CHAPTER

DESIGN OF CULVERTS

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4.1 Introduction

Primary considerations for the final selection of any drainage structure are that its design be based upon appropriate hydraulic principles, economy, and minimized effects on adjacent property by the resultant headwater depth and outlet velocity. The allowable headwater elevation is that elevation above which damage may be caused to adjacent property and/or the highway. It is this allowable headwater depth that is the primary basis for sizing a culvert.

Performance curves should be developed for all culverts for evaluating the hydraulic capacity of a culvert for various headwaters. These will display the consequence of high flow rates at the site and any possible hazards. Sometimes a small increase in flow rate can affect a culvert design. If only the design peak discharge is used in the design, the engineer cannot assess what effects increases in the estimated design discharge will have on the culvert design.

4.2 Symbols And Definitions

To provide consistency within this chapter as well as throughout this manual the following symbols will be used. These symbols were selected because of there wide use in many culvert design publications.

	Table 4-1 Symbols And Definitions	
<u>Symbol</u>	Definition	<u>Units</u>
A	Area of cross section of flow	sq. ft
В	Barrel width	ft
Cd	Overtopping discharge coefficient	-
D	Culvert diameter or barrel depth	in. or
d	Depth of flow	ft
d _c	Critical depth of flow	ft
d _u	Uniform depth of flow	ft
g	Acceleration of gravity	ft/s
Й _f	Depth of pool or head, above the face section of invert	ft
h _o	Height of hydraulic grade line above outlet invert	ft
нw	Headwater depth above invert of culvert (depth from inlet invert to upstream total energy grade line)	ft
K _e	Inlet loss coefficient	-
L	Length of culvert	ft
Ν	Number of barrels	-
Q	Rate of discharge	cfs
S	Slope of culvert	ft/f
TW	Tailwater depth above invert of culvert	ft
V	Mean velocity of flow	ft/s
V _c	Critical velocity	ft/s

4.3 Engineering Design Criteria

The design of a culvert should take into account many different engineering and technical aspects

at the culvert site and adjacent areas. The following design criteria should be considered for all culvert designs as applicable.

Frequency Flood - The design storm for culverts is the 100-year storm using future development land use conditions, assuming no detention. The design for lateral systems shall be based on the 25-year storm event using future development land use conditions assuming no detention. The 100-year frequency storm shall be routed through all culverts to be sure building structures (i.e., houses, commercial buildings) are not flooded or increased damage does not occur to the highway or adjacent property for this design event.

Velocity Limitations - Both minimum and maximum velocities should be considered when - designing a culvert. The maximum velocity should be consistent with channel stability requirements at the culvert outlet. The maximum allowable velocity for a pipe flowing full is 15 feet per second. A minimum velocity of 3.0 feet per second, for the 2-year flow velocity, when the culvert is flowing partially full is required to ensure a self-cleaning condition during partial depth flow.

Buoyancy Protection - Headwalls, endwalls, slope paving or other means of anchoring should be considered for all culverts where buoyancy may be a problem.

Length And Slope - The culvert length and slope should be chosen to approximate existing topography, and to the degree practicable: the culvert invert should be aligned with the channel bottom and the skew angle of the stream, and the culvert entrance should match the geometry of the roadway embankment. The maximum slope using concrete pipe is 10% and for CMP is 14% before pipe restraining methods must be taken. The maximum drop in a drainage structure is 10 feet.

Debris Control - In designing debris control structures it is recommended that the Hydraulic Engineering Circular No. 9 entitled "Debris - Control Structures" be consulted.

Headwater Limitations - The allowable headwater elevation is determined from an evaluation of land use upstream of the culvert and the proposed or existing roadway elevation. Headwater is the depth of water above the culvert invert at the entrance end of the culvert.

