

LIGO Laboratory / LIGO Scientific Collaboration

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LIGO Beam Tube
Dynamic Analysis

LIGO Laboratory
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1 Introduction

Reference Robert Scofield's measurements and Fabrice Matichard's analysis and the discrepancy..

2 Beamtube slab compliance

The boundary conditions for the finite element model in LIGO-T1400698 was for the bases (bottom faces) of the Fixed Support and Guided Support to the clamped (fixed). These bases are in fact bolted to the cement slab which rests upon the ground.

The beam tube supports are anchored with 8 Hilti expansion anchors (Hilti KB II 5/8-6 carbon steel, zinc plated) with 4 inch embedment into the concrete slab (Figure 1).

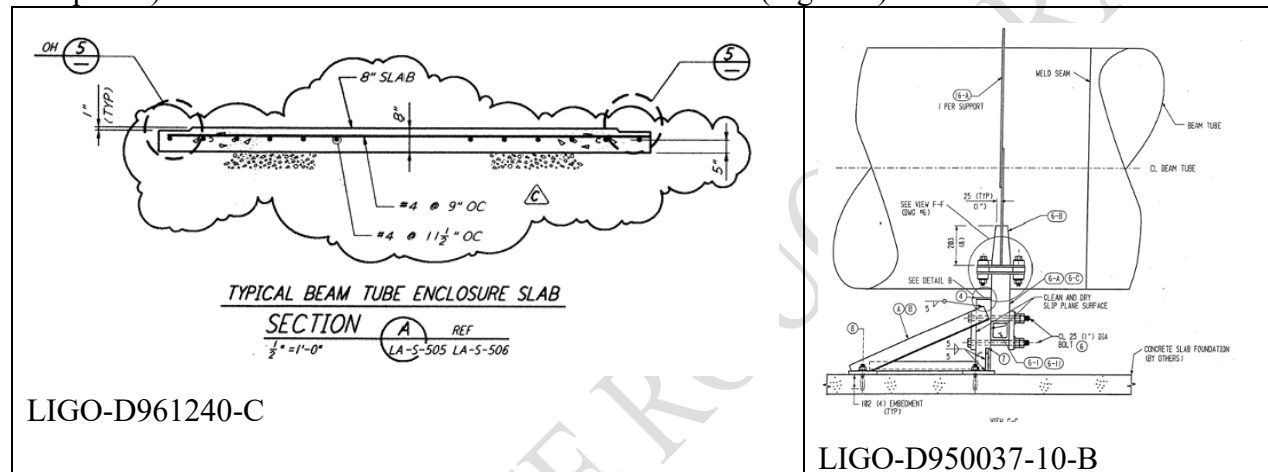
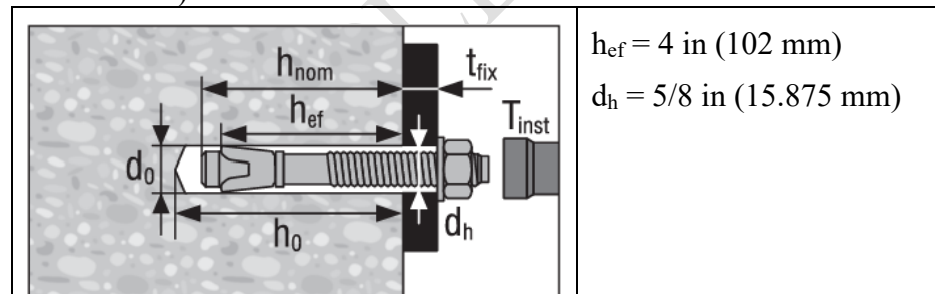


Figure 1 Beam Tube Slab

Hilti product literature¹ gives the pull-out and shear strength of these fasteners in concrete (cracked or uncracked). The stiffness of these connections to the concrete slab ...



3 Expansion joint spring rates

EJMA.

¹ Section 3.3.5 Kwik Bolt TZ2 Expansion Anchor, North American Product Technical Guide, Volume 2: Anchor Fastening, Edition 22, https://productdata.hilti.com/APQ_HC_RAW/ASSET_DOC_LOC_21606451.pdf

3.1 EJMA guidance regarding axial spring rate

The guidelines from the Expansion Joint Manufacturers Association^{2,3} states that the curve of axial force vs. axial deflection for most bellows extends into the plastic range (as shown by the line with upward facing arrows in Figure 2). The straight portion of this curve (marked “A”) is the initial elastic response, and its slope is the initial (first stroke) elastic spring rate. The initial elastic spring rate value (f_i) can be determined analytically with reasonable accuracy from equations based on elastic theory or from a finite element analysis.

When the axial force is released, the curve again becomes linear until the applied force is zero at which point the residual deflection of the bellows still has a positive value. To return the bellows to its initial position, a restoring force must be applied in the opposite direction (as shown by the curve with downward facing arrows in Figure 2).

