

2344

PRIME

Hot work tool steel with good combination of hot strength and acceptable toughness and hot wear resistance.

2344 PRIME;

- is a 5% Cr steel produced by a process that ensures a good level of cleanliness and homogeneity.
- has a good wear resistance associated with an acceptable toughness.
- has a good polishability, is good for texturing. If higher polish ability is required (*eg. for mirror polish*) we recommend to use the HAKE ESR (*remelted steel with the highest cleanliness*).
- can also be welded and exhibits a good machinability.
- can be hardened up to 54 HRC after the heat treatment and the recommended working hardness is 42 - 50 HRC.
- has a very good suitability for surface treatments such as gas, ionic or salt bath nitriding, as well as PVD or CVD coatings.

Applications

2344 PRIME can be used for aluminium extrusion dies, support blocks, bolster, stamp, staples, sealed cores. Secondary areas in die casting dies such as biscuit and runner, shot sleeve in HPDC, any type of press forging applications.

2344 PRIME can also be used for plastic molds fillers with abrasive polymers or fillers (*glass fibers, etc.*) 2344 PRIME is suitable for high wear resistant and hard (*48 HRC*) dies for large production number, for upper and also bottom dies in low pressure die casting, gravity molds, rolls... and all the tools requiring a good hot wear resistance.

Main properties

- Good hot wear resistance
- Good polishability
- Good hot strength and tempering back resistance
- High hardenability
- Suitable for surface treatments

Chemical composition (*typical*)

| C | Mn | Si | P | S | Cr | Mo | V |
|------|------|------|---------|---------|------|------|------|
| 0.39 | 0.37 | 1.00 | < 0.020 | < 0.005 | 5.15 | 1.30 | 1.00 |

Designation

| Werkstoff Nr | ISO | China GB | JIS Japan | UK | AISI USA | Russia Gost | AFNOR | Other / Special |
|--------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------|----------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1.2344 | X40CrMoV5-1 | 4Cr5MoSiV1 | SKD61 | BH13 | H13 | 4KH5MF1S | Z40CDV5-1 | - |



Structure

The structure of the 2344 PRIME is fine and homogeneous without precipitation or alignments of carbides.

Hardness at the time of delivery

Annealed for 230 HB max.

Typical mechanical properties in hardened conditions (*results from internal tests not indicated on the certificates*)

| TS MPa | YS 0.2% MPa | Elongation % | Hardness HRC | KV J 20°C |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1600 | 1400 | 10 | 48 | ≥ 12 |
| 1450 | 1250 | 11 | 44 | ≥ 14 |

Physical properties

| Temperature | 20°C | 200°C | 400°C | 800°C |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Volumic mass kg/m ³ | 7800 | 7770 | 7700 | 7540 |
| Young Modulus N/mm ² | 206000 | 200000 | 186000 | 177000 |
| Thermal conductivity W/m.K | 25 | 26 | 28 | 31 |
| Coefficient of linear expansion 10 ⁻⁶ /K | 10.5 | 11.4 | 11.7 | 12.4 |

Heat treatment

SOFT ANNEALING

Temperature: 820 - 860°C, duration 1h + 1h for 25 mm thickness. slow cooling in the furnace (10 to 20°C/h). The atmosphere in the furnace must be reducing to avoid decarburization of the steel.

STRESS RELIEVING

After machining, it is recommended to perform stress relieving at 600 - 650°C for a minimum of 2 hours, followed by slow cooling in the furnace to 450°C.

AUSTENITIZATION

In order to avoid any risk of cracking it is recommended to preheat in 2 steps.

- **1st preheating step:**
temperature: 650°C time: 30 s/mm of thickness
- **2nd preheating step:**
temperature: 850°C time: 30 s/mm of thickness

Recommended austenitizing temperature: 1020 - 1060°C. The holding time should not be too long to avoid a risk of grain coarsening and a loss of toughness. It is recommended to keep the part at the austenitizing temperature 30 minutes per inch of thickness as soon as the temperature of the surface reach the austenitization temperature.

QUENCHING MEDIUM

Oil at 80°C, vacuum (*pressure* > 6 bars), salt bath 500-550°C.

To ensure good toughness, treatment with oil or salt bath is preferable.

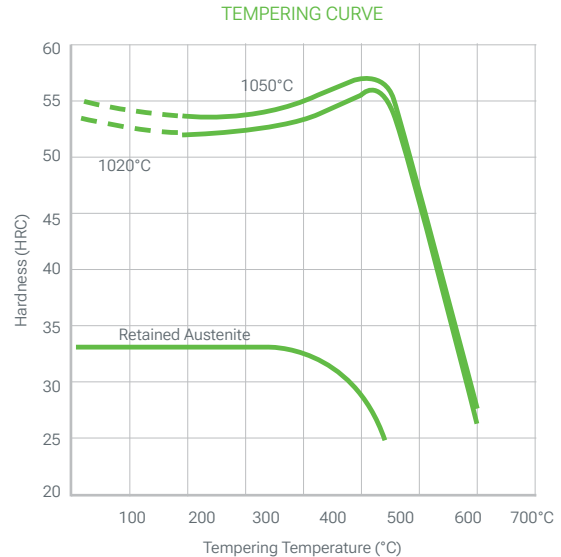
SUB ZERO TREATMENT

For parts used in cold work applications that need to have high dimensional stability and to increase wear resistance without reducing toughness, it is recommended to perform a subzero treatment at a temperature between -70°C and -190°C for 1 hour for 25 mm of thickness of the part.