The following criteria related to headwater should be considered:

- The allowable headwater for design frequency conditions should allow for the following upstream controls.
 - 18 inch freeboard.
 - Upstream property damage.
 - Elevations established to delineate flood plain zoning.
 - Low point in the road grade that is not at the culvert location.
 - Ditch elevation of the terrain that will permit flow to divert around culvert.
 - Following HW/D criteria -
 - 1. For drainage facilities with cross-section area equal to or less than 30 sq. ft HW/D = to or < 1.5.
 - 2. For drainage facilities with cross-section area greater than 30 sq. ft HW/D = to or < 1.2.
 - The headwater should be checked for the 100-year flood to ensure compliance with flood plain management criteria and for most facilities the culvert should be sized to maintain flood-free conditions on major thoroughfares with 18 inches freeboard at the low-point of the road.
 - The maximum acceptable outlet velocity should be identified (see Section 5.2.3 in Open Channel Design chapter). Either the headwater should be set to

produce acceptable velocities or stabilization or energy dissipation should be provided where these velocities are exceeded.

- Other site-specific design considerations should be addressed as required.
- In general the constraint which gives the lowest allowable headwater elevation establishes the criteria for the hydraulic calculations.

Tailwater Considerations - The hydraulic conditions downstream of the culvert site must be evaluated to determine a tailwater depth for a range of discharge. At times there may be a need for calculating backwater curves to establish the tailwater conditions. The following conditions must be considered:

- If the culvert outlet is operating with a free outfall, the critical depth and equivalent hydraulic grade line should be determined.
- For culverts which discharge to an open channel, the stage-discharge curve for the channel must be determined. See Open Channel Design Chapter.
- If an upstream culvert outlet is located near a downstream culvert inlet, the headwater elevation of the downstream culvert may establish the design tailwater depth for the upstream culvert.
- If the culvert discharges to a lake, pond, or other major water body, the expected high water elevation of the particular water body may establish the culvert tailwater.

Storage - If storage is being assumed upstream of the culvert, consideration should be given to:

- the total area of flooding,
- the average time that bankfull stage is exceeded for the design flood up to 48 hours in rural areas or 6 hours in urban areas, and
- ensuring that the storage area will remain available for the life of the culvert through the purchase of right-of-way or easement.

Culvert Inlets - Hydraulic efficiency and cost can be significantly affected by inlet conditions. The inlet coefficient K_e , is a measure of the hydraulic efficiency of the inlet, with lower values indicating greater efficiency. Recommended inlet coefficients are given in Table 4-2.

Inlets With Headwalls - Headwalls may be used for a variety of reasons including increasing the efficiency of the inlet, providing embankment stability, providing embankment protection against erosion, providing protection from buoyancy, and shorten the length of the required structure. Headwalls are usually required for all culverts and where buoyancy protection is necessary.

If high headwater depths are to be encountered, or the approach velocity in the channel will cause scour, a short channel apron should be provided at the toe of the headwall. This apron should extend at least one pipe diameter upstream from the entrance, and the top of the apron should not protrude above the normal streambed elevation.

Wingwalls And Aprons - Wingwalls are used where the side slopes of the channel adjacent to the entrance are unstable or where the culvert is skewed to the normal channel flow.

Improved Inlets - Where inlet conditions control the amount of flow that can pass through the culvert, improved inlets can greatly increase the hydraulic performance at the culvert.

Material Selection - Reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) is recommended for use (1) under a roadway, (2) when pipe slopes are less than 1%, or (3) for all flowing streams. RCP and fully coated corrugated metal pipe with paved invert can be used in all other cases. High Density

Polyethylene pipe may also be used as approved by DeKalb County. Table 4-3 gives recommended Manning's n values for different materials. Aluminized steel type 2 corrugated steel pipe is an approved material for use outside the public right-of-way.

Culvert Skews - Culvert skews shall not exceed 45 degrees as measured from a line perpendicular to the roadway centerline without approval.

Culvert Sizes - The minimum size road culvert shall be 18 inches.

Weep Holes - Weep holes are sometimes used to relieve uplift pressure. Filter materials should be used in conjunction with the weep holes in order to intercept the flow and prevent the formation of piping channels. The filter materials should be designed as underdrain filter so that it will not become clogged and so that piping cannot occur through the pervious material and the weep hole.

