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HEAT TREATMENT OF ALLOYS (STEEL)

Heat treatment

The process o heating and cooling of solid steel articles under controlled conditions

Purpose

- To improve magnetic & electrical properties
- ❖ To refine grain structure
- To remove imprisoned trapped gases
- ❖ To remove internal stresses
- ❖ To improve fatigue and corrosion resistance

Type of heat treatment of alloys (steel)

- Annealing
- Hardening
- Tempering
- Normalizing
- Carburizing
- Nitriding

Annealing

- Means Softening
- Heating metal to high temperature
- And slow cooling in a furnace

Purpose

- Increase machinability
- To remove imprisoned gases

Types

- Low temperature annealing (process annealing)
- High temperature annealing (full annealing)

Low temperature annealing



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- Heating steel below the lower critical temperature
- And slow cooling

Purpose

- Improve machinability
- Remove stresses
- Increases ductility
- Increases shock- resistance
- Reduce hardness

High temperature annealing

- ❖ Heating alloy about 30-50°C above the higher critical temperature
- Holding it that temperature for sufficient time for internal changes
- ❖ And cool to room temperature

Purpose

- Increases ductility
- Machinability
- It makes alloy softer and tougher

Hardening

- Heating alloy beyