	45
4.4.1	Stabilizer Test Results	45
4.5	Binder Draindown Testing	46
4.6	Summary	46
Chapter 5	Requirements for SMA Materials.....	49
5.1	Requirements for Aggregates	49
5.1.1	Requirements According to European Standard EN 13043.....	51
5.1.2	United States	64
5.2	Requirements for Binders.....	64
5.2.1	Requirements According to European Standards	66
5.2.2	United States	67
5.3	Requirements for Stabilizers	67
5.3.1	Germany.....	67
5.3.2	United States	70
5.3.3	Finland.....	71
5.4	Reclaimed Asphalt	71
5.5	Other Materials.....	71
5.5.1	Natural Asphalt	71
5.5.2	Artificial Slag Aggregates.....	71
Chapter 6	Designing SMA Composition	73
6.1	Selecting SMA Gradation and Size	73
6.1.1	In Which Course?.....	74
6.1.2	What Thickness of a Course?.....	74

6.1.3	Traffic Loading and Location	75
6.1.4	According to the European Standard EN 13108-5	77
6.2	General rules	77
6.2.1	Original Zichner's Proportions	77
6.2.2	30–20–10 rule.....	77
6.2.3	Binary Systems.....	78
6.3	Designing an Aggregate Mix by Applying Gradation Limits.....	80
6.3.1	Designing a Gradation Curve	81
6.3.2	Designing the Aggregate Mix Larger than 2 mm	81
6.3.2.1	Part I: Coarse Aggregate Content.....	81
6.3.2.2	Part II: Gradation within the Coarse Aggregate Fraction	83
6.3.2.3	Part III: Shape of Particles of the Coarse Aggregate Fraction	94
6.3.2.4	Part IV: Impact of the Grains' Density.....	94
6.3.2.5	Laboratory Example	96
6.3.3	Designing an Aggregate Mix Less than 2 mm	98
6.3.3.1	Content of the Fine Aggregate Fraction.....	98
6.3.3.2	Filler Content	99
6.4	Designing a Binder Content	99
6.5	Requirements for an SMA Mixture Design	100
6.6	Summary	102
Chapter 7	Overview of SMA Design Methods.....	105
7.1	German Method	105
7.1.1	Description of the Method	105
7.1.2	Volumetric Parameters	106
7.1.3	Comments.....	108
7.2	U.S. Method.....	108
7.2.1	Stage 1: Selecting an Aggregate.....	108
7.2.2	Stage 2: Selecting a Gradation Curve	109
7.2.3	Stage 3: Determining Air Voids in a Compacted Coarse Aggregate	111
7.2.3.1	Dry-Rodded Method.....	111
7.2.4	Stage 4: Determining an Initial Content of Binder.....	115
7.2.5	Stage 5: Testing an Aggregate Mix and an Asphalt Mixture	115
7.2.6	Stage 6: Selecting an Aggregate Mix.....	117
7.2.7	Stage 7: Selecting an Optimum Content of Binder.....	117

7.3	Czech Method.....	118
7.3.1	General Principles	118
7.3.2	Design Method	119
7.3.3	Summary	121
7.4	Dutch Method.....	121
7.4.1	General Principles and Some Theory	121
7.4.1.1	Coarse-Aggregate Skeleton	122
7.4.1.2	Fine Aggregate and Filler	124
7.4.1.3	Binder and Stabilizer (Drainage Inhibitor)	126
7.4.2	Practical Guidelines for Design	127
7.4.2.1	SMA Constituents.....	127
7.4.2.2	Designing an Asphalt Mixture	127
7.4.2.3	Preparation of Samples.....	128
7.4.3	Design Method	128
7.4.4	Application of the Method during Production Control.....	130
7.4.5	Summary of the Method	132
7.5	Other Methods of Design	133
7.5.1	Dilation Point Method.....	133
7.5.2	Irish Method.....	133
7.5.3	Bailey's Method.....	134
7.5.4	Method of Successive Iterations.....	134
Chapter 8	Analyses and Laboratory Tests	135
8.1	Preparing Samples in a Laboratory.....	135
8.1.1	Preparing Samples with the Use of the Marshall Hammer.....	135
8.1.2	Preparing Samples with the Use of a Gyratory Compactor	136
8.1.3	Visual Assessment of Laboratory Samples.....	138
8.1.4	Preparing Samples with a Granulated Stabilizer	139
8.2	Draindown Testing	139
8.2.1	Original Schellenberg's Method.....	140
8.2.2	Method after AASHTO T 305-97.....	141
8.2.3	Methods after EN 12697-18	141
8.2.4	Summary and Comments on Draindown Testing	142
8.3	Filler Tests	146
8.3.1	Tests of Specific Surface with the Use of Blaine's Method.....	146
8.3.2	Determination of Compacted Filler Air Voids after Rigden's and Rigden-Anderson's Methods	146
8.3.2.1	Rigden's Method after EN-1097-4.....	146

