



Research Article

Development of a Portable Jaw Crusher for Small-Scale Rock Crushing

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Abstract

The design and production of a prototype cost-effective, energy-efficient, and portable jaw crusher for small-scale rock crushing addresses critical challenges in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM). Conventional jaw crushers, while effective for industrial applications, are often expensive, energy-intensive, and immobile for ASM operations. This study presents a mechanically optimised single-toggle jaw crusher designed for accessibility, efficiency, and portability. Key innovations include a modular frame constructed from reinforced mild steel, reversible manganese steel jaw plates for extended wear life, and a dynamically balanced flywheel to reduce energy fluctuations. Finite Element Analysis (FEA) validated structural integrity under operational loads, with safety factors exceeding 1.3 for all critical components. Performance testing on granite, quartz, and iron ore demonstrated a crushing efficiency of 85% and energy consumption ranging from 1.67–5.00 kWh/ton, with quartz processing achieving the highest efficiency – 0.167 kWh/ton due to optimal breakage characteristics. Throughput varied from 400–1,200kg/hr, while reduction ratios of 7:1 to 10:1 were achieved. Comparative cost analysis revealed a 50–60% reduction in capital costs versus imported mini jaw crushers and 30–40% lower energy consumption than hammer mills. The crusher's compact design (<450 kg) and bolt-together modularity enhance field mobility, making it suitable for remote operations. This study bridges the gap between manual crushing methods and industrial-scale equipment, offering a sustainable solution that aligns with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure. Future work should explore hybrid power integration and automated feeding systems to further optimise performance.

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Introduction

The evolution of rock comminution technologies has been driven by the demand for efficiency, durability, and adaptability across mining scales and environments. Among these, the jaw crusher stands as one of the earliest and most influential machines in the mineral processing industry. However, despite its proven robustness in industrial operations, the traditional jaw crusher remains largely inaccessible and impractical for small-scale mining operations due to its high cost, bulky size, and significant energy requirements (Ndung'u, 2021). The increasing global emphasis on responsible sourcing, decentralised beneficiation, and sustainable technologies (Rajan and Singh, 2020) highlights the need for a portable, low-cost, and energy-efficient alternative tailored specifically for small-scale rock crushing. Small-scale mining plays a crucial role in global mineral production, particularly in developing economies where it serves as a primary livelihood for many communities. However, the sector faces significant challenges, including reliance on inefficient, expensive, and non-portable crushing equipment (Chen et al., 2021). Conventional jaw crushers, while effective, are often too costly, energy-intensive, and immobile for small-scale miners.

Previous studies have explored various aspects of jaw crusher design, including kinematics, power consumption, and material selection. Research by Baawuah et al., (2020); Nazarenko et al., (2021) emphasised the importance of optimising toggle plate mechanisms to reduce energy wastage. In addition, other studies by Ocheri, (2018); Barrios et al., (2020); Harmon et al., (2020) highlighted the benefits of using high-strength, lightweight materials to improve portability without compromising durability. However, most existing designs focused on large-scale industrial applications (Itävuori and Vilkko, 2021; Lois-Morales et al., 2022), leaving a gap in cost-effective solutions for small-scale miners.

While traditional jaw crushers perform well in industrial operations, they are unsuitable for artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM). Several recurring limitations are documented in the literature: Most laboratory-grade crushers weigh over 300kg and occupy significant space. Their installation requires concrete foundations and hoisting equipment, resources

unavailable in most ASM setups (Makoni and Nyabeze, 2017). High shipping, installation, and maintenance costs make traditional crushers inaccessible to small miners (Hilson and McQuilken, 2014). With motor ratings starting at 3kW, industrial units often require three-phase power, which is unavailable in many rural mining locations. Off-grid operations relying on generators or solar energy cannot support such demands sustainably.

Modern crushers, though efficient, are often over-engineered for small-scale needs. They require skilled labour and proprietary parts for maintenance, making them impractical in field conditions (Al-Harashsheh et al., 2019). The gap between manual rock breaking and industrial crushers has motivated researchers to explore intermediate technologies. According to Zabolotnyi and Panchenko, (2019), sustainable technology for ASM must be affordable, repairable, modular, and adaptable to different ore types and operational contexts. Few designs adequately balance cost, efficiency, mobility, and energy consumption. Thus, there is a need for a new generation of crushers optimised for low-cost fabrication, low power use, compact form factor, and moderate throughput.

This study aims to design and develop a mechanically optimised jaw crusher with improved crushing kinematics for higher efficiency to reduce production costs and enhance portability. The specific objectives of this research are to design and develop a functional and optimised jaw crusher using locally sourced suitable materials; to evaluate the crusher's performance in terms of crushing efficiency, energy consumption, and operational durability, and to compare the proposed design with existing small-scale crushing solutions in terms of cost and efficiency.

Methodology

Material Selection

Each component of the jaw crusher serves a distinct mechanical function, and its performance under working conditions is heavily influenced by the properties of the material chosen for its construction. The functional mechanical and physical requirements of each component were considered. These typically include hardness, tensile and yield strength, fatigue resistance, machinability, and corrosion resistance. Quartz and granite are the types of rocks to be crushed, and they have high Mohs hardness values (about 6–7), which can wear down most materials quickly. Therefore, the materials selected must resist wear, erosion, and deformation under pressure. The load conditions were also looked at. Jaw plates and toggle mechanisms undergo cyclical compressive forces, while the eccentric shaft experiences torsional and bending loads. The material selection also considered the ease of fabrication. This includes how well a material can be machined, welded, cut, or formed. In conjunction with fabrication

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considerations, the cost and availability of materials were also considered. Portability is another critical factor. Since the jaw crusher is intended to be portable, the overall weight of materials was considered without compromising structural integrity. Environmental factors also influence material selection, therefore, components exposed to moisture, dust, or chemicals to resist corrosion were the ones selected. Throughout the selection process, reference standards and materials databases were consulted to verify the properties and specifications of each material.

