Skin Friction Demonstrator

A = hard rubber
B = acrylic
C = stainless steel
D = polypropylene
E = plywood
F = soft rubber

This tribometer can be used to rank the ‘grip’ provided by different materials and surface finishes.

Q1: Can you give some examples of industries for which skin friction is important?

Q2: Rank the ‘grip’ of the materials (TIP: try to apply the same pressure and surface area for all the tests).

Q3: What happens when you fingers have water/washing up liquid on them?

Q4: What is the effect of roughness on sample C (note that top and bottom parts of the plate have different roughness)?