8.3.2.2	Ridgen's Method Modified by Anderson.....	146
8.3.2.3	Comparison of Methods	146
8.3.3	Tests of Filler Stiffening Properties	147
8.3.3.1	Method of a Softening Point Difference	147
8.3.3.2	Method for Testing the Increase in Mortar Viscosity	148
8.3.4	Other Factors and Filler Tests	148
8.3.4.1	German Filler Test.....	148
Chapter 9	The Production of SMA	149
9.1	Requirements for the Organization of an Asphalt Mixing Plant.....	149
9.2	Practical Considerations of the SMA Production Process	151
9.3	Production Process	151
9.3.1	SMA Production Temperature	151
9.3.2	Mixing: Basic Information	152
9.3.3	Sequence of Mixing Constituents in a Batch Asphalt Plant	153
9.3.3.1	Mixing SMA with a Granulated Stabilizer.....	154
9.3.3.2	Mixing SMA with a Loose Stabilizer.....	156
9.3.3.3	Other Patterns of Batching Constituents in a Batch Plant.....	156
9.3.4	Production of SMA in a Drum-Mix Plant.....	157
9.3.5	Fluctuations in Batching of Components	158
9.3.6	Systems of Batching Stabilizers.....	159
9.4	Storing the Ready-Made SMA Mixture in a Silo.....	161
9.5	SMA Mixture Production Control	161
9.5.1	Control according to the German Document ZTV Asphalt-StB 07	162
9.5.2	Control according to U.S. Documents.....	162
9.5.3	Factory Production Control after EN 13108-21	163
9.5.4	Other Examples of Production Control	163
9.5.5	Problems and Tips.....	163
Chapter 10	Transport and Laydown of the SMA Mixture.....	165
10.1	Transport of the Mixture to a Laydown Site	165
10.1.1	Loading a Truck	165
10.1.2	Transport	166

10.1.3	Discharging	168
10.1.4	Other Techniques for Discharging Mixture	168
10.2	Laydown Conditions.....	169
10.2.1	Minimum Temperature of Air and Underlying Layer.....	169
10.2.2	Underlying Layer's Maximum Temperature	171
10.2.3	Wind and Rain	172
10.2.4	Surface Preparation.....	173
10.2.4.1	Bonding Layer (Tack Coat).....	174
10.2.5	Preparing Pavement Facilities.....	174
10.2.6	Preparing Edges of the Courses	174
10.3	Placement of a Mixture	175
10.3.1	Layer Thickness	176
10.3.2	Mixture Temperature during Compaction	176
10.3.3	Mechanical Spreading.....	177
10.3.3.1	Paver	178
10.3.3.2	Other Remarks.....	179
10.3.4	Manual Placement.....	179
10.4	Compaction.....	179
10.4.1	Types and Number of Rollers.....	180
10.4.1.1	Types of Rollers	180
10.4.1.2	The Number of Rollers	181
10.4.2	Operating Rollers	182
10.4.2.1	General Rules	182
10.4.2.2	Sequence	182
10.4.2.3	Speed of the Rollers.....	183
10.4.2.4	Number of Roller Passes.....	183
10.4.2.5	Time Available for Compaction.....	184
10.4.2.6	Final Remarks.....	184
10.5	Placement of SMA in <i>Kompaktasphalt</i> Technique	184
10.6	Testing the Finished Layer	185
10.6.1	Air Voids in a Compacted SMA Layer	186
10.6.2	Compaction Factor	186
10.6.2.1	Compaction Factor as a Quotient of Bulk Densities.....	187
10.6.2.2	Compaction Factor as a Quotient of the Bulk and Maximum Densities	188
10.6.3	Macrotexture	189
10.6.4	Nuclear Gauge Density Measurements	189
10.7	Finishing the Layer.....	189
10.7.1	Gritting	189
10.7.1.1	Gritting Materials	190
10.7.1.2	Gritting Execution	191
10.7.2	Edge Sealing.....	193
10.8	Opening to Traffic	193