Lines B and C in Figure 2 represent working spring rates (f_w) for bellows with operating deflections in the plastic range. The working spring rate can be considerably lower than the initial elastic spring rate. Line B (drawn from the origin to the point of maximum force and deflection) is used as the bellows working spring rate (f_w) but has the disadvantage of underestimating the actual force over the full range. Line C (drawn from the point of maximum force and deflection to the value of the restoring force required to return the bellows to zero deflection) becomes line C' when transferred to the origin. A working spring rate based on line C' can be used. This reduces the discrepancy between the indicated and true values although the difference can still be significant.

² Section 4.12.1.7, “Bellows Spring Rate”, Standards of the Expansion Joint Manufacturers Association, Inc., 10th edition, Apr 2019.

³ This discussion on working spring rate vs initial, elastic spring rate was cited in a letter from CBI, (LIGO-C962923) which cites the EJMA.

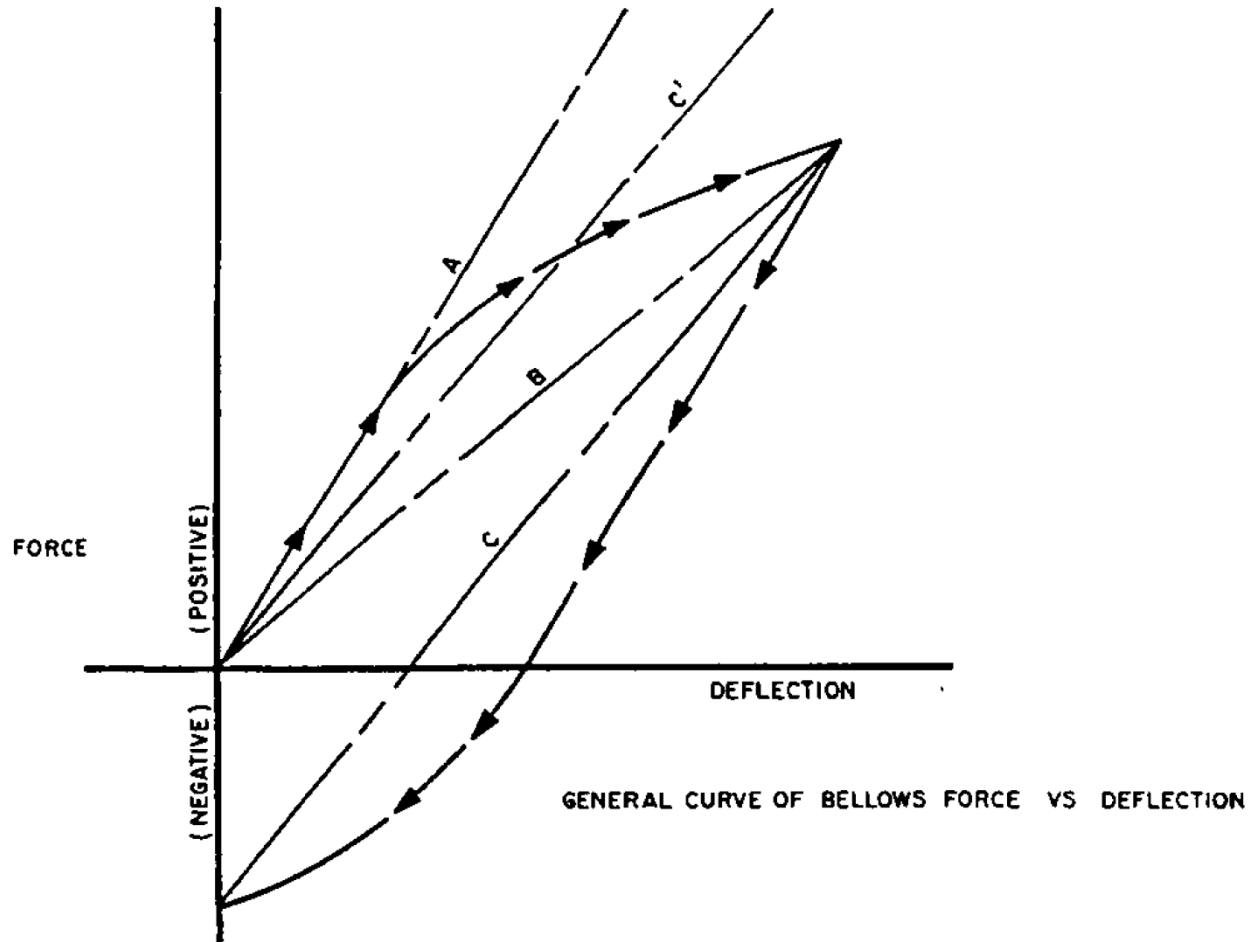


Figure 2 General Curve of Bellows Force vs Deflection
(Figure 4.12 of EJMA Standards, 10th edition)

For an unreinforced, cylindrical expansion joint (bellows), the theoretical initial elastic spring rate per convolution⁴ is:

$$f_{iu} = 1.7 \frac{D_m E_b t_p^3 n}{w^3 C_f} = 10,679 \frac{\text{lb}f}{\text{in}} = (1.87E6 \frac{N}{m})$$

where

$D_b = 1238.25$ mm, inside diameter of cylindrical tangent and bellows convolutions

$D_m = D_b + w + n \ t = 1317.12$ mm, mean diameter of bellows convolutions

$E_b = 200,0$ GPa @70F, elastic modulus of the bellows material at design temperature

$t = 2.667$ mm, bellows nominal material thickness

⁴ Reference 2, equation 4-45.