Outlet Protection - Outlet protection should be provided where erosive potential is a design concern. See Energy Dissipation Chapter for information on the design of outlet protection.

Erosion And Sediment Control - Shall be in accordance with the latest approved DeKalb County Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance. See the Manual For Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia for design standards and details related to erosion and sediment control.

Environmental Considerations - Where compatible with good hydraulic engineering, a site should be selected that will permit the culvert to be constructed to cause the least impact on the stream or wetlands. This selection must consider the entire site, including any necessary lead channels.

4.4 Design Procedures

4.4.1 Inlet And Outlet Control

<u>Inlet Control</u> - If the culvert is operating on a steep slope it is likely that the entrance geometry will control the headwater and the culvert will be on inlet control.

<u>Outlet Control</u> - If the culvert is operating on a mild slope, the outlet characteristics will probably control the flow and the culvert will be on outlet control.

Proper culvert design and analysis requires checking for both inlet and outlet control to determine which will govern particular culvert designs. For more information on inlet and outlet control see the Federal Highway Administration publication entitled - Hydraulic Design Of Highway Culverts, HDS-5, 1985, and AASHTO Model Drainage Manual, 1998.

Table 4-2 Inlet Coefficients	
Type of Structure and Design of Entrance	<u>Coefficient Ke</u>
Pipe, Concrete	=
Projecting from fill, socket end (grove-end)	0.2
Projecting from fill, square cut end	0.5
Headwall or headwall and wingwalls	

Socket end of pipe (groove-end)	0.2
Square-edge	0.5
Rounded [radius = $1/12(D)$]	0.2
Mitered to conform to fill slope	0.7
*End-Section conforming to fill slope	0.5
Beveled edges, 33.7 ⁰ or 45 ⁰ bevels	0.2
Side- or slope-tapered inlet	0.2
Pipe, or Pipe-Arch, Corrugated Metal ¹	
Projecting from fill (no headwall)	0.9
Headwall or headwall and wingwalls square-edge	0.5
Mitered to fill slope, paved or unpaved slope	0.7
*End-Section conforming to fill slope	0.5
Beveled edges, 33.7 ⁰ or 45 ⁰ bevels	0.2
Side- or slope-tapered inlet	0.2
Box, Reinforced Concrete	
Headwall parallel to embankment (no wingwalls)	
Square-edged on 3 edges	0.5
Rounded on 3 edges to radius of [1/12(D)]	
or beveled edges on 3 sides	0.2
Wingwalls at 30 ⁰ to 75 ⁰ to barrel	
Square-edged at crown	0.4
Crown edge rounded to radius of [1/12(D)]	
or beveled top edge	0.2
Wingwalls at 10 ⁰ or 25 ⁰ to barrel	
Square-edged at crown	0.5
Wingwalls parallel (extension of sides)	
Square-edged at crown	0.7
Side- or slope-tapered inlet	0.2

¹ Although laboratory tests have not been completed on K_e values for High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipes, the K_e values for corrugated metal pipes are recommended for HDPE pipes.

* Note: End Section conforming to fill slope, made of either metal or concrete, are the sections commonly available from manufacturers. From limited hydraulic tests they are equivalent in operation to a headwall in both inlet and outlet control.

Table 4-3 Manning's	s n Values	
Type of Conduit	Wall & Joint Description	<u>Manning's n</u>
Concrete Pipe	Good joints, smooth walls	0.013
	Good joints, rough walls Poor joints, rough walls	0.016 0.017
Concrete Box	Good joints, smooth finished walls Poor joints, rough, unfinished walls	0.012 0.018
Corrugated	2 2/3 by 1/2 inch corrugations	0.024
Metal Pipes and	6 by 1 inch corrugations	0.025