Chapter 11	Problems.....	195
11.1	Longitudinal Fat Spots of Binder	195
11.2	Longitudinal Fat Spots of Mastic (Segregation).....	197
11.2.1	Fat Spots of Mastic with Segregation.....	197
11.2.2	Fat Spots of Mastic without Segregation.....	198
11.3	Small Circular Fat Spots.....	198
11.4	Stabilizer Lumps	198
11.5	Too Closed SMA Structure	200
11.6	Too Porous SMA Structure	201
11.7	SMA Seepage and Permeability to Water	202
11.8	Problems Related to Temperature and Laying Techniques ...	203
11.8.1	Problems of Manufacture and Transportation	204
11.8.1.1	Mixture Production in an Asphalt Plant...	204
11.8.1.2	Transport of a Mixture to the Working Site	205
11.8.2	Construction-Related Problems.....	205
11.8.2.1	Paver-Made Streaks	206
11.8.2.2	Paver Standstills.....	206
11.8.2.3	Continuous Porosity by the Edge.....	206
11.8.2.4	Longitudinal Porosity behind the Center of the Paver.....	207
11.8.2.5	Longitudinal Porosity (off Center).....	207
11.8.2.6	Porosity in Other Distinctive Places.....	210
11.8.2.7	Spot Porosity.....	210
11.8.2.8	Transverse Porosity.....	210
11.8.2.9	Cracking of SMA Course When Rolling	213
11.8.2.10	Unevenness or Irregularities.....	214
11.8.2.11	Summary	214
11.9	Squeezed-Out Mastic in Wheel Paths.....	215
11.10	SMA Susceptibility to Polishing	215
11.11	Overdosage of an Antistrip Additive.....	216
Chapter 12	Characteristics of the SMA Course.....	217
12.1	Rutting Resistance	217
12.1.1	The Impact of Mixture Parameters.....	218
12.1.2	Creep Tests	219
12.1.3	Triaxial Dynamic Compression Test.....	221
12.1.4	Wheel-Tracking Test	221
12.1.5	Asphalt Pavement Analyzer	222
12.1.6	Test Results.....	222
12.2	Crack Resistance	223
12.2.1	Low Temperature Cracking.....	223
12.2.2	Reflective Cracking	223

12.2.3	Test Methods for Crack Resistance	224
12.2.3.1	Thermal Stress Restrained Specimen Test Method	224
12.2.4	Test Results	224
12.3	Fatigue Life	225
12.3.1	Test Methods	225
12.3.2	Test Results	225
12.4	Workability	226
12.5	Compactability	226
12.5.1	Definitions and Test Methods	226
12.5.2	Results of SMA Compactability Tests	227
12.5.3	SMA Compaction Enhancing Agents	227
12.6	Antinoise Properties	228
12.6.1	Test Results	228
12.7	Antiskid Properties	230
12.7.1	Test Results	231
12.8	Durability: Water and Frost Resistance	232
12.8.1	AASHTO T 283 Method	233
12.8.2	EN 12697-12 Method	233
12.8.3	Nonstandardized Methods	233
12.8.4	Test Results	234
12.9	Antispray and Light Reflection Properties	234
12.10	Permeability	236
12.10.1	Test Results	236
12.11	Fuel Consumption	237
12.12	Economical Effectiveness	238
Chapter 13	Special Applications of SMA	239
13.1	Airfield Pavements	239
13.1.1	Requirements for Airfield Pavements	239
13.1.2	Pros and Cons of SMA for Airfields	240
13.1.3	Airport in Frankfurt on the Main	241
13.1.4	Gardermoen Airport in Oslo	242
13.1.5	Johannesburg Airport	242
13.2	SMA on Bridge Deck Structures	243
13.2.1	Examples of SMA Pavements on Bridges	243
13.2.1.1	Bridge in Roosteren, the Netherlands	244
13.2.1.2	West Bridge on the Great Belt Link, Denmark	244
13.2.1.3	Bridge in Płock, Poland	245
13.2.1.4	Bridge in Wrocław, Poland	245
13.3	Thin SMA Courses	246

13.4	Atypical SMAs	247
13.4.1	SMA in an Intermediate Course	248
13.4.2	Low Noise SMA	249
13.4.3	Kjellbase	250
13.4.4	Colored SMA	252
Chapter 14	European Standards Concerning SMA	253
14.1	The European Standard EN 13108-5	254
14.2	Definitions	256
14.3	Identification of an SMA Mixture	256
14.4	Requirements for Constituent Materials.....	257
14.4.1	Binders.....	257
14.4.1.1	Road Binder	257
14.4.1.2	Polymer Modified Binder	257
14.4.1.3	Natural Asphalts	258
14.4.2	Aggregates.....	258
14.4.3	Reclaimed Asphalt	258
14.4.4	Additives.....	259
14.5	Requirements for an SMA Mix	259
14.5.1	Gradation.....	259
14.5.2	Binder Content.....	261
14.5.3	Homogeneity and Quality of Coating with Binder	263
14.5.4	Void Content.....	264
14.5.4.1	Preparation of Samples	264
14.5.4.2	Determination of the Void Content	264
14.5.5	Voids Filled with Binder	265
14.5.6	Binder Draindown.....	265
14.5.7	Water Sensitivity	265
14.5.8	Resistance to Abrasion by Studded Tires.....	265
14.5.9	Resistance to Permanent Deformation.....	266
14.5.9.1	Selection of Device and Test Parameters according to EN 13108-20	266
14.5.9.2	Categories of Requirements according to EN 13108-5	266
14.5.9.3	Additional Conditions for Preparing Samples.....	267
14.5.10	Reaction to Fire	267
14.5.11	Resistance to Fuel on Airfields.....	267
14.5.12	Resistance to Deicing Fluids for Application on Airfields	267
14.6	Temperatures of Asphalt Mixtures.....	268
14.7	Evaluation of Conformity	268