$t_p = t \sqrt{D_b/D_m} = 2.586 \text{ mm}$, bellows material thickness, corrected for thinning during forming

$n = 1$, number of bellows material plies

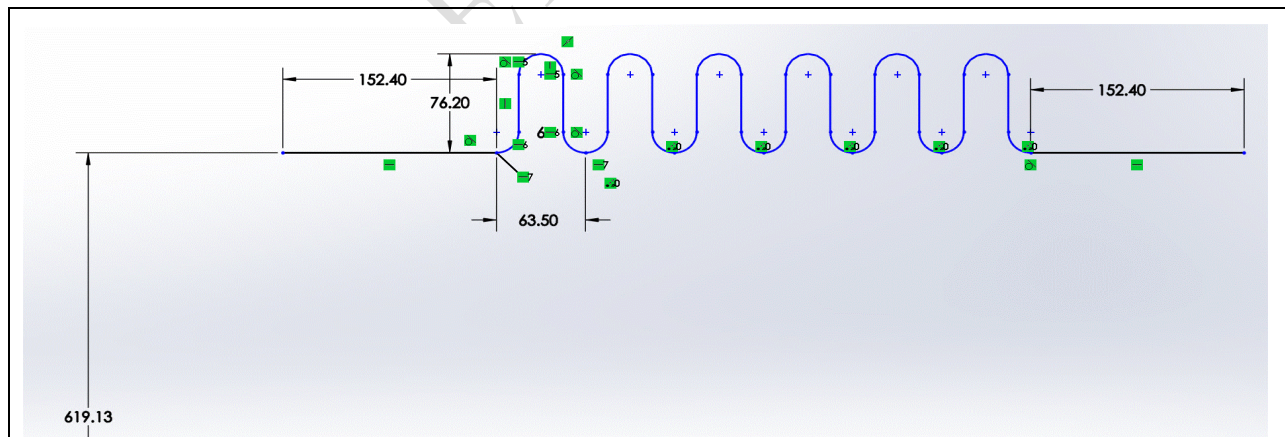
$w = 76.2 \text{ mm}$, convolution height

$C_f = 1.56$, Factor used in design calculations to relate U-shaped bellows convolution segment behavior to a simple strip beam (see accompanying excel sheet)

The theoretical, initial, elastic, axial spring rate as calculated from several sources is compared in Table 1. The FEA calculations in LIGO-T1400698 were performed with a shell model as well as a solid model with the same result. Since this result is much different than the EJMA calculations and the FEA performed for this memo, different (likely incorrect) parameters (dimensions or material properties) must have been used for LIGO-T1400698.

Table 1 Comparison of calculations of the theoretical, initial, elastic, axial spring rate

Source	Axial Spring Rate	
	(lbf/in)	(MN/m)
EJMA calculation (this memo)	10,679	1.87
CBI EJMA calculation (LIGO-E950010-00-B)	10,202	1.77
Ansys FEA (this memo)	11,670	2.04
Ansys FEA (LIGO-T1400698)	21,127	3.7