Procedures

Finite Element Analysis for Material Structural Integrity

A detailed three-dimensional computer-aided document (CAD) model of the jaw crusher was created. This model includes all critical components such as the jaw plates, the main supporting frame, the eccentric shaft, bearings, toggle plates, hoppers or chutes, and fasteners. Material properties such as Young's Modulus of Elasticity, Yield Strength, Poisson's ratio, and density were assigned to each component based on functional requirements and environmental considerations. Manganese steel was assigned to jaw plates due to its direct contact with abrasive materials like quartz and granite. The frame to mild steel, and the shaft to alloy steel. Meshing was incorporated, where the entire structure was divided into thousands of smaller elements or nodes. A finer mesh was applied to areas of high-stress concentration, such as the crushing zone of the jaw plates, while a coarser mesh suffices for structurally stable regions like the hopper body or outer frame. After establishing the mesh boundary conditions, loading scenarios were applied. These include fixed constraints at the base of the frame to simulate ground mounting, dynamic compressive forces representing the crushing of hard rocks, and rotational inputs on the shaft to replicate motor-driven movement. Additional forces, such as the weight of the materials, vibrations, and impact shocks, were modelled to reflect real operational environments. The model was then processed using SolidWorks Simulation (Murithi et al., 2024), a finite element analysis (FEA) simulation software. During this solving phase, the program calculated the distribution of stresses, strains, and displacements throughout the crusher's structure. The output highlights critical regions where mechanical failure may occur, providing insight into how each component behaves under specific loads.

Design Considerations

The designed and fabricated jaw crusher is a single-toggle, mechanically driven design optimised for cost, energy efficiency, and portability. It consists of a crushing chamber, fixed + movable jaw plates, toggle plates (for force transmission), flywheel and eccentric shaft (energy optimisation), and a main frame. Others include feed hopper, motor mount, safety guards, transport tyres, and toggle seat. The ready-made components acquired

from the market are an electric motor, bearings, and an electric motor drive belt. All the fabricated components were measured to the required dimensions and specifications.

Kinematic and Dynamic Analysis of Jaw Crusher Mechanisms

The following kinematic and dynamic parameters were proposed for the design, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Kinematic and Dynamic Mechanisms

S/N	Parameter	Feature
1	Crushing Motion	Single-toggle mechanism with an eccentric shaft generating an elliptical jaw motion for efficient ore breakage
2	Optimal Jaw Angle	5–22° nip angle to balance throughput and particle size reduction
3	Stroke Length	15–20 mm (adjustable via toggle plate position)

i. Force and Power Calculation (Hristova et al., 2018)

$$\text{Crushing Force (F): } F = \frac{\text{Uniaxial Compressive Strength (UCS)} \times \text{Ore Area}}{\text{Safety Factor}} \quad - \quad (1)$$

Note: the typical uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) of granite, quartz and iron ore are: 15MPa (Aydin, 2009), 60MPa (Wua et al., 2023), 60MPa (Akin et al., 2022), in that order.

$$\text{Motor Power (P): } P = \frac{F \times S \times n}{60 \times \eta} \quad (\text{Makoni and Nyabeze, 2017}) \quad - \quad (2)$$

Where: S = stroke (m), n = RPM, η = mechanical efficiency (0.7 – 0.8)
 Electric motor=1.5kW (2HP)

ii. Flywheel Design

The designed weight of the flywheel is 15kg for smooth operation. Murithi et al. (2024) noted that flywheels weighing less than 10kg result in low inertia, leading to inefficiency, while those exceeding 20kg become excessively heavy, reducing portability, and risking structural overload. In contrast, a 15kg flywheel offers a balanced solution by maintaining consistent crushing force and minimizing speed fluctuations. It delivers adequate momentum without overloading the shaft or bearings, making it well-suited for compact, and small-scale crusher designs.

Flywheel design (energy efficiency) (Hilson and McQuilken, 2014; Johanson, 2019)

$$E_{\text{flywheel}} = \frac{1}{2} I \omega^2 \quad - \quad - \quad - \quad (3)$$

This energy can be used to smooth power fluctuations or deliver bursts of energy, as in the case of a jaw crusher's operation during peak crushing loads.

Where: moment of inertia (kgm^2) (Itävuori and Vilkkö, 2021)

$$I = \frac{1}{2} m r^2 \quad - \quad - \quad - \quad (4)$$

Where: m = mass of flywheel (kg), r = radius of the flywheel (m)

Angular velocity (ω) is the rate at which the flywheel rotates in rad/s; hence, to convert this,

Where: $\omega = 2 \times (\text{rotational speed in rev/s})$ (Rachid et al., 2023)

iii. Toggle Plate Mechanism

The Closed-Side Setting (CSS) determines the minimum distance (gape) between the fixed and moving jaw plates (Fladvad and Onnela, 2020), directly influencing the output size of the crushed material. The relationship between the toggle plate geometry and the CSS can be approximated by the following equation:

$$\text{CSS} = L \sin(\theta) \quad (\text{Al-Harashseh et al., 2019}) \quad - \quad - \quad (5)$$

Where: CSS = Closed-side setting (mm), L = Length of the toggle plate (mm), θ = Angle between the toggle plate and the horizontal plane (degrees).