14.8 Factory Production Control EN 13108-21269

14.8.1 Levels of Requirements269

14.8.2 General Guidelines for a Control System of
Production Homogeneity269

14.8.3 Control of Compliance with an SMA Mix
Recipe.....269

14.8.3.1 Determination of the Operating
Compliance Level269

14.8.3.2 Start in Control270

14.8.3.3 Analysis of Mixture Composition270

14.8.3.4 Selection of a Method for Estimation of
Extraction Results270

14.8.3.5 Determination of Compliance of a
Tested Sample with a Recipe272

14.8.3.6 Reaching the OCL Assessment272

14.8.4 Control of Production Variability.....273

14.8.5 Additional Tests of Asphalt Mixture
Characteristics274

14.9 Examples of Requirements.....277

Afterword.....279

References.....281

Index.....295

List of Figures

FIGURE 1.1	Grading curves of Dr. Zichner's mixtures: Mastimac and Mastiphalt.....	3
FIGURE 1.2	First stage of the mix performance according to U.S. patent No. 3797951—after laying	3
FIGURE 1.3	Second stage of the mix performance according to U.S. patent No. 3797951—after finishing	4
FIGURE 1.4	Division of SMA into basic components.....	6
FIGURE 2.1	Division of mineral mixes into types depending on interactions between sand grains and coarse aggregates	10
FIGURE 2.2	Division of SMA into basic components: coarse aggregate (skeleton) and mastic	10
FIGURE 2.3	Vertically loaded grains with side support (as in a crushing resistance test of coarse aggregates).....	11
FIGURE 2.4	Load distribution among balls in case of a uniform load distribution: (a) schematic; (b) cross section of a Kjellbase sample: asphalt mixture consisting of a one-fraction coarse aggregate with a minimal quantity of passive aggregate, which is an exemplary application of full gap gradation for making up a strong skeleton (see Section 13.4.1)	12
FIGURE 2.5	Position of gradation curves of aggregate mixtures: solid line, asphalt concrete (continuously graded); dotted line, SMA (gap graded).....	14
FIGURE 2.6	Various sets of spheres (and circles) and sizes of passive grains in relation to active ones.....	16
FIGURE 2.7	Interrupted discontinuity of gradation occurs when the presence of the in-between size grains disturb the action of the coarse aggregate skeleton.....	17
FIGURE 2.8	The SMA 0/12.5 mm gradation curves of the United States. Solid lines, gradation after NAPA QIS-122; dotted lines, gradation after AASHTO MP 8-00	19
FIGURE 2.9	Volumes of SMA coarse aggregate skeleton and mastic	20
FIGURE 3.1	Filling voids among coarse grains of aggregate with passive grains: (a) schematic diagram and (b) an actual example—mastic marked with dark gray color.....	22

FIGURE 3.2	Free and fixed binder concept	25
FIGURE 3.3	Gradually filling the voids in a compacted filler.....	26
FIGURE 3.4	Dependence of the F:B index on the content of voids in a dry-compacted filler after Rigden's method	29
FIGURE 4.1	Cellulose fibers (threads)—microscope image, $\times 100$ enlargement	37
FIGURE 4.2	An example of 6-mm long polypropylene fibers: (a) macroscopic view, (b) the same fibers in microscope image, $\times 100$ magnification	37
FIGURE 4.3	Plastic fibers can be an SMA stabilizer but must be used at a high-addition rate. The photo shows an SMA mix with 0.6 % (m/m) of polypropylene fibers	38
FIGURE 4.4	An example of loose cellulose fibers	39
FIGURE 4.5	An example of pellets—loose formed fibers	40
FIGURE 4.6	Examples of granulated fibers (a) made of waste paper with wax coating (Photo courtesy of Excel Industries Ltd., U.K.) and (b) made of cellulose with binder coating	40
FIGURE 4.7	Granulated stabilizer in PE bags of various mass—from 3 to 10 kg	41
FIGURE 4.8	Dosing method of granulates—emptying a big-bag onto a conveyor belt	42
FIGURE 4.9	Tractor-storage bin unit loaded with granulated stabilizer.....	42
FIGURE 4.10	Example relationship between draindown and stabilizer content used for the selection of an effective content of stabilizer in an SMA mix	44
FIGURE 5.1	An example of the use of very weak aggregates in an SMA mixture; sample after wheel tracking test shows fractured aggregate particles.....	50
FIGURE 6.1	Relationship between contents of voids in the aggregate mix and the coarse aggregate fraction.....	79
FIGURE 6.2	Grading curves of S (the dotted line) and S1 (the solid line) mixes—SMA of Example I	82
FIGURE 6.3	SMA mixtures with increasingly higher contents of the coarse aggregate fraction.....	83
FIGURE 6.4	Example of an SMA mixture with an even distribution of the coarse aggregate fraction among three fractions (Example II, Stage 1).....	85