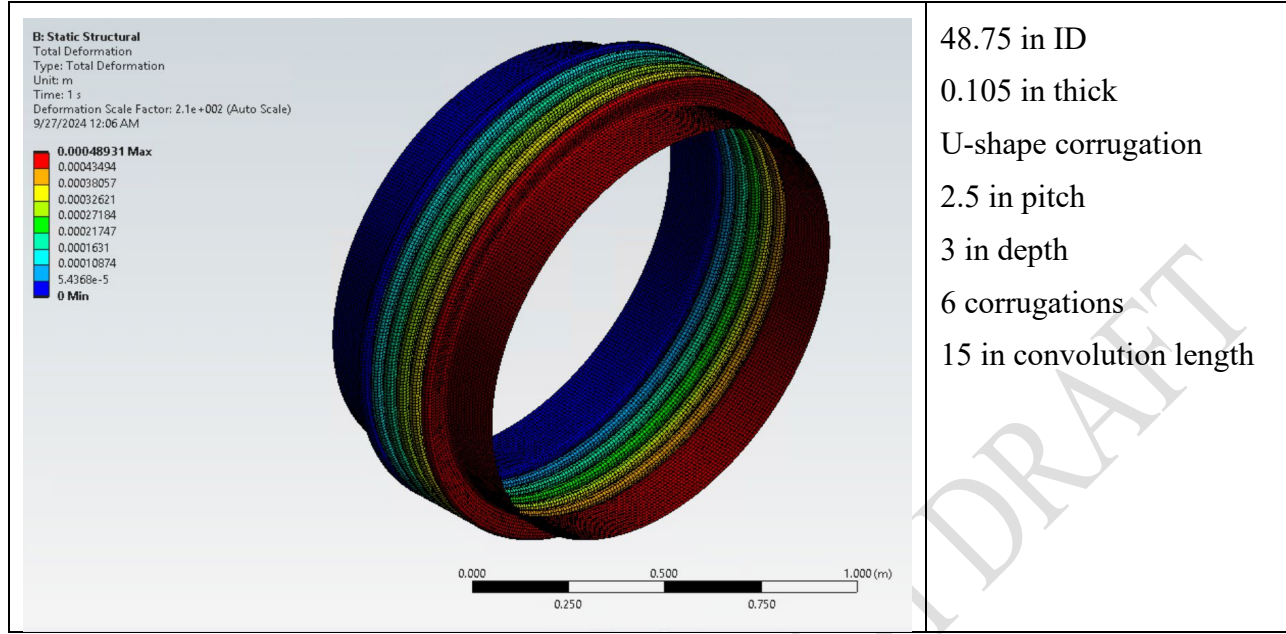


Figure 3 FEA calculation of axial spring rate

The working spring rate (line B) is:

$$f_w = \begin{cases} f_i & \text{for } S_t \leq 1.5 S_y \\ 0.67 f_i & \text{for } S_t > 1.5 S_y \end{cases}$$

where

S_t = total stress range

The total stress range (S_t) for the LIGO bake out condition is calculated to be 100,657 psi (694 MPa), as shown in the accompanying Excel workbook. The yield strength for dual rated 304/304L material is typically ~205 MPa. Consequently, the working spring rate is $\sim 0.67 \times 1.8 \text{ MN/m} = 1.2 \text{ MN/m}$.

$$x = L(3 \pm \sqrt{3})/6$$

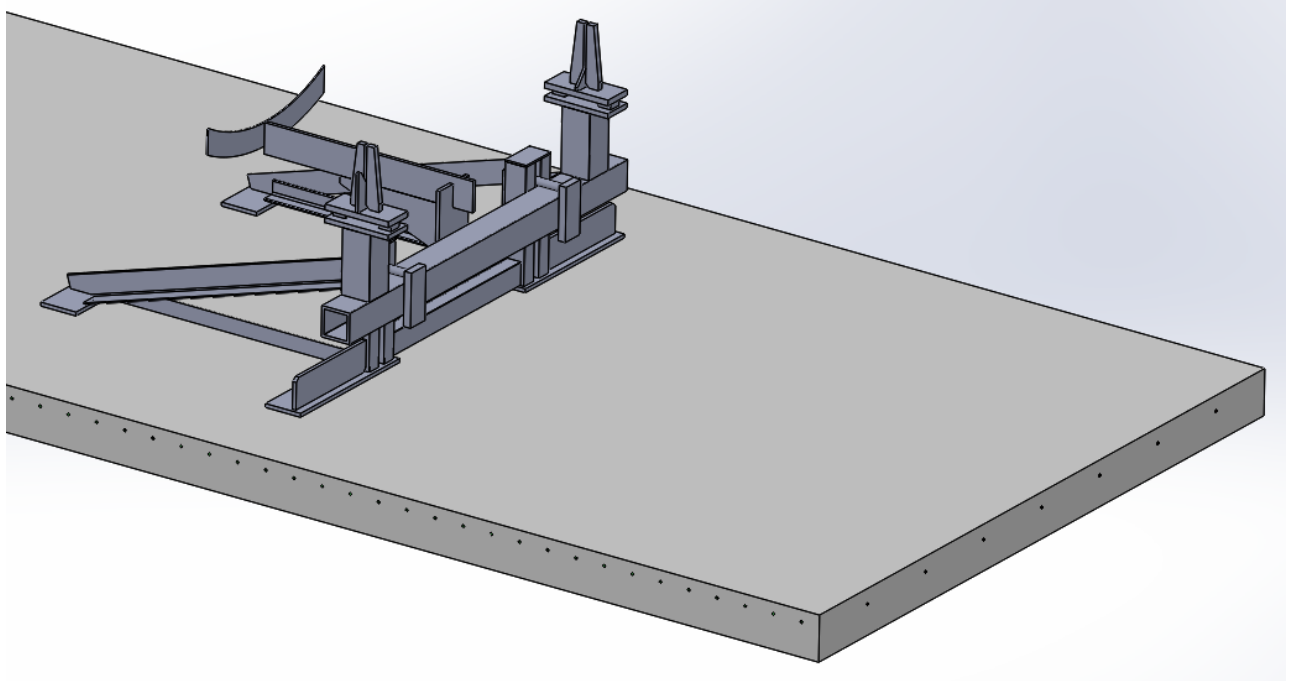
3.2 LIGO Bellows Spring Rate Measurements

Measurements of the spring rates of the first 125 bellows given on pg. 3 of [LIGO-L970041](#). (The total number of bellows required is ~200 per observatory.) These measured spring rates range from 4340 to 5309 lbs/in, or 4824 lbs/in ($0.845 \text{ MN/m} \pm 10\%$). Unfortunately, I am unable to find spring rate measurements for the balance of the LIGO bellows.