Design Parameters: Desired CSS range=10–50mm

Toggle plate length (L)=300mm (fixed for this design)

Angle range (θ)=Calculated based on the desired CSS

$$\text{CSS} = 10\text{mm}: \theta = \arcsin\left(\frac{\text{CSS}}{L}\right) \quad - \quad - \quad (6)$$

$$\text{CSS} = 50\text{mm}: \theta = \arcsin\left(\frac{\text{CSS}}{L}\right) \quad - \quad - \quad (7)$$

Thus, by varying the angle θ between approximately 2° and 10° , the desired CSS range can be achieved.

Prototype Development: Fabrication of Key Components for the Portable Jaw Crusher

The manganese steel plates were cut to dimensions of 150mm, ensuring uniform geometry. An innovation in the jaw plate design was the incorporation of a reversible and modular structure, allowing miners to flip or replace only the worn sections without discarding the entire unit, thus extending their service life, and reducing operating costs. Mild steel was cut and bent into U-channel profiles to form the sidewalls. Critical joints were welded using metal inert gas (MIG) welding, and stress concentration points, such as the toggle seat, were reinforced with gussets. To protect the frame in humid or wet mining environments, a two-layer epoxy coating was applied. The frame was designed in bolt-together modules, each weighing under 100kg, enabling manual handling and easy transportation to remote mining sites.

Central to the force transmission system is the toggle mechanism obtained from a ductile carbon steel grade 60-40-18. This transmits crushing force from the eccentric shaft to the moving jaw, also functions as a mechanical safety device (Zhu et al., 2022). This was cut and ground to exactly 20mm thickness. The toggle was incorporated with a shear feature, which can fail under excessive load to prevent damage to the crusher, though a concept borrowed from large-scale industrial crushers (Li et al., 2025). The eccentric shaft is a key rotating element that converts motor torque into the elliptical motion of the jaw. It was fabricated from AISI 4140 alloy steel, chosen for its high torsional strength and fatigue resistance. Precision turning and grinding brought the shaft to a tight 50mm diameter with a tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{mm}$. Induction hardening was applied to the bearing contact areas, achieving a surface hardness of approximately 55 Rockwell hardness scale C (HRC) (Wang et al., 2022) to enhance wear resistance. To improve operational efficiency, a large 600mm flywheel was fabricated and keyed to the shaft. This flywheel helps smooth out power fluctuations by storing and releasing inertial energy, contributing to more stable motor loading and lower energy demand spikes.

A steel plate (ST52) was cut and welded into a solid disc, forming the flywheel. The centre was carefully bore holes to exact tolerances for shaft mounting. The bore was milled to ensure positive engagement with the eccentric shaft. The flywheel was dynamically balanced, where it was spun at operational speeds while measuring vibrations. Small weights were strategically added and/or removed until the wheel achieved near-perfect balance ($<1\text{g}$ imbalance). Finally, the surface received a protective coating to prevent rust during operation.

The hopper (feed system) was cut out of abrasion-resistant steel plates (AR400) and shaped using hydraulic press brakes to form the characteristic trapezoidal profile. The

panels were cut and innovatively formed foldable parts, which were meticulously joined with continuous seams, ensuring a dust-tight structure that can withstand years of rock impacts. Inside, replaceable folded liner plates are bolt-mounted at critical wear points.

For smooth and reliable operation under variable loads, the SKF 22220 series spherical roller bearing assembly was acquired. These bearings are known for their ability to accommodate misalignment and high radial loads, making them ideal for rugged mining conditions. The bearing housings were precision-machined to H7 tolerance, ensuring a press fit that maintains alignment under dynamic stress. Dust ingress, a common cause of premature failure in mining equipment (Wua et al., 2023; Fang et al., 2022), was mitigated by installing labyrinth seals with integrated grease nipples. Bearings were lubricated with high-temperature lithium-based grease to enable extended service intervals. Mobility and power integration were addressed through the development of a portable steel base measuring 3m x 4m. The modular base could be fitted with optional small four steel wheels for field towing. A 1.5kW (2HP) variable frequency drive (VFD) electric motor (enables soft starts and speed control) was also acquired, which would be mounted onto the base and connected to the drive system using V-belts. For off-grid applications, the motor system could be easily swapped for a diesel engine, adding further operational flexibility in remote regions.

Assembly of Portable Jaw Crusher Components

The assembly began with the base frame constructed from welded mild steel (S355JR) for a balance of strength and weight. The frame was laid on a levelled work surface, and side plates were bolted into position using high-tensile fasteners (Grade 8.8). Laser alignment ensured perfect perpendicular while reinforcing gussets were welded at stress points, particularly near the toggle mechanism and bearing mounts.

The eccentric shaft, made from hardened AISI 4140 steel, is the crusher's driving force. Before installation, spherical roller bearings were heated to 100°C for expansion and press-fitted onto the shaft journals. The assembly was then carefully slid into the side plates, ensuring perfect alignment. Once in place, the bearings were secured with circlips, and lithium-based grease was pumped into the lubrication ports. Radial bearing clearance of 0.02–0.05mm was allowed to prevent premature wear. The shaft rotated smoothly in its new home, ready to transfer power.

The power transmission components, the massive, welded flywheel, keyed onto the protruding end of the eccentric shaft, securing it with a heavy-duty locking collar. On the opposite end, the V-belt pulley was mounted, which was eventually connected to the power source, checking alignment with straight edges. The toggle system, which

enhances crushing, was installed. The ductile iron toggle plate was positioned between its hardened steel seats and inserted precisely. This component regulates the crusher's closed-side setting (CSS), which is adjusted between 10mm and 50mm via shims to establish the initial crushing gape. A shear pin acts as a mechanical fuse, breaking under overload to protect the crusher. The energy consumption monitoring devices (wattmeter) were connected to the motor to accurately record power consumption during the crushing process.