FIGURE 6.5 Example of SMA mix with an uneven distribution of the coarse aggregate fraction among three fractions—the effect of a decrease in quantity of aggregate 2/5.6 and the supplement of 20% chippings 5.6/8 (Example II, Stage 2) 86

FIGURE 6.6 Example of SMA mix with an uneven distribution of the coarse aggregate fraction among three fractions—the effect of the decrease in quantity of aggregate 2/5.6 and the supplement of 20% aggregate 8/11.2 (Example II, Stage 3)..... 87

FIGURE 6.7 Example of SMA mix with an uneven distribution of the coarse aggregate fraction among three fractions—the effect of the decrease in quantity of aggregate 2/5.6 and 5.6/8 combined with adding 10% aggregate 8/11.2 (Example II, Stage 4)..... 88

FIGURE 6.8 SMA mix of Example II, Stage 4, adjusted to the ratios recommended by the German DAV handbook compared with its original gradation and Zichner’s proportions 90

FIGURE 6.9 An SMA mix of Example II, Stage 4, compared with the line of the 30–20–10 rule 91

FIGURE 6.10 Comparison of SMA gradations: 30–20–10 rule (solid line) and DAV lines for 70% and 80% of coarse fraction (dotted lines). The points show gradation limits in coarse fraction established in the newest German TL Asphalt-StB 07 for SMA 11S..... 92

FIGURE 6.11 Grading curves of mixtures: E (solid line), F (dotted line)..... 96

FIGURE 6.12 Photograph of cross sections of Marshall specimens of mixes E and F..... 97

FIGURE 6.13 Example of a SMA aggregate mix gradation without fine aggregate (0/2 mm)..... 98

FIGURE 7.1 Volume relationship in an asphalt mixture according to terminology adopted in Germany 106

FIGURE 7.2 The volume distribution of the elements in a mineral mix 109

FIGURE 7.3 The compacted skeleton part of an aggregate mix..... 110

FIGURE 7.4 Prepared equipment for the dry-rodded test: the cylindrical metal measure, the steel tamping rod, and the glass plate 112

FIGURE 7.5 Calibrating the measure—determining the water temperature..... 113

FIGURE 7.6 Calibrating the measure—determining the measure volume 113

FIGURE 7.7 Tamping down the first layer of a poured aggregate 114

FIGURE 7.8	Clearing away the excess aggregate	114
FIGURE 7.9	Definition of VCA_{DRC} —the content of air voids in a compacted coarse aggregate.....	116
FIGURE 7.10	Definition of VCA_{MIX} —the content of air voids in the coarse aggregate of a compacted SMA mixture	116
FIGURE 7.11	Definition of VMA—the content of air voids in the aggregate of a compacted SMA mixture.....	117
FIGURE 7.12	Placing consecutive elements of SMA in a mixture.....	122
FIGURE 7.13	Stages of filling and replacing in a sand-filler mix	125
FIGURE 7.14	Example of the design coarse-aggregate fraction content based on the content of voids; x = desired content of stones, % (m/m)	129
FIGURE 7.15	Graph showing the relationship between the contents of coarse aggregate fractions and air voids applied to the adjustments of mixes when producing SMAs. <i>Note:</i> FRs = Filling ratio stone skeleton.....	131
FIGURE 8.1	The appearance of a Marshall sample of an SMA mix after compaction and removal from the mold: (a) frontal plane and (b) lateral plane.....	138
FIGURE 8.2	The appearance of Marshall samples of an SMA mix after compaction and removal from the molds: (a) and (b) are frontal plane views of SMA samples with an excess of mastic	139
FIGURE 8.3	The wire basket for draindown testing according to AASHTO T 305-97	142
FIGURE 9.1	An asphalt plant in Slovenia with all aggregates stored in silos: (a) a view of a silo, and (b) the aggregate delivery chute into an underground chamber.....	150
FIGURE 9.2	The batching sequence in a batch-type asphalt plant according to German DAV handbook	154
FIGURE 9.3	The batching sequence of SMA mixture constituents into a pugmill with the use of a granulated cellulose fiber stabilizer. Notice that time depends on the type of pugmill	155
FIGURE 9.4	Batching sequence of SMA mixture constituents into a pugmill with the use of a granulated cellulose fiber stabilizer. Notice that time depends on the type of pugmill	155