Spring rates for the bellows installed in module HY2 (the module on the Hanford Y-arm spanning from the mid-station to the end station) are given in LIGO-L980509. For the bellows with serial numbers ≤ 125 , the spring rates recorded in LIGO-L980509 match those listed in LIGO-L970041. Unfortunately, I am unable to find the serial numbers of the installed bellows in the other LIGO beamtube modules.

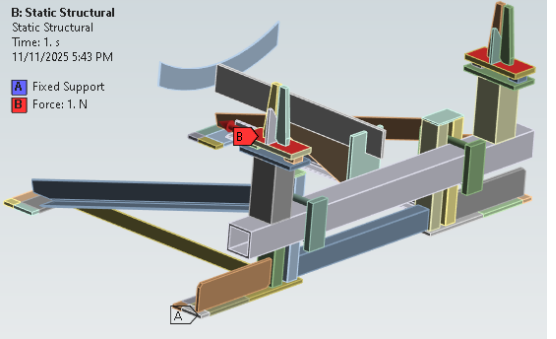
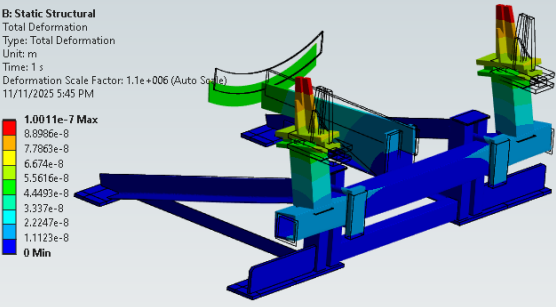
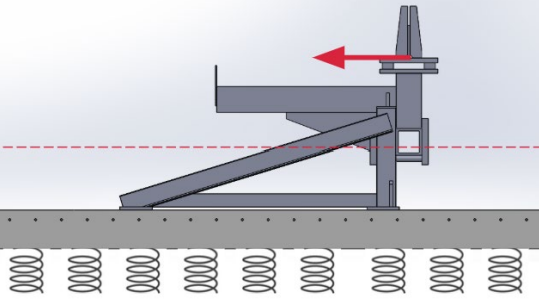
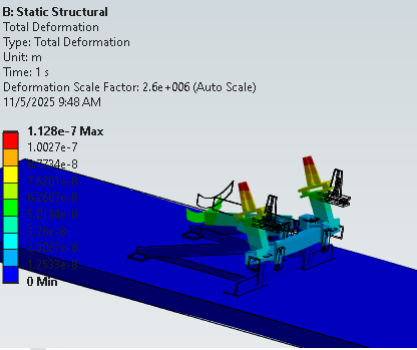
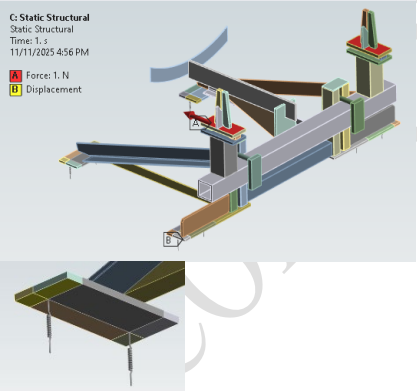
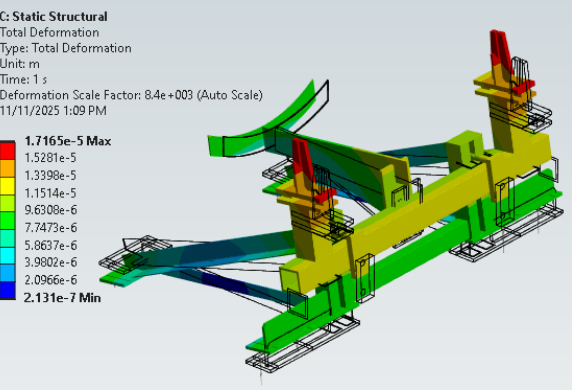
The working spring rate calculation in section 3.1 (1.2 MN/m) is still high compared to the measurements ($0.845 \text{ MN/m} \pm 10\%$), but much closer than shown in LIGO-T1400698.