The temperature range from -70°C up to -120°C (*named cold treatment of steel*) leads to the complete transformation of austenite into martensite and as a consequence to better stability associated with improved hardness and better wear resistance and the temperature range from -135°C down to -190°C (*named cryotreatment*

of steel) leads also to the complete transformation of austenite and also the precipitation of ultrafine carbides improving a lot the wear resistance without modification of the toughness.

This treatment is optional for common applications.



1020 C and 1050 C in oil +2x2h Tempering

TEMPERING

To ensure a minimum residual austenite rate as well as greater tool stability, it is essential to perform a double tempering. Each tempering is followed by a cooling under 100°C.

Each tempering time must be at least equal to 1h + 1h for 25 mm of thickness of the treated part (*equivalent thermal thickness*).

Surface treatment

NITRIDING

2344 PRIME can be nitrided at temperatures less than or equal to 20°C below tempering temperatures without risk of deterioration of the mechanical characteristics.

With gas nitriding at 520°C (25 h) the surface hardness is 1120 HV1 with a diffusion layer of 0.2 mm.

PVD, CVD

2344 PRIME is suitable for all kinds of PVD and CVD treatment as soon as the treatment temperature is 30°C lower than the last tempering temperature.

Texturing

2344 PRIME is suitable for chemical or laser texturing.

Polishing

2344 PRIME is perfectly suitable for polishing in the treated state and can be used for applications requiring a sufficient level of polish for translucent - transparent parts ($R_t \leq 20 \mu\text{m}$, *CNOMO level 2*, *Rugotest N7*). Optimal polishing is achieved by performing consecutive steps with similar roughness and stopping each step as soon as the last scratch from the previous step disappears.

Machining

The machining parameters below are given for information only and must be adapted according to the equipment and usual machining conditions.

TURNING

| | Carbide tool | | HSS tool |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| | Rough machining | Finishing | Finishing |
| Cutting speed m/min | 130 - 170 | 170 - 220 | 17 - 22 |
| Feed mm/r | 0.15 - 0.3 | 0.1 - 0.15 | 0.1 - 0.3 |
| Depth of cut mm | 2 - 3 | 0.5 - 1.5 | 0.5 - 2 |

MILLING: SURFACING

| | Milling with carbide tools | | Solid tool |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Rough machining | ½ Finishing | Finishing |
| Cutting speed m/min | 160 - 180 | 180 - 200 | 210 - 280 |
| Feed mm/r | 0.30 | 0.35 - 0.25 | 0.10 - 0.05 |
| Depth of cut mm | 1 - 2.5 | 1 - 1.5 | 1 - 0.5 |

DRILLING: HSS TWIST DRILL

| Drill diameter mm | Cutting speed m/min | Feed mm/t |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| < 5 | 13 - 15 | 0.05 - 0.15 |
| 5 - 10 | 13 - 15 | 0.15 - 0.20 |
| 10 - 15 | 13 - 15 | 0.20 - 0.25 |
| 15 - 20 | 13 - 15 | 0.25 - 0.30 |

DRILLING: CARBIDE DRILL

| | Carbide type | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Indexable insert | Solid carbide | Carbide tip |
| Cutting speed m/min | 160 - 180 | 100 - 130 | 55 - 80 |
| Feed mm/t | 0.05 - 0.10 | 0.10 - 0.25 | 0.15 - 0.25 |

FINE GRINDING

General indications for grinding wheels to be used on 2344 PRIME in the heat treated condition.

Usually, rather soft vitrified aluminum oxide grinding wheels (*grades G for plane grinding to K for cylindrical grinding*) are used.

Particular attention will be paid to effective cooling of the surface during grinding to prevent degradation of the material surface.

ELECTRO-DISCHARGE MACHINING

2344 PRIME is also suitable for EDM machining (*wire or electrode*). Preferably, the machining will be carried out with a low current density and a high frequency in order to limit the thickness of the white layer as much as possible.

Then it is necessary to carry out a stress relieving at 25°C below the last tempering in order to reduce the level of residual stresses (*which could lead to a risk of cracking*) and to carry out a polishing to completely remove the white layer formed during the discharge machining process.

Welding

It is not recommended to weld 2344 PRIME but if this is mandatory it could be welded either in the annealed condition (*better*) or in the heat treated condition.

- **Method:** TIG
- **Feeder wire:** AISI H13
- **Preheating:** 350°C.

Hold at 200°C during the welding operation with a maximum interpass temperature at 480°C. Slow cooling (*max 20°C/h*) after welding.

- **Post treatment:**
 - » **In the treated state:** tempering at 600°C with a tempering time at least equal to 1h + 1h for 25 mm of thickness of the treated part (*equivalent thermal thickness*).
 - » **In the annealed state:** carry out a soft annealing under the usual conditions: temperature: 840 - 870°C, duration 1h + 1h for 25 mm of thickness. slow cooling in the furnace (*10 to 20°C/h*).



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