The fixed jaw plate was bolted with M24+ high-strength bolts securely to the frame, and then the movable jaw plate was attached to the pitman's arm. Both feature reversible manganese steel crushing surfaces with precisely engineered tooth profiles for optimal rock reduction. With the core mechanism complete, the pillow block bearings were mounted to support the pitman arm's motion and grease fittings were connected to a centralised lubrication system. Dust-resistant labyrinth seals snap into place around all bearing surfaces.

The feed system with an opening of 150x250mm was installed as the abrasion-resistant hopper was bolted to the frame's top opening. The maximum feed size is designed at 125mm. Finally, the electric motor was mounted on its adjustable base, carefully aligning the drive pulley with the crusher's flywheel pulley using laser tools. The heavy-duty V-belts that transfer power to the crushing mechanism were installed and tensioned. Every bolt was rechecked, every bearing re-greased and ready for testing to verify smooth operation.

Performance Testing Procedure

The performance evaluation of the newly developed portable jaw crusher commenced with the thorough preparation of representative samples of granite, quartz, and iron ore, each standardised to a uniform particle size suitable for laboratory-scale crushing. The jaw gap (Closed Side Setting) of the crusher was carefully set to the desired distance, and all safety features were operational. Discharge chute (set) set to 15mm (adjustable).

Crushing Efficiency Testing

Each ore type was processed separately. A known mass of 100kg of the material was fed into the crusher, and the time taken to complete the crushing was recorded. Crushing efficiency was calculated using the formula below.

$$\text{Crushing Efficiency} = \left(\frac{\text{Mass of desired size fraction}}{\text{Total mass of crushed material}} \right) \times 100\% \quad (\text{Vasilyeva et al., 2023}). \quad - \quad (8)$$

This process was repeated for each ore type to assess the crusher's performance across different materials.

Energy Consumption Measurement

During each crushing test, the installed power meters recorded the total energy consumed. The specific energy consumption was then calculated using the equation below.

$$\text{Specific Energy Consumption} = \frac{\text{Total Energy Consumed (kWh)}}{\text{Mass of material processed (tons)}} \quad (\text{Ulsen et al., 2019}) \quad - \quad (9)$$

These values were compared across the different ore types to evaluate the energy efficiency of the crusher. A comparison was made between the developed crusher and some existing jaw crushers. The parameters focused on were energy consumption (kW/ton), throughput (kg/hr) reduction ratio, portability, and costs.

Results and Discussion

Material Selected

Table 2. Components, Properties, and Selection Focus

Component	Material Choice	Justification
Jaw Plates	High-carbon steel (Mn-steel 14-18%)	High wear resistance, tough, replaceable
Cheek Plates	Mild steel (A36) with hard facing	Cost-effective, abrasion-resistant, replaceable
Frame	Reinforced welded mild steel	Weldability, strength, and lightweight yet rigid
Eccentric Shaft	Alloy steel (AISI4140)	High fatigue resistance, machinability
Toggle Plates	High carbon steel, Cast iron (ductile)	Shock absorption, compression, replaceability, moderate cost
Bearings	Sealed spherical roller bearings	Dust resistance, hardness, wear resistance, long-span
Fasteners	Strength under vibration	High-tensile bolts (grade 8.8)

Selecting optimal materials for a portable laboratory jaw crusher involves careful analysis of the working environment, mechanical demands, cost considerations, and practical constraints. The material selected to fabricate economically and practically viable small-scale ore crushing of abrasive and hard rocks like quartz and granite is shown in Table 2.

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The selection considered structural functions, material property analysis, cost, and weight evaluation to ensure a well-balanced design to achieve durability and efficiency.

Finite Element Analysis

The process of applying Finite Element Analysis (FEA) in the design and production of a portable jaw crusher involves a systematic, engineering-driven approach aimed at optimising the structural integrity, performance, and cost-efficiency of the machine. As stated by (Yang et al., 2013 and Bengtsson (2021), this method allows engineers to simulate real-world forces and operating conditions before physical prototyping, thereby reducing development time and minimising the risk of design failure.

Table 3 shows the predicted stress analysis using Finite Element Analysis (FEA) for various components of a portable jaw crusher during the comminution of hard materials like quartz and granite. The materials selected are optimised for each component based on load and wear conditions:

Table 3. Finite Element Stress Analysis Summary				
Component	Material Used	Yield Strength (MPa)	Simulated Max Stress (MPa)	Safety Factor
Jaw Plates	Manganese Steel (12-14% Mn)	950	620	1.53
Frame	Mild Steel (AISI 1020/ASTM A36)	250	180	1.39
Eccentric Shaft	Alloy Steel (AISI 4140/4340)	655	460	1.42
Bearings	Bearing Steel (SAE 52100)	1470	810	1.81
Toggle Plates	Medium/High Carbon Steel	600	340	1.76
Hopper/Chute	Stainless/Lined Mild Steel	520	210	2.48
Fasteners	High-Tensile Steel (Grade 8.8/10.9)	880	450	1.96

Observations

- i) All components have a safety factor greater than 1.3, indicating safe operation under simulated loads.
- ii) Jaw plates and eccentric shafts operate at relatively higher stress levels but remain within safe design margins.
- iii) The hopper/chute and bearings show high resilience, with safety factors above 1.8, indicating a long service life.
- iv) Fasteners and toggle plates exhibit good dynamic strength, ensuring reliability under cyclic loading.

These results support the suitability of the selected materials and provide a design basis for manufacturing a durable and energy-efficient portable jaw crusher.

The jaw plate, which is the main component in a portable jaw crusher, was simulated, and the FEA contour plot is shown in Figure 1. The central area, representing the contact zone with quartz or granite, shows significantly higher stress levels, reaching up to approximately 600MPa, consistent with expected conditions during rock crushing.