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Boxes Annular	5 by 1 inch corrugations	0.026			
Corrugations	3 by 1 inch corrugations	0.028			
-	6 by 2 inch structural plate	0.035			
	9 by 2 1/2 inch structural plate	0.035			
Corrugated Metal	Corrugated Metal 2 2/3 by 1/2 inch corrugated				
Pipes, Helical 24 inch plate width 0.020					
Corrugations, Full					
Circular Flow					
Spiral Rib Metal	3/4 by 3/4 in recesses at 12 inch				
Pipe	Pipe spacing, good joints 0.013				
High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)					
	Corrugated Smooth Liner	0.011			
	Corrugated	0.024			
Polyvinyl Chloride (PV	C)	0.011			
Note: For further informati Culverts, Federal Hi	on concerning Manning n values for selected conduits cons ghway Administration, HDS No. 5, page 163	sult Hydraulic Design of Highway			

4.4.2 Procedures

There are two procedures for designing culverts: (1) the manual use of inlet and outlet control nomographs and (2) the use of a personal computer system such as HY8 - Culvert Analysis Microcomputer Program (Section 4.8 of this chapter). The following will outline the design procedures for use of the nomograph.

4.4.3 Nomographs

The use of nomographs require a trial and error solution. The solution is quite easy and provides reliable designs for many applications. It should be remembered that velocity, hydrograph routing, roadway overtopping, and outlet scour require additional, separate computations beyond what can be obtained from the nomographs.

Figures 4-1 and 4-2 show examples of an inlet control and outlet control nomograph that can be used to design concrete pipe culverts. For culvert designs not covered by these nomographs, refer to the complete set of nomographs given in Appendix A at the end of this chapter.

4.4.4 Steps In Design Procedure

The design procedure requires the use of inlet and outlet nomographs.

Step Action

(1) List design data:

Q = discharge (cfs)	L = culvert length (ft)
S = culvert slope (ft/ft)	TW= tailwater depth (ft)
V = velocity for trial diameter (ft/s)	K _e = inlet loss coefficient
HW= allowable headwater depth for the	e design storm (ft)

- (2) Determine trail culvert size by assuming a trial velocity 3 to 5 ft/s and computing the culvert area, A = Q/V. Determine the culvert diameter (inches).
- (3) Find the actual HW for the trial size culvert for both inlet and outlet control.
 - For <u>inlet control</u>, enter inlet control nomograph with D and Q and find HW/D for the proper entrance type.
 - Compute HW and, if too large or two small, try another culvert size before computing HW for outlet control.
 - For <u>outlet control</u> enter the outlet control nomograph with the culvert length, entrance loss coefficient, and trial culvert diameter.
 - To compute HW, connect the length scale for the type of entrance condition and culvert diameter scale with a straight line, pivot on the turning line, and draw a straight line from the design discharge through the turning point to the head loss scale H. Compute the headwater elevation HW from the equation:

$$HW = H + h_0 - LS \tag{4.1}$$

Where: $h_0 = \frac{1}{2}$ (critical depth + D), or tailwater depth, whichever is greater.

(4) Compare the computed headwaters and use the higher HW nomograph to determine if the culvert is under inlet or outlet control.

If <u>outlet control</u> governs and the HW is unacceptable, select a larger trial size and find another HW with the outlet control nomographs. Since the smaller size of culvert had been selected for allowable HW by the inlet control nomographs, the inlet control for the larger pipe need not be checked.

(5) Calculate exit velocity and expected streambed scour to determine if an energy dissipator is needed.



Figure 4-1



Figure 4-2

4.4.5 Performance Curves - Roadway Overtopping

A performance curve for any culvert can be obtain from the nomographs by repeating the steps outlined above for a range of discharges that are of interest for that particular culvert design. A graph is then plotted of headwater vs. discharge with sufficient points so that a curve can be drawn through the range of interest. These curves are applicable through a range of headwater, velocities, and scour depths versus discharges for a length and type of culvert. Usually charts with length intervals of 25 to 50 feet are satisfactory for design purposes. Such computations are made much easier by the computer program discussed in Section 4.8 of this chapter.

To complete the culvert design, roadway overtopping should be analyzed. A performance curve showing the culvert flow as well as the flow across the roadway is a useful analysis tool. Rather than using a trial and error procedure to determine the flow division between the overtopping flow and the culvert flow, an overall performance curve can be developed.