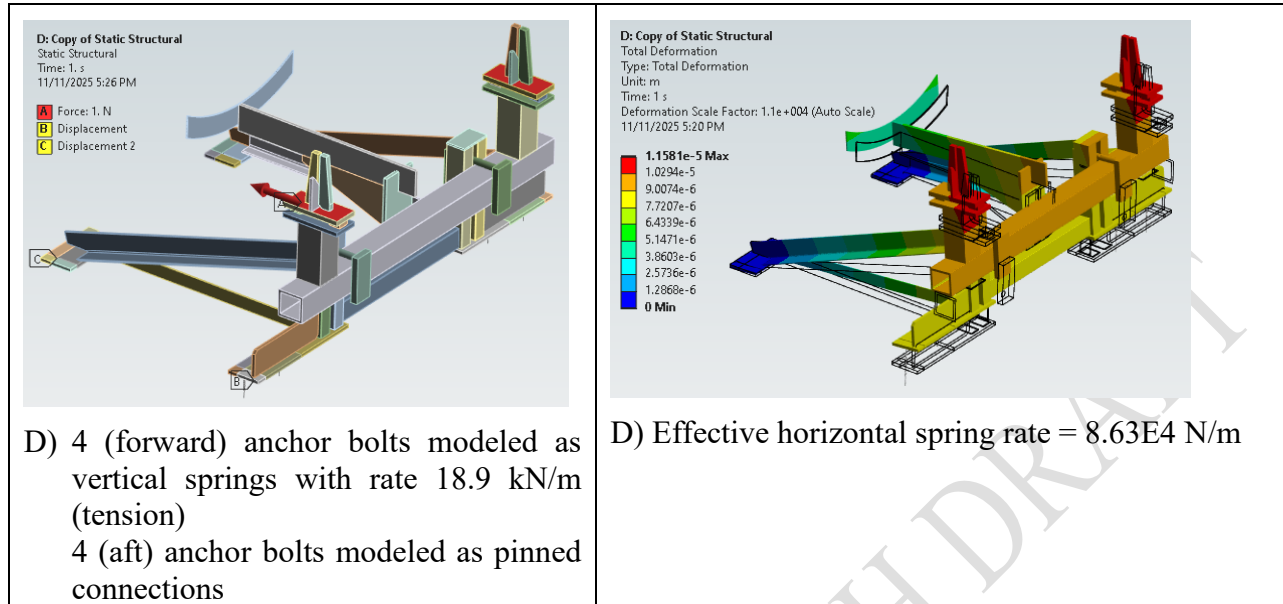
4 Fixed Support Stiffness



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4.1 Fixed Support

Model	Response to 1N horizontal force
B: Static Structural Static Structural Time: 1 s 11/11/2025 5:43 PM A Fixed Support B Force: 1 N  A) Fixed base plates	B: Static Structural Total Deformation Type: Total Deformation Unit: m Time: 1 s Deformation Scale Factor: 1.1e+006 (Auto Scale) 11/11/2025 5:45 PM 1.0011e-7 Max 8.8986e-8 7.7861e-8 6.674e-8 5.5616e-8 4.4499e-8 3.337e-8 2.2247e-8 1.1123e-8 0 Min  A) Effective horizontal spring rate = 1.0E7 N/m
 B) Reinforced cement slab modeled with transformed section method plus soil modeled as elastic foundation	B: Static Structural Total Deformation Type: Total Deformation Unit: m Time: 1 s Deformation Scale Factor: 2.6e+006 (Auto Scale) 11/5/2025 9:48 AM 1.128e-7 Max 1.0027e-7 8.7724e-8 7.5501e-8 6.3267e-8 5.1034e-8 3.76e-8 2.5367e-8 1.313e-8 0 Min  B) Effective horizontal spring rate = 8.8E6 N/m
C: Static Structural Static Structural Time: 1 s 11/11/2025 4:56 PM A Force: 1 N B Displacement  C) 8 anchor bolts each modeled as vertical springs with rate 18.9 kN/m (tension & compression)	C: Static Structural Total Deformation Type: Total Deformation Unit: m Time: 1 s Deformation Scale Factor: 8.4e+003 (Auto Scale) 11/11/2025 1:09 PM 1.7165e-5 Max 1.5281e-5 1.3398e-5 1.1514e-5 9.6308e-6 7.7473e-6 5.8637e-6 3.9802e-6 2.0966e-6 2.131e-7 Min  C) Effective horizontal spring rate = 5.83E4 N/m



4.2 Beam Tube Anchors

MUCH of the following is redundant with T2500383 - rewrite

The specified anchors for the Fixed Supports are Hilti KB II 58-6 with an embedded depth of 4". These are 5/8" diameter by 6" long expansion-type anchors introduced by Hilti in the mid 1990s. These anchors pre-date the Hilti Kwik Bolt 3 (introduced ~2010) and Kwik Bolt TZ2 (introduced 2021) anchors.

The specified anchors for the Guided Supports are Hilti HY-150 1/2" diameter adhesive anchors with an embedment depth of 4.25".