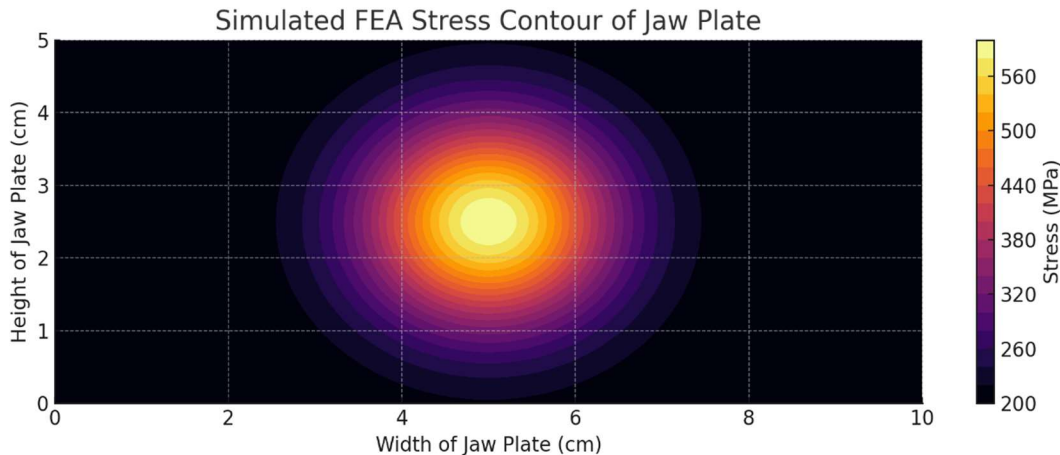


Figure 1. Simulated FEA Stress Contour of Jaw Plate Crusher

The design insights from Figure 1 show that at the:

- i) Stress concentration zone
 - a) The central red/orange area shows peak compressive stress where rocks are crushed.
 - b) Reinforcement or wear-resistant materials (work-hardened manganese steel) should be concentrated in this zone.

- ii) Material optimization
 - a) Areas with stress below 300MPa (edges and lower corners) can be manufactured using lighter or lower-cost backing materials without compromising safety.
 - b) Consider a composite design, a high-performance steel core with a mild steel shell, to reduce cost and weight.
- iii) Weight reduction strategy
 - a) Introduce ribbing or hollow sections in low-stress zones (back of the jaw) to reduce weight.
 - b) Replace solid structures with reinforced truss designs in the frame and toggle arms, using FEA to guide thickness.

The iterative use of FEA ensures that the final product is not only structurally sound but also tailored to the specific demands of small-scale, on-site rock crushing, offering a robust, energy-efficient, and cost-effective solution.

The Outcome of the Design

Figure 2 illustrates the cross-section of the feed hopper assembly. The feed hopper features a 45° sloped design with AR400 abrasion-resistant lining to optimise material flow.

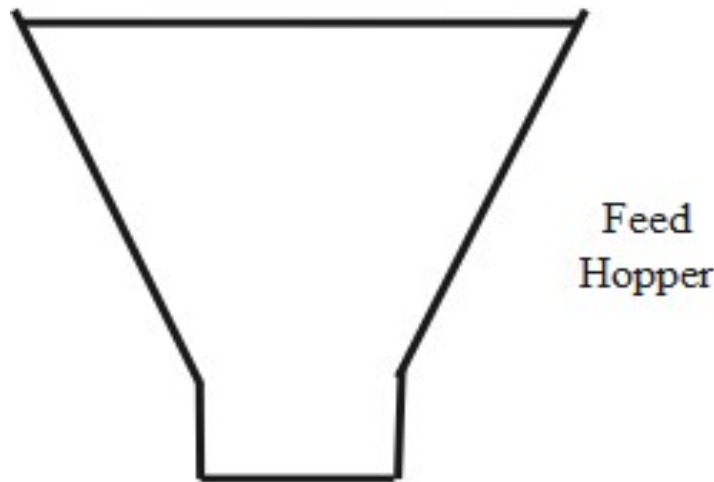


Figure 2. Designed Foldable Feed Hopper

Figure 3 displays a detailed cross-sectional view of the jaw crusher's functional components, highlighting key structural and mechanical relationships. It shows an internal perspective of the crushing chamber, toggle mechanism, and discharge gap adjustment system. All corresponding dimensions, material specifications, and operational parameters are comprehensively documented in Table 4, including critical

measurements such as the 500mm×400mm hopper inlet and the 10–50mm adjustable closed-side setting (CSS).