The overall performance curve can be determined as follows:

Step Action

- (1) Select a range of flow rates and determine the corresponding headwater elevations for the culvert flow alone. The flow rates should fall above and below the design discharge and cover the entire flow range of interest. Both inlet and outlet control headwaters should be calculated.
- (2) Combine the inlet and outlet control performance curves to define a single performance curve for the culvert.
- (3) When the culvert headwater elevations exceed the roadway crest elevation, overtopping will begin. Calculate the equivalent upstream water surface depth above the roadway (crest of weir) for each selected flow rate. Use these water surface depths and equation 4.2 to calculate flow rates across the roadway.

$$\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{d}} \mathbf{L} (\mathbf{H} \mathbf{W})^{1.5} \tag{4.2}$$

Where: O	= overtopping flow rate (cfs/s)	
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- C_d = overtopping discharge coefficient
- L =length of roadway (ft)
- HW = upstream depth, measured from the roadway crest to the water surface upstream of the weir drawdown (ft)

Note: See Figure 4-3 on the next page for guidance in determining a value for C_d . For more information on calculating overtopping flow rates see pages 39 - 42 in HDS No. 5.

(4) Add the culvert flow and the roadway overtopping flow at the corresponding headwater elevations to obtain the overall culvert performance curve.



Figure 4-3 Discharge Coefficients for Roadway Overtopping

4.4.6 Storage Routing

A significant storage capacity behind a highway embankment attenuates a flood hydrograph. Because of the reduction of the peak discharge associated with this attenuation, the required capacity of the culvert, and its size, may be reduced considerably. If significant storage is anticipated behind a culvert, the design should be checked by routing the design hydrographs through the culvert to determine the discharge and stage behind the culvert. Routing procedures are outlined in Hydraulic Design of Highway Culverts, Section V - Storage Routing, HDS No. 5, Federal Highway Administration.

The storage should be taken into consideration only if the storage area will remain available for the life of the culvert as a result of purchase of ownership or right-of-way or an easement has been acquired.

4.5 Culvert Design Example

4.5.1 Introduction

The following example problem illustrates the procedures to be used in designing culverts using the nomographs.

4.5.2 Example

Size a culvert given the following example data which were determined by physical limitations at the culvert site and hydraulic procedures described elsewhere in this handbook.

4.5.3 Example Data

Input Data

Discharge for 2-yr flood = 39 cfs Discharge for 100-yr flood = 70 cfs Allowable H_W for 100-yr discharge = 7.0 ft Length of culvert = 100 ft Natural channel invert elevations - inlet = 15.50 ft, outlet = 15.35 ft Culvert slope = 0.0015 ft/ft Tailwater depth for 100-yr discharge = 4.0 ft Tailwater depth is the normal depth in downstream channel Entrance type = Groove end with headwall

4.5.4 Computations

Steps Computation

- 1. Assume a culvert velocity of 5 ft/s. Required flow area = 70 cfs/5 ft/s = 14 sq. ft (for the 100-yr recurrence flood).
- 2. The corresponding culvert diameter is about 48 in. This can be calculated by using the formula for area of a circle: Area = $(3.14D^2)/4$ or D = (Area times $4/3.14)^{0.5}$. Therefore: D = $((14 \text{ sq ft x } 4)/3.14)^{0.5} \text{ x } 12 \text{ in./ft}) = 50.7 \text{ in.}$

- 3. A grooved end culvert with a headwall is selected for the design. Using the inlet control nomograph (Figure 4-1), with a pipe diameter of 48 in. and a discharge of 70 cfs; read a HW/D value of 0.93.
- 4. The depth of headwater (HW) is $(0.93) \ge (4) = 3.72$ ft which is less than the allowable headwater of 4.5 ft.
- 5. The culvert is checked for outlet control by using Figure 4-2.