4.2.1 Expansion Anchor Pre-load & Strength

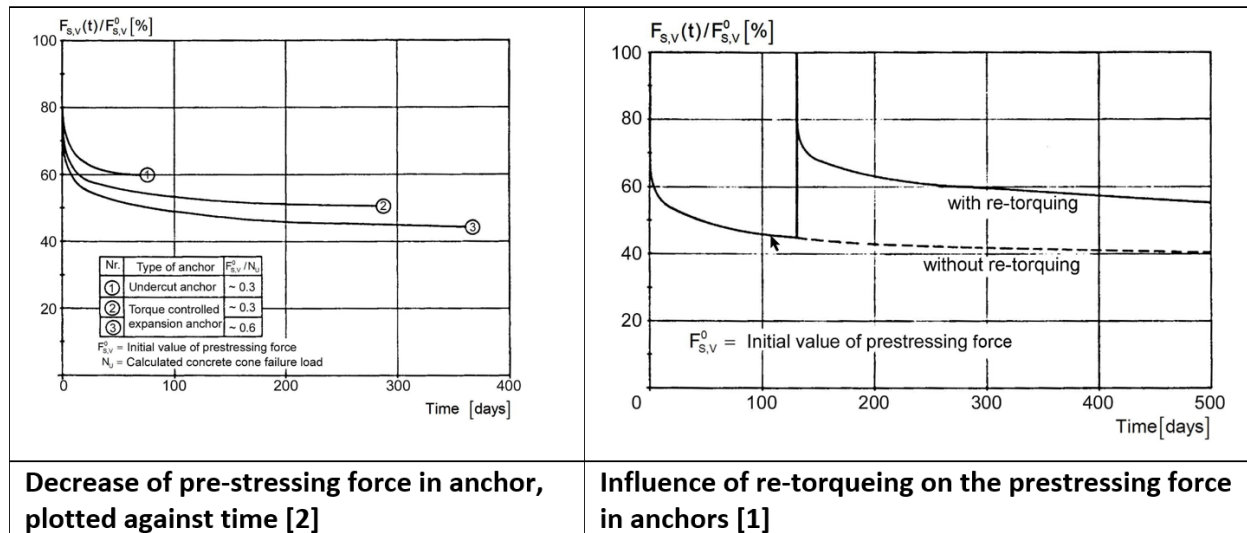
The anchor pre-load which results from the initial torque applied at the time of installation reduces over time to 40% to 50% of the initial pre-load⁵, as indicated in Figure X. Re-torquing the anchor will precipitate a repetition of the relaxation process, but the percentage loss of pre-stress after each torquing is diminished. As far as we are aware re-torquing the BT anchors has never occurred.

⁵ Hilti, "Torque loss over years", <https://www.hilti.ac/engineering/question/torque-loss-over-years/1df7kd> which in turn references the following two sources:

[1] Seghezzi (1986): *Effects of load history and environment*. Manuskript der Vorlesungsreihe Befestigungstechnik und der ETH Zürich, SS 1986, pp.8.1-8.10, not published, in German

[2] Burdette, Perry, Runk (1987): *Load relaxation tests for anchors on concrete*. In: Hasselwander, G.B. (editor): *Anchorage to concrete*. ACI SP-103, pp. 297-312, American concrete institute, Detroit

Anchors designed for use in cracked concrete, such as the Hilti Kwik Bolt TZ2, are specifically engineered with follow-up expansion to maintain holding force in these conditions. (Older expansion anchors such as the Hilti KB II anchor may not have “follow-up expansion”.)



Applying the manufacturer's specified installation torque expands the anchor's wedges, creating an initial tension pre-load and a compression clamping load between the fixture and the concrete. This pre-load helps to reduce anchor displacement under loading and fatigue under cyclic loads, as well as initially setting the anchor's wedge. The CBI documentation does not call out a specific torque value. For example, the installation specification [E950049-07-B](#), Beam Tube Can Section Installation Sequences, dated 7/22/98 (and also [C982575](#)) states:

- 1) for Fixed supports, pg. 18, paragraph 4.4, “Install and tighten the nuts on the anchor bolt.” The drawing for the fixed support lug assembly (Pc Mk 8-A or 8-B), D#?, does not give a torque value either.
- 2) Guided supports, pg. 19, paragraph 4.9 calls out Hilti HIT-HY 150 adhesive epoxy. Paragraph 4.10 states “Tighten the bottom nut to anchor the base plate to the concrete.” No torque spec value is given.

Although the CBI documentation does not call out a torque specification (and their procedure for

It is important to apply a proper amount of torque (pre-load) at the time of initial installation so as to expand the wedges and clamp the anchor to the concrete. However, pre-load (torque) is not considered to influence the ultimate strength of the anchor in cracked concrete⁶. The ultimate strength is based on the anchor's performance after the potential loss of pre-load. Anchoring-to-concrete strength design provisions (such as ACI 318 or Hilti documentation) for tension and shear failure modes assume that the initial pre-load or clamping load between the fixture and the concrete has

⁶ Richard Morgan, “How Installation Torque Can Affect Expansion Anchors”, Structure, April 2017, <https://www.structuremag.org/article/how-installation-torque-can-affect-expansion-anchors/>

relaxed considerably; In the case of Hilti to 50% of the initial torque value⁷. The design is based on the anchor acting directly on the concrete elements under ultimate load conditions.