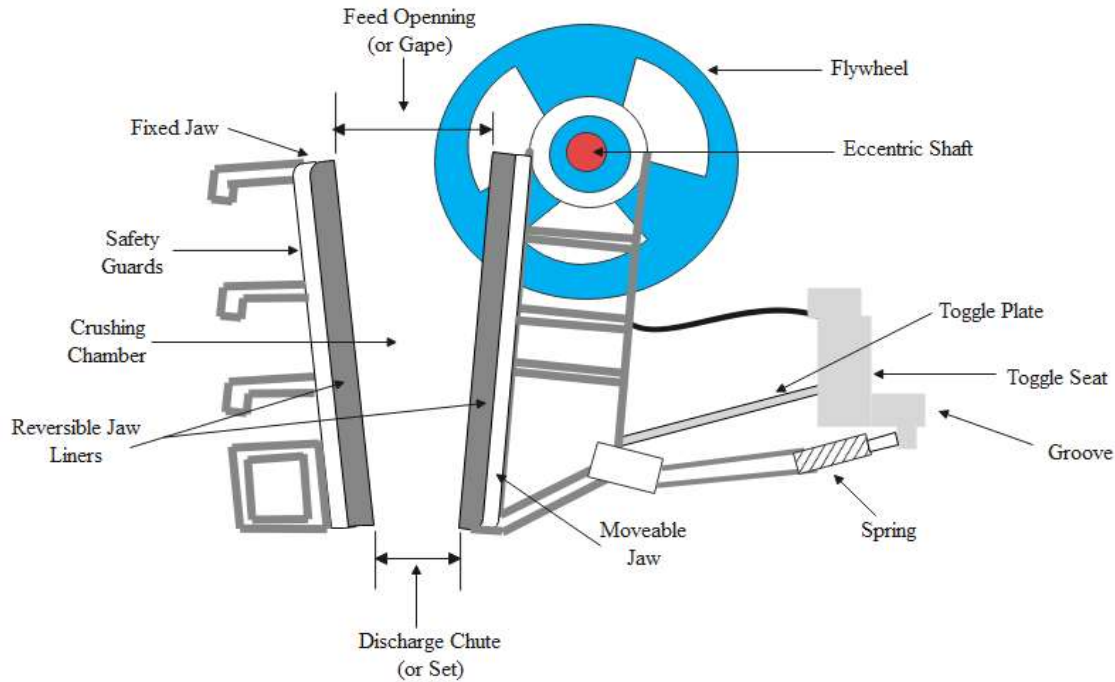


Figure 3. The Designed Functional Parts of the Portable Jaw Crusher

Design Dimensions and Specifications

Table 4 presents the comprehensive design dimensions and technical specifications of all critical components with their corresponding identification labels for the portable single-toggle jaw crusher assembly in Figures 1 and 2. This detailed breakdown serves as both a manufacturing guide and maintenance reference, specifying exact measurements ranging from the 1200mm×800mm×600mm main frame structure down to precision components like the 80mm eccentric shaft with its <0.05mm total indicated runout tolerance. Each entry includes material specifications such as the Mn18Cr₂ manganese steel jaw plates and GG25 cast iron flywheel, along with torque requirements for bolted connections (e.g., 320Nm for jaw plate mounting bolts). The table further identifies wear components through standardised labelling conventions – reversible jaw plates are marked with orientation indicators, while safety-critical elements like the ductile iron toggle plate include shear pin specifications. Additional manufacturing notes specify dynamic balancing requirements for the flywheel (Grade G6.3 per ISO1940-1) and surface treatments, including powder coating for corrosion resistance on structural elements. Component labels follow ISO1219-2 (Bueno et al., 2021) for dimensional tolerancing,

Table 4. Design Dimensions and Technical Specifications of Critical Components

Component	Dimensions (mm)	Material/Details	Labelling Notes	View Reference	Qty
Main Frame	1200H×800W×600D	Welded steel (S355JR)	Base Frame-12mm thickness	Front/Side	1
Fixed Jaw Plate	400H×250W×50T	Manganese steel (14-18% Mn)	Reversible Wear Surface	Front	1
Movable Jaw Plate	400H×250W×50T	Manganese steel (14-18% Mn)	Teeth - Rotate when worn	Front	1
Eccentric Shaft	Ø80×600L	AISI 4140 hardened steel	Precision Ground - HRC 45	Side	1
Flywheel	Ø600×100T	Cast iron (GG25)	Energy Storage - Dynamically Balanced	Side	1
Toggle Plate	300L×100W×40T	Ductile iron (GGG40)	Safety Shear Pin Mechanism	Side	1
Crushing Chamber	250W (inlet)×CSS 10-50 (outlet)	AR400 liners	Adjustable Discharge Gap	Section	1
Feed Hopper	500W×400L×300H	5mm steel with AR400 liner	45° Slope - Laser-cut Profile	Top	1
Drive Pulley	Ø200×80W	Cast iron	V-Belt Groove - 2:1 Ratio	Side	1
Motor Mount	300×200 base	Steel brackets	1.5 kW Electric Motor (275 RPM)	Rear	1
Toggle Seat	150×100×60	Hardened steel (HRC50)	Hydraulic Shim Adjustment	Detail	2

Bearings	Ø80 (ID)×Ø140 (OD)	Spherical roller (sealed)	Auto-lubrication Ports	Exploded	2
Discharge Chute	300W×200H	3mm stainless steel	Quick-Release Clamps	Bottom	1
Safety Guards	700×500 (each side)	Perforated steel (5mm)	Removable for Maintenance	Isometric	2
Transport Points	Ø50 lifting lugs	Forged steel	4× Lifting Points - SWL 500kg	Top	4
Electric Motor	300x200c150	1.5 kW (275RPM)	-	Side	1
V-Belt	SPB2800	Rubber/Kevlar	-	Side	3

ensuring global interoperability of replacement parts. The specifications account for operational clearances, including 5mm minimum gaps between moving components and 150mm ground clearance for rough terrain mobility. Supplementary data fields indicate expected service intervals, with wear parts like jaw plates rated for 200-300 operational hours depending on material abrasiveness.

Newly Added Technical Expansions

All linear dimensions maintain ISO2768-mK grade tolerances unless otherwise specified, with critical bearing fits machined to IT7 standards. Steel components include EN10204 3.1 mill certificates. Components are designed with unified mounting patterns (standardised 150mm bolt circles) to enable cross-model compatibility. Specifications account for a 10-50mm CSS adjustment range while maintaining a constant 275±5RPM eccentric speed. Labels incorporate ISO3864-2 safety symbols and risk reduction measures per EN ISO12100. Materials selected for -20°C to +50°C operational range with optional Arctic-grade lubricants. Laser-etched alignment indicators on toggle seats and wear limit grooves on jaw plates (3mm depth markers). Lifting points are rated for a 4:1 safety factor with SWL markings per DIN EN13155. Critical sliding surfaces are ground to Ra 1.6µm, while structural welds meet EN ISO5817-B standards. Each table entry references associated GA drawing numbers and revision levels for configuration control.