With an entrance loss coefficient K_e of 0.20, a culvert length of 100 ft, and a pipe diameter of 48 in., an H value of 0.77 ft is determined. The headwater for outlet control is computed by the equation: $HW = H + h_0 - LS$

For the tailwater depth lower than the top of culvert, $h_0 = T_W$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ (critical depth in culvert + D) which ever is greater. $h_0 = 3.0$ ft or $h_0 = \frac{1}{2} (2.55 + 4.0) = 3.28$ ft

The headwater depth for outlet control is: HW = H + h_0 - LS = 0.77 + 3.28 - (100) x (0.0015) = 3.90 ft

6. Since HW for outlet control (3.90 ft) is greater than the HW for inlet control (3.72 ft), outlet control governs the culvert design.

Thus, the maximum headwater expected for a 100-yr recurrence flood is 3.90 ft, which is less than the allowable headwater of 4.5 ft.

7. Estimate outlet exit velocity. Since this culvert is on outlet control and discharges into an open channel downstream, the culvert will be flowing full at the flow depth in the channel. Using the 100-year design peak discharge of 70 cfs and the area of a 48 inch or 4.0 ft diameter culvert the exit velocity will be: Q = VA

Therefore: $V = 70 / (3.14(4.0)^2)/4 = 5.6 \text{ ft/s}$

- 8. Check for minimum velocity using the 2-year flow of 39 cfs. Therefore: $V = 39 / (3.14(4.0)^2)/4 = 3.1$ ft/s > minimum of 3.0 - OK
- 9. The 100-year flow should be routed through the culvert to determine if any flooding problems will be associated with this flood.

Figure 4-4 provides a convenient form to organize culvert design calculations.

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Figure 4-4

The following symbols are used in these figures:

- B Width of culvert barrel or diameter of pipe culvert
- D Height of box culvert or diameter of pipe culvert H_f Depth of pool or head, above the face section of invert
- N Number of barrels
- Q Design discharge

4.6 Design Procedures For Beveled-Edged Inlets

4.6.1 Introduction

Improved inlets include inlet geometry refinements beyond those normally used in conventional culvert design practice. Several degrees of improvements are possible, including bevel-edged, side-tapered, and slope-tapered inlets. Those designers interested in using side- and slope-tapered inlets should consult the detailed design criteria and example designs outlined in the U. S. Department of Transportation publication Hydraulic Engineering Circular No. 5 entitled, Hydraulic Design of Highway Culverts.

4.6.2 Design Figures

Four inlet control figures for culverts with beveled edges are included in Appendix A at the end of this chapter.

<u>Chart</u> 3	<u>Page</u> 4A-3	<u>Use for -</u> circular pipe culverts with beyeled rings
10	4A-10	90° headwalls (same for 90° wingwalls)
11	43A-11	skewed headwalls
12	4A-12	wingwalls with flare angles of 18 to 45 degrees

4.6.3 Design Procedure

The figures for bevel-edged inlets are used for design in the same manner as the conventional inlet design nomographs discussed earlier. <u>Note</u> that Charts 10, 11, and 12 apply only to bevels having either a 33° angle (1.5:1) or a 45° angle (1:1).

For box culverts the dimensions of the bevels to be used are based on the culverts dimensions. The top bevel dimension is determined by multiplying the height of the culvert by a factor. The side bevel dimensions are determined by multiplying the width of the culvert by a factor. For a 1:1 bevel, the factor is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch/ft. For a 1.5:1 bevel the factor is 1 inch/ft. For example the minimum bevel dimensions for a 8 ft x 6 ft box culvert with 1:1 bevels would be:

Top Bevel = d = 6 ft x $\frac{1}{2}$ inch/ft = 3 inches Side Bevel = b = 8 ft x $\frac{1}{2}$ inch/ft = 4 inches

For a 1.5:1 bevel computations would result in d = 6 and b = 8 inches.

4.6.4 Design Figure Limits

The improved inlet design figures are based on research results from culvert models with barrel width, B, to depth, D, ratios of from 0.5:1 to 2:1. For box culverts with more than one barrel, the figures are used in the same manner as for a single barrel, except that the bevels must be sized on the basis of the total clear opening rather than on individual barrel size.