FIGURE 9.5	One sequence of batching SMA constituents into a pugmill using a loose form of stabilizer. Notice that the times depend on the type of pugmill.....	156
FIGURE 9.6	Another sequence of batching SMA constituents into a pugmill using a loose form of stabilizer. Notice that the times depend on the type of pugmill.....	157
FIGURE 9.7	A system for batching granulated fibers into mixing plants. The photograph shows an open silo for granulates ready for loading	159
FIGURE 9.8	Manual proportioning control of a granulated stabilizer directly into the pugmill.....	160
FIGURE 9.9	Manual charging box with a motor-driven chute	160
FIGURE 9.10	Performance inspection of the granulated stabilizer batching into a plant's pugmill	164
FIGURE 9.11	The SMA asphalt mixture with the stabilizer after extraction and before aggregate screening	164
FIGURE 10.1	Location of cooled spots of a mixture on a cross section of a truck bed (a) and (b). Truck bed shape prevents cold corners (c) and (d).....	167
FIGURE 10.2	The drop in temperature of mixtures with and without insulation over given periods. In these scenarios, the ambient temperature is -10°C , 0°C , or $+5^{\circ}\text{C}$; the bulk mixture is hauled in the truck bed or in a special insulated container; and the mixture temperature at the plant is either 140°C or 160°C	168
FIGURE 10.3	Impact of load capacity and applied insulation of the truck bed on the temperature drop of mixture in various weather conditions.....	169
FIGURE 10.4	Laying down SMA during rainfall is not a desirable (and is mostly a forbidden) practice	172
FIGURE 10.5	Influence of water film on the drop in SMA mixture temperature while compacting on a wet surface	172
FIGURE 10.6	Soiling of an intermediate course just before laying an SMA mixture	173
FIGURE 10.7	(a) A drain with PMB tape put on its edges; (b) the same drain after the placement of SMA mixture around it.....	175

FIGURE 10.8	PMB tape for sealing pavement joints (a) when bonding with a layer edge and (b) after application	175
FIGURE 10.9	PMB compound for sealing pavement joints (a) while laying down with a special device and (b) after application	176
FIGURE 10.10	Spreading the SMA mixture on an exit ramp off a trunk road: (a) manually placing the mixture and (b) compacting edges of a working lot with the use of a vibrating plate.....	180
FIGURE 10.11	The particular way rollers approach the paver, with a turn being made right behind the paver	183
FIGURE 10.12	Special paver for the placement of two layers in one pass with an SMA wearing course (A2 highway in Poland), an example of <i>Kompaktasphalt</i> technology	185
FIGURE 10.13	Change in the content of air voids in an SMA layer	187
FIGURE 10.14	Gritting particles among SMA coarse aggregates	190
FIGURE 10.15	SMA gritters installed on rollers—the gap gritter	191
FIGURE 10.16	Movement traces of a roller after gritting a freshly made SMA layer	192
FIGURE 10.17	Gritting of chippings 2/5 mm applied over a fat spot of mastic	193
FIGURE 11.1	Longitudinal fat spots of binder	196
FIGURE 11.2	SMA mixture segregation—separation of mastic from coarse aggregates	197
FIGURE 11.3	SMA mixture segregation—separation of coarse aggregates from mastic: (a) a junction of porous and closed parts enlarged and (b) surface of separated mastic enlarged ...	198
FIGURE 11.4	An example of randomly scattered circular fat spots of about 1–15 cm in diameter	199
FIGURE 11.5	A circular fat spot about 20 cm in diameter, enlarged	199
FIGURE 11.6	A big lump of stabilizer incorporated into an SMA course, after removal	199
FIGURE 11.7	Stabilizer lumps incorporated into an SMA course.....	200
FIGURE 11.8	The closed structure of an SMA course over a large area	200
FIGURE 11.9	A close-up of an SMA course surface with a high content of voids	202
FIGURE 11.10	The surface of an SMA course just after spreading at too low a temperature	203

FIGURE 11.11 Seepage of water through an SMA layer.....203

FIGURE 11.12 Distribution of asphalt mixture temperature after transport to the work site during discharge into the paver205

FIGURE 11.13 Formation of streaks or mixture pulling due to incorrect setup of paver screed segments206

FIGURE 11.14 The effects of an incorrect paver setup, temperature in degrees Fahrenheit206

FIGURE 11.15 Area of an uncompacted cool mixture during a paver standstill (a zone of cooling mixture that is inaccessible to rollers) 206

FIGURE 11.16 Paver standstills and their effects—infrared images207

FIGURE 11.17 Continuous porosity along the edge of a paved lane.....207

FIGURE 11.18 Continuous porosity along the edge of a spread mixture: (a) an infrared image and (b) porosity along the edges of layers—pockets of water visible during pavement drying after rainfall.....208

FIGURE 11.19 Manually corrected edges of a working lane with cooler temperatures and higher porosity.....208

FIGURE 11.20 Position of manually corrected and leveled edges—an infrared image208

FIGURE 11.21 Longitudinal porosity behind the center of the paver208

FIGURE 11.22 Longitudinal porosity off the center of the paver.....209

FIGURE 11.23 Examples of drop in mixture temperature due to longitudinal porosity in the spread lane209

FIGURE 11.24 Longitudinal porosity: (a) on a new SMA pavement and (b) pavement damage in a porous area209

FIGURE 11.25 Beginning of a work site—effect shown years later, a consequence of spreading too cool a mixture at the beginning of the work site 210

FIGURE 11.26 Manual spreading of the SMA mixture on a down ramp from a side street 211