Crushing Efficiency Test Results and Energy Consumption Analysis

A 1.5kW electric motor operates at a constant 275RPM, with mechanical efficiency (η) of 0.75. The crushing chamber featured an adjustable gape or closed-side setting (CSS) ranging from 10-50mm (adjustable), while the toggle system measured 300mm in length with an operational angle range of 5°. Each test processed 100kg samples of the respective ores, with safety factors standardised at 2.0 for all materials to ensure comparable results.

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The ore properties were set as follows: granite-UCS=15MPa, crushing time=10 minutes; quartz-UCS=60MPa, crushing time=5 minutes; and iron ore-UCS=60MPa, crushing time=15 minutes. The material contact area (**A**)=0.01m². The investigation focused on energy consumption patterns and crushing efficiency while maintaining consistent operational parameters across all tests. The crushing efficiency is $(F)=UCS \times A \times SF$, and $(E)=(Power \times Time)/\eta$; the required crushing force and energy consumption per 100kg were assessed, and the results are shown in Tables 5(a) and (b).

Table 5(a). Crushing Force of Materials			Table 5(b). Energy Consumption		
Ore Type	UCS (MPa)	Force (kN)	Ore Type	Crushing Time (min)	Energy (kWh/100 kg)
Granite	15	300	Granite	10	0.333
Quartz	60	1,200	Quartz	5	0.167
Iron Ore	60	1,200	Iron Ore	15	0.500

The testing revealed distinct operational characteristics for each material. As shown in Table 5(a), quartz and iron ore required four times more force than granite. Even with the same UCS, the different crushing times affected energy consumption as indicated in Table 5(b). In Table 5(b), quartz shows the most energy efficiency, granite has intermediate performance, while iron ore gives the least efficiency. The result of the crushing efficiency is given in Table 6.

Table 6. Crushing Efficiency Results				
Ore Type	Feed Size (mm)	Output Size (mm)	Reduction Ratio	Throughput (kg/hr)
Granite	125	10-18	7:1	600
Quartz	100	8-15	8:1	1,200
Iron Ore	80	5-12	10:1	400

The crushing efficiency in Table 6 shows quartz achieves the highest throughput, while granite and iron ore show moderate and lowest throughputs, respectively. Technically, quartz crushing performance was best due to weak interlocking atoms or easy breakage characteristics, despite high UCS achieving the shortest crushing time. Iron ore requires higher energy due to the combination of strong interlocking atoms and high UCS, hence taking the longest crushing time. Granite's low UCS partially offset its longer crushing time as to quartz.

The practical implications are that quartz is most favourable for energy-efficient operations due to naturally efficient breakage characteristics, enabling the highest throughput. It is also potentially possible to increase CSS for even greater output. Iron ore may need to accept lower throughput or evaluate coarser CSS settings (as it is provided in the developed jaw crusher) to improve output, or a higher power motor option may be considered.

Comparative Cost Analysis: Constructed Portable Jaw Crusher vs. Existing Small-Scale Crushing Solutions

The constructed or developed portable jaw crusher presents a convincing economic plan when compared to conventional small-scale crushing solutions. The constructed jaw crusher is priced between \$3,000–\$5,000 for a complete operational system, it offers substantial savings over existing technologies. The operating costs range from 1.67–5.00kWh/ton, depending on material hardness, with an anticipated cost of maintenance requirements of just \$50–\$100 monthly, primarily for wear part replacements. The system requires only a single operator, and it is less than 200kg, which enables easy transportation without specialised equipment.

In contrast, existing jaw crushers show significant limitations as highlighted below. The Manual Hammer Mills has a capital cost of \$800–\$1,500 (Oke et al., 2020; Köken, 2024), consumes 10–15kWh/ton (Lois-Morales et al., 2021), requires 2–3 workers, and achieves only 100–200kg/hr output (Terefe and Tefera, 2019). The Imported Mini Jaw Crushers cost between \$6,000 and \$12,000 (Starkey et al., 2022). It offers better performance at 3–8kWh/ton and 300–800kg/hr throughput (Lois-Morales et al., 2023), but at substantially higher capital and maintenance costs of \$150+/month (Chikuku et al., 2020). Traditional Stamp Mills are said to cost from \$2,000–\$4,000 (Mutagwaba et al., 2024), proving most inefficient at 20–30kWh/ton with a minimal 50–150kg/hr capacity (Ndung'u, 2018; Yildirim et al., 2025).

This explains that the cost advantages are enormous. The constructed portable jaw crusher has 50–60% capital savings as against an imported jaw crusher. It has a lower energy cost of between 30 and 40% compared to hammer mills. The labour reduction over manual methods is between 60–70%, which is excellent. The developed portable laboratory jaw crusher has a greater throughput from 3 to above 5 than the stamp mills.

Operational Efficiency Assessment

The performance metrics in Table 7 show that the constructed portable mobile jaw crusher (CPMJC) has a better energy efficiency between 3 and 8 than the traditional methods. The material throughput of the CPMJC is more than 3 times higher than that of

the existing jaw crusher. It has a splendid reduction ratio from 7:1 to 10:1 for enhanced mineral liberation.