4.2.2 Expansion Anchor Stiffness

Axial stiffness of Red Head Trubolt+ wedge anchor⁸ (5/8" diameter x 4.25" effective embedment depth in cracked cement) = 20,000 lbf/in (2.3 kN/m).

Axial stiffness of Hilti KB-TZ2 wedge anchor⁹ (5/8" diameter x 4" embedment in cracked cement) = 167,367 lbf/in (18.9 kN/m)

Hilti PROFIS Engineering software calculates the stiffness of wedge anchors in concrete as part of its analysis. The software uses stiffness values derived from load-displacement curves obtained from independent laboratory tests to perform its calculations.

In contrast, consider this approximate equation for axial stiffness of cast-in-place anchors¹⁰:

$$K_t = \frac{E_s A_r}{0.8 n d_r + L_r} = 182 \text{ MN/m}$$

where

E_s = steel elastic modulus = 200 GPa

E_c = cement elastic modulus = 21.5 GPa

$n = E_s/E_c$ = modular ratio = 9.3

d_r = rod diameter = 5/8" = 16 mm

A_r = cross-sectional area of the steel rod = 201 mm²

L_r = stressed rod length = 4 in. = 102 mm

The CBI Final Design Review Data Package ([C1900321](#)), in the file "LIGO_DRD_9_ITEM_2.pdf" (final design review data package, CDRL#15, DRD#9, Item 2, dated April 11, 1994) states that the support lug assemblies transfer all loads from the support frame to the foundation with six 5/8" diameter Hilti expansion anchors with an embedment depth of 2.75".

Design Review Data Package ([C960535](#), DRD#5, CDRL#26, 3/13/96):

⁷ Hilti, Mechanical Anchor Installation, <https://www.hilti.com.au/engineering/question/mechanical-anchor-installation/dhisig>

⁸ <https://www.itwredhead.com/portals/0/fmproductcatalog/documents/products/40/trubolttechnicaldata-1.pdf>

⁹ Hilti, Applicability of The KB-TZ2 Anchor, Aug 2021

¹⁰ Equation (12) of K. Tsavdaridis, et. al., Analytical approach of anchor rod stiffness and steel base plate calculation under tension, Structures, v5 (2016), pp. 207-218.

pg. 124: termination support frame uses threaded anchor rods epoxied into holes drilled into the termination foundation.

Pg. 129: termination support anchors are epoxied into the foundation block

Pg. 136, guided support frames are anchored to the slab with epoxied anchors.

D950042-03, guided support drawing dated 3/14/1994: HILTI KB II 58-434

Fabrication/Installation Procedure - Beam Tube Interface with the Beam Tube Slab , [E970033](#)-01-B, 2/7/97:

Fixed supports are anchored to the beam tube slab with expansion-type to the anchors in holes drilled into the slab during the installation of the supports. Hilti Kwik Bolt II 5/8" diameter expansion anchors with an embedment depth of 4".

Guided supports are anchored to the beam tube slab with anchor bolts epoxied into drilled holes during the installation of the supports. Hilti HY-150 1/2" diameter adhesive anchors with an embedment depth of 4.25".

Fabrication/Installation Procedure - Beam Tube and Termination Support, [E970025](#)-02-B, 2/7/97:

Each base plate is attached to the foundation block with L6) of the following anchors: Hilti 7/8" Diameter HY-150 Anchors with 7 1/2" Embedment

Each termination support is anchored to the foundation block with (8) of the following anchors: Hilti 1" Diameter HY-150 Anchors with 12 3/8" Embedment

[Hilti documentation for the Kwik Bolt TZ2](#) 5/8 carbon steel x 4" embedment in 3,000 psi (cracked) concrete:

Torque to 40 ft-lbf (54 Nm)

4,840 lbf (21.5 kN) design tensile strength based on concrete failure modes

10,430 lbf (46.4 kN) design shear strength based on concrete failure modes

13,150 lbf (58.5 kN) design tensile strength based on steel failure

6,665 lbf (29.6 kN) design shear and seismic shear strength based on steel failure

Load adjustment factors for spacing?

[Hilti documentation for the Kwik Bolt 3](#) 5/8" diameter carbon steel x 4" embedment in 3,000 psi (cracked) concrete:

Torque to 60 ft-lbf (81 Nm)

5 Effect of pre-load and baseplate stiffness on beam tube support compliance

TBW Use Professor Slocum's formulation to properly account for the composite stiffness of the anchor bolts and baseplate.

6 Simple mass-spring model

TBD

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