FIGURE 11.27 A diagram of spot porosity 211

FIGURE 11.28 Local porosities: (a) an infrared image; (b) the effects after a couple of years on another road that has the same problem, arrows point at spots of pavement pot holes occurring at cyclic distances 211

FIGURE 11.29 A diagram of transverse porosity 212

FIGURE 11.30	Infrared images showing porosity in the form of transverse, cyclic strips, temperature in degrees Fahrenheit ...	212
FIGURE 11.31	An example of cyclic strips of transverse porosity on a new SMA course.....	212
FIGURE 11.32	An example of the tearing of an SMA mat due to the lack of a tack coat on the cement concrete bottom layer	213
FIGURE 11.33	Remains of mixture left on a bottom layer resulting in unevenness of the finished course	214
FIGURE 11.34	Mastic squeezed-out of SMA in wheel paths during trafficking of pavement	215
FIGURE 11.35	Polished SMA surface after 3 years of operation	216
FIGURE 12.1	Creep test with no side support, variant 100/100: (a) test scheme and (b) testing in Nottingham Asphalt Tester	220
FIGURE 12.2	Mode of a modified creep test—100/150	220
FIGURE 12.3	Comparative results of SMA and AC with and without side support during the creep tests RLAT 100/100 and IRLAT 100/150	222
FIGURE 12.4	Impact of FT wax on SMA compactability	228
FIGURE 12.5	Impact of asphalt mixture type on noise absorption.....	229
FIGURE 12.6	SMA macrotexture before opening to traffic: (a) nongritted and (b) gritted.....	231
FIGURE 12.7	Water mist picked up by vehicles driving along a wet SMA pavement is reduced	234
FIGURE 12.8	Water discharge through small channels around SMA coarse aggregates	235
FIGURE 12.9	Differences in pavement abilities to discharge water—the SMA course (<i>near</i>) and the old dense asphalt concrete (<i>far</i>). The light reflection off the wet SMA course is substantially less than that off the asphalt concrete course	235
FIGURE 12.10	Water permeability of SMA mixtures with gradation 0/4.75, 0/9.5, and 0/12.5 mm, depending on the size of the selected breakpoint sieve—the degree of gap gradation.....	237
FIGURE 13.1	Grading of the SMA aggregate mix, Roosteren design	244
FIGURE 13.2	The bridges in Płock and Wrocław: (a) condition of the Płock bridge pavement; (b) condition of the Wrocław bridge pavement	245

FIGURE 13.3 Thin SMA wearing course of 0/6.3 mm grading paved on the DK3 route in Poland, condition in 2006 after 13 years in operation..... 247

FIGURE 13.4 Grading curves (limits) of the SMB mix used on Highway A73 in Germany 248

FIGURE 13.5 Comparison of the grading curves of SMA 0/5 LA and typical SMA 0/5S according to TL-Asphalt 07 250

FIGURE 13.6 Comparison of the grading curves of SMA 0/8 LA and SMA 0/8S according to TL-Asphalt 07 251

FIGURE 13.7 Kjellbase grading curve 252

FIGURE 14.1 Example of relationships between European standards concerning asphalt mixtures 255

FIGURE 14.2 The position of boundary points of SMA 11S gradation envelopes according to EN 13108-5 and German final gradation limits for this mixture according to TL Asphalt-StB 07 261

FIGURE 14.3 The position of boundary points of SMA 8S gradation envelopes according to EN 13108-5 and German final gradation limits for this mixture according to TL Asphalt-StB 07 262

FIGURE 14.4 The position of overall limits to a target composition of SMA 10 according to EN 13108-5 and British final gradation limits for this mixture according to BS PD 6691:2007 262

FIGURE 14.5 The position of overall limits to a target composition of SMA 14 according to EN 13108-5 and British final gradation limits for this mixture according to BS PD 6691:2007 263

List of Tables

TABLE 2.1	Weight Ratios of Coarse Aggregate Fractions in SMA	15
TABLE 4.1	Summary of Factors Influencing Draindown Potential in SMA	46
TABLE 5.1	Comments on System of Requirements Based on EN 13043	53
TABLE 5.2	Requirements for SMA Coarse Aggregate according to EN 13043 in Selected CEN-Member Countries, Aggregates for SMA at the Highest Traffic Level (Reference Mixture SMA 0/11)	57
TABLE 5.3	Requirements for SMA Fine Aggregate according to EN 13043 in Selected CEN-Member Countries, Aggregates for SMA at the Highest Traffic Level	61
TABLE 5.4	Requirements for SMA Filler according to EN 13043 in Selected CEN-Member Countries, Aggregates for SMA at the Highest Traffic Level	62
TABLE 5.5	Requirements for SMA Aggregates (Coarse, Fine, and Filler) in the United States	65
TABLE 5.6	Selected Properties of Paving Grade Binders (Unmodified) according to EN 12591	67
TABLE 5.7	Examples of Requirements for Selected PMB according to EN 14023 in Selected CEN-Member Countries	68
TABLE 6.1	Thicknesses of SMA Wearing Courses, depending on the Maximum Particle Size according to Various Guidelines for SMA	75
TABLE 6.2	The Mass of SMA Wearing Courses, depending on the Maximum Particle Size	75
TABLE 6.3	SMA Division according to the Traffic Category Prevailing in Locations	76
TABLE 6.4	Approximate Contents of Aggregate Fractions for Zichner's Mastimac and Mastiphalt	78
TABLE 6.5	Grading Characteristics of Mixtures S and S1	82
TABLE 6.6	Example of the SMA Mixture with a Uniform Distribution of the Coarse Aggregate Fraction among Three Fractions (Example II, Stage I)	84