For example, in a double 8 ft by 8 ft box culvert:

<u>Top Bevel</u> - is proportioned based on the height of 8 ft which results in a bevel of 4 in. for the 1:1 bevel and 8 in. for the 1.5:1 bevel.

<u>Side Bevel</u> - is proportioned based on the clear width of 16 ft which results in a bevel of 8 in. for the 1:1 bevel and 16 in. for the 1.5:1 bevel.

4.6.5 Multibarrel Installations

For multibarrel installations exceeding a 3:1 width to depth ratio, the side bevels become excessively large when proportioned on the basis of the total clear width. For these structures, it is recommended that the <u>side bevel</u> be sized in proportion to the total clear width, B, or three times the height, whichever is smaller. The <u>top bevel</u> dimension should always be based on the culvert height.

The shape of the upstream edge of the intermediate walls of multibarrel installations is not as important to the hydraulic performance of a culvert as the edge condition of the top and sides. Therefore, the edges of these walls may be square, rounded with a radius of one-half their thickness, chamfered, or beveled. The intermediate walls may also project from the face and slope downward to the channel bottom to help direct debris through the culvert.

Multibarrel pipe culverts should be designed as a series of single barrel installations since each pipe requires a separate bevel.

4.6.6 Skewed Inlets

It is recommended that Figure 4A-11 in Appendix A for skewed inlets not be used for multiple barrel installations, as the intermediate wall could cause an extreme contraction in the downstream barrels. This would result in under design due to a greatly reduced capacity. Skewed inlets should be avoided whenever possible, and should not be used with side- or slope-tapered inlets. It is important to align culverts with streams in order to avoid erosion problems associated with changing the direction of the natural stream flow.

4.7 Flood Routing And Culvert Design

4.7.1 Introduction

Flood routing through a culvert is a practice that evaluates the effect of temporary upstream ponding caused by the culvert's backwater. By not considering flood routing it is possible that the findings from culvert analyses will be conservative. If the selected allowable headwater is considered acceptable without flood routing, then costly over design of both the culvert and outlet protection may result, depending on the amount of temporary storage involved. However, if storage is used in the design of culverts, consideration should be given to:

- the total area of flooding,
- the average time that bankfull stage is exceeded for the design flood up to 48 hours in rural areas or 6 hours in urban areas, and
- ensuring that the storage area will remain available for the life of the culvert through the purchase of right-of-way or easement.

Ignoring temporary storage effects on reducing the selected design flood magnitude by assuming that this provides a factor of safety is not recommended. This practice results in inconsistent factors of safety at culvert sites as it is dependent on the amount of temporary storage at each site. Further, with little or no temporary storage at a site the factor of safety would be unity thereby precluding a factor of safety. If a factor of safety is desired, it is essential that flood routing practices be used to insure consistent and defensible factors of safety are used at all culvert sites.

4.7.2 Design Procedure

The design procedure for flood routing through a culvert is the same as for reservoir routing. The site data and roadway geometry are obtained and the hydrology analysis completed to include estimating a hydrograph. Once this essential information is available, the culvert can be designed. Flood routing through a culvert can be time consuming. It is recommended that the HY8 computer program be used as it contains software that very quickly routes floods through a culvert to evaluate an existing culvert (review), or to select a culvert size that satisfies given criteria (design). However, the engineer should be familiar with the culvert flood routing design process.

A Multiple trial and error procedure is required for culvert flood routing. In general:

- a trial culvert(s) is selected,
- a trial discharge for a particular hydrograph time increment (selected time increment to estimate discharge from the design hydrograph) is selected,
- flood routing computations are made with successive trial discharges until the flood routing equation is satisfied,
- the hydraulic findings are compared to the selected site criteria, and
- if the selected site criteria are satisfied then a trial discharge for the next time increment is selected and this procedure is repeated; if not, a new trial culvert is selected and the entire procedure is repeated.

