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Daniel S Silver* (silver@southalabama.edu), Dept Math and Stat, ILB 325, Mobile, AL 36688, **Susan G Williams** (swilliam@southalabama.edu), Dept Math and Stat, ILB 325, Mobile, AL 36688, and **J Scott Carter** (carter@southalabama.edu), Dept Math and Stat, ILB 325, Mobile, AL 36688. *Invariants of Links in Thickened Surfaces*. Preliminary report.

A group invariant G of an oriented link in a thickened closed orientable surface S is defined. The invariant is a finitely presented operator group in the sense of Krull and Noether. Polynomial invariants are defined. Applications to virtual links are described. In particular, lower bounds for virtual genus and obstructions to invertibility are found. (Received August 16, 2012)