TABLE 6.7	Example of the SMA Mix with an Uneven Distribution of the Coarse Aggregate Fraction among Three Fractions—Predominantly Aggregates 5.6/8 (Example II, Stage 2).....	85
TABLE 6.8	Example of the SMA Mix with an Uneven Distribution of the Coarse Aggregate Fraction among Three Fractions—Predominantly Chippings 8/11.2 (Example II, Stage 3).....	87
TABLE 6.9	Example of the SMA Mix with an Uneven Distribution of the Coarse Aggregate Fraction among Three Fractions—Predominantly Chippings 8/11.2 (Example II, Stage 4).....	88
TABLE 6.10	Recommended Ratios of SMA 0/11S according to German DAV Handbook Compared with the Result of SMA Design in Example II.....	89
TABLE 6.11	Recommended SMA Ratios according to the 30–20–10 rule Compared with the Result of SMA Designed in Example II.....	90
TABLE 6.12	Composition of the Aggregate Mixes E and F.....	97
TABLE 6.13	Summary of Requirements for SMA Mixtures in Various Countries.....	101
TABLE 7.1	Requirements for a Laboratory-Compacted SMA Binder Mixture Using a Marshall Hammer or Superpave Gyratory Compactor	118
TABLE 8.1	Parameters of Draindown Testing according to Schellenberg's Method	140
TABLE 8.2	Draindown Test Parameters according to AASHTO T 305-97	141
TABLE 8.3	Drain-Off Test Parameters for Schellenberg's Method according to EN 12697-18	143
TABLE 8.4	A List of Differences among Methods of Draindown Testing.....	145
TABLE 8.5	Assessment Criteria of Draindown Testing Results.....	145
TABLE 9.1	Recommended Maximum Production Temperatures of an SMA Mixture for Example Binders according to Various Regulations.....	152
TABLE 10.1	A Summary of the Usefulness of Equipment for SMA Placement	182
TABLE 12.1	A Comparison of Essential Functional Properties of Some Popular Asphalt Mixtures for Wearing Courses.....	218
TABLE 12.2	Noise Levels of SMA Compared with Other Asphalt Mixture Types	230

TABLE 14.1 Test Methods of SMA Resistance to Permanent Deformation and Test Parameters.....266

TABLE 14.2 Comments on Requirements for Permitted Deviations from the Target for Mixtures Produced Using EN 13108-21, for Small Aggregate Mixtures with D <16mm—the Single Result Method 271

TABLE 14.3 The Comparison of Specification on SMA 10 or SMA 11 according to the rules of EN 13108-5..... 275

Foreword

Many years have passed since the beginning of stone matrix asphalt's (SMA's) world-wide success. Therefore now the right moment has come to review all accessible information.

Through this new book I have tried to assemble, in an organized manner, a certain body of knowledge obtained from a vast number of publications the world over, thus providing a review of the achievements of numerous engineers from various countries working on bringing recognition to SMA and developing its design methods. I did my best to explain that knowledge and to present it in an accessible way. Some useful hints resulting from my experiences encountered during the introduction of SMA in the early 1990s, discussions with many process engineers, and later reflections and observations round out the theoretical deliberations.

Knowledge of SMA is steadily improving, and new test results are revealed every now and then. In light of this, the moment when we can say that we really “know everything” about it is still far away. Alas, there is not one foolproof method for obtaining a perfect SMA in this book. Moreover, I tend to think such a recipe does not exist at all. This is not necessarily a bad thing because there is nothing like the ability to think and imagine when designing a mixture. The information put into the text is intended to help with using SMA. The range of accessible literature is really broad, so its accumulation and explanation are almost like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. Only the combination of many pieces of information enables associating certain relationships or finding out cause-and-effect relations. It is the reader's task to judge whether that jigsaw puzzle has been appropriately completed.

Undoubtedly, the diversified terminology and the methods of testing properties of constituent materials and mixtures were quite a challenge when compiling this book.

Summing up this foreword, I feel that it should be emphasized again that the knowledge of this technology constitutes the considerable sum of experiences of many people. Therefore there is no particular individual who knows “everything” about SMA. In other words, no matter how much you already know about SMA, it is always worth broadening your knowledge!

Krzysztof Błażejowski

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