4.8 HY8 Culvert Analysis Microcomputer Program

It is recommended that the HY8 computer model be used for culvert design. This culvert design model is available in many computer software packages and is included in the HYDRAIN system available from McTrans Software (address given under References below). The personal computer system HYDRAIN uses the theoretical basis for the nomographs to size a culvert. In addition, this system can evaluate improved inlets, generate and route hydrographs, consider road overtopping, and evaluate outlet streambed scour. By using water surface profiles, this procedure is more accurate in predicting backwater effects and outlet scour.

References

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Appendix A - Design Charts and Nomographs



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963 HEADWATER SCALES 2&3 REVISED MAY 1964



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963





BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1964

CRITICAL DEPTH CIRCULAR PIPE



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963





BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963









HEADWATER DEPTH FOR INLET CONTROL RECTANGULAR BOX CULVERTS 90° HEADWALL CHAMFERED OR BEVELED INLET EDGES

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION MAY 1973

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o County Manual



WINGWALL INLETS

RECTANGULAR BOX CULVERTS FLARED WINGWALLS NORMAL AND SKEWED INLETS 3/4" CHAMFER AT TOP OF OPENING

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS OFFICE OF R&D AUGUST 1968





CRITICAL DEPTH RECTANGULAR SECTION

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963





Nomographs adapted from material furnished by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale. HEADWATER DEPTH FOR C.M. BOX CULVERTS 0.3≤ RISE/SPAN < 0.4 WITH INLET CONTROL


Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.



Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation.

FOR C.M. BOX CULVERTS 0.5 ≤ RISE/SPAN WITH INLET CONTROL



Q/AD^{0.5}











C.M. BOX CULVERTS **FLOWING FULL** CORRUGATED METAL BOTTOM 0.3 < RISE/SPAN



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DeKalb County Manual 4-47



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963



HEADWATER DEPTH FOR OVAL CONCRETE PIPE CULVERTS LONG AXIS VERTICAL WITH INLET CONTROL

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1964

CRITICAL DEPTH OVAL CONCRETE PIPE LONG AXIS HORIZONTAL







BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1964

CRITICAL DEPTH OVAL CONCRETE PIPE LONG AXIS VERTICAL



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS OFFICE OF R&D JULY 1968

HEADWATER DEPTH FOR INLET CONTROLS STRUCTURAL PLATE PIPE-ARCH CULVERTS 18 in. RADIUS CORNER PLATE PROJECTING OR HEADWALL INLET HEADWALL WITH OR WITHOUT EDGE BEVEL



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS OFFICE OF R&D JULY 1966 HEADWATER DEPTH FOR INLET CONTROL STRUCTURAL PLATE PIPE-ARCH CULVERTS 31 in. RADIUS CORNER PLATE PROJECTING OR HEADWALL INLET HEADWALL WITH OR WITHOUT EDGE BEVEL





C.M. PIPE ARCH 18 in. CORNER RADIUS













DIMENSIONLESS CRITICAL DEPTH CHART FOR C.M. ARCH CULVERTS











Nomographs adapted from material furnished by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.

C.M. ARCH CULVERTS FLOWING FULL EARTH BOTTOM (nb = 0.022) 0.4 ≤ RISE/SPAN < 0.5



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.







DIMENSIONLESS CRITICAL DEPTH CHART FOR STRUCTURAL PLATE ELLIPSE LONG AXIS HORIZONTAL
CHART 54



DIMENSIONLESS CRITICAL DEPTH CHART FOR STRUCTURAL PLATE LOW- AND HIGH-PROFILE ARCHES



THROAT CONTROL FOR SIDE-TAPERED INLETS TO PIPE CULVERT (CIRCULAR SECTION ONLY)



FACE CONTROL FOR SIDE-TAPERED INLETS TO PIPE CULVERTS (NON-RECTANGULAR SECTIONS ONLY)



TAPERED INLETS



FACE CONTROL FOR BOX CULVERTS WITH SIDE-TAPERED INLETS



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CHART 60



DISCHARGE COEFFICIENTS FOR ROADWAY OVERTOPPING