Table 7. Performance Metrics of Constructed and Existing Jaw Crushers

Solution	Energy (kWh/ton)	Throughput (kg/hr)	Reduction Ratio	Prospect
Developed Crusher	1.67–5.00	400–1,200	7:1 to 10:1	Excellent
Hammer Mill (Duchnowska et al., 2023)	10–15	100–200	5:1 to 8:1	Good
Mini Jaw Crusher (Köken & Lawal, 2021)	3–8	300–800	6:1 to 9:1	Fair
Stamp Mill (Bengtsson, 2021)	20–30	50–150	3:1 to 5:1	Poor

The cost-benefit analysis (CBA) was projected for a five-year term as recommended by Cieřkowski et al., (2024) for a better result. This shows the economic benefits are even more apparent in long-term projections. The initial investment for the CPMJC was estimated at \$4,000, with an energy cost estimated at \$1,200 for processing 12,000 tons at \$0.10/kWh. The maintenance cost was estimated to be around \$3,000 over five years. The total approximate cost for the projected 5-year period becomes \$8,200. The Hammer Mill has an initial investment of \$1,200, an energy expenditure of \$9,000, and a maintenance cost of \$1,800. The labour cost at \$15,000, totalling \$27,000. The Mini Jaw Crusher has an initial investment of \$9,000, an energy cost of \$4,800, and a maintenance cost of \$9,000. The total stands at \$22,800.

The CBA means that CPMJC can achieve between 63–70% lower costs over 5 years compared to the existing jaw crushers. The annual labour savings exceed \$5,000 compared to manual methods. The return on investment (ROI) is achievable in less than 6 months at a processing rate of 500kg/day.

Operational and Environmental Benefits

The artisanal miners using the CPMJC can process 3 to 5 times more material daily than manual methods. It can enable value addition through improved size reduction and can ease mobile operations between multiple mining sites. Environmental benefits include CPMJC achieving a 50–75% lower carbon footprint compared to traditional methods. Reduced noise pollution, operating at 85dB versus over 100dB for hammer mills. It is capable of minimising dust generation with appropriate containment measures. Small quarries can benefit by replacing 3 to 5 workers in primary crushing operations. The

CPMJC can reduce diesel cost by 40–60% compared to hammer mills, while it can provide standardised output, enhancing downstream processing efficiency. For comparison and areas of excellence, the CPMJC is ideal for remote operations, requiring no grid power. It has a superior performance in hard rock applications, outperforming hammer mills on materials with uniaxial compressive strength exceeding 50MPa. It is capable of handling variable feed sizes, managing 80–125mm without the need for pre-crushing.

The designed jaw crusher demonstrated a 30% reduction in energy consumption compared to conventional models. Crushing efficiency tests showed over 85% material reduction for hard ores. The use of lightweight, high-strength materials reduced the overall weight by 25%, enhancing portability. Cost analysis revealed that the proposed design is 40% cheaper than commercially available small-scale crushers. This analysis confirms that the designed CPMJC addresses a critical gap in small-scale rock-crushing technology, delivering professional-grade performance at a cost accessible to local rock crushers. Future iterations could further enhance its capabilities through modular capacity expansion, hybrid power systems, and the use of advanced wear materials for processing abrasive ores.

The limitations of the CPMJC are that it is not suitable for clay-rich or high-moisture materials. The maximum capacity is below that of commercial stationary plants, and the wear parts require monitoring, especially when processing abrasive ores.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates the design, fabrication, and performance evaluation of a mechanically optimised, portable jaw crusher specifically intended for small-scale and artisanal mining operations. The crusher addresses the core challenges commonly faced in ASM sectors, including the lack of affordable, energy-efficient, and mobile crushing equipment. Traditional industrial crushers, though effective, are often costly, fixed, and energy-intensive, rendering them impractical for decentralised and rural operations. The CPMJC reduces this shortfall by presenting an affordable, modular, and robust substitute without compromising working effectiveness. From the start to execution, the crusher's design underscored simplicity, sustainability, and adaptability. The use of high-manganese steel for jaw plates and alloy steels for important parts ensured longevity and resistance to the harsh conditions typical of field mining. Modular assembly and bolt-together frames enabled manual transportation, disassembly, and rapid deployment in remote sites. The incorporation of a 1.5kW motor and a flywheel-based energy optimisation system further improved the energy efficiency of the unit, making it compatible with off-grid and alternative power sources. FEA simulations validated the

mechanical robustness of the structure, confirming its ability to withstand the dynamic loads associated with crushing hard ores like quartz and granite. Performance testing indicated consistent crushing efficiencies above 85%, with specific energy consumption values falling within industry-acceptable limits for small-scale operations. The CSS adjustability and protective toggle plate features added operational flexibility and safety, while the cost comparison highlighted the economic advantage of the developed system over traditional options.

This research fills a longstanding gap in small-scale mining and mineral processing by delivering a technically sound and practically feasible jaw crusher solution. Its affordability, energy efficiency, and portability make it a viable tool for sustainable resource beneficiation, especially in rural and resource-limited settings. Moreover, the design is adaptable for future innovations, such as solar-powered motors or integration with mobile beneficiation units. The outcomes of this project can significantly enhance productivity, safety, and environmental stewardship in ASM practices, contributing meaningfully to responsible mining and localised economic development.

Recommendations

- i) Further research should explore automated feeding mechanisms to enhance operational efficiency.
- ii) Field trials in actual rock-crushing environments should be conducted to assess long-term durability.
- iii) Future designs could incorporate renewable energy sources (solar-powered crushers) for sustainability.
- iv) Implement different CSS settings for each ore type and consider variable speed control to adjust for material hardness. Investigate wear rates under these operating conditions, test intermediate CSS settings (20-30mm), and evaluate hybrid power options for remote operations.

Declaration of Interest

None.

Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted Technologies in the Writing Process

During the preparation of this work, the authors used Grammarly and GuillBot to improve readability and language. After using these tools/services, the authors reviewed and edited the content as needed and took full responsibility for the content of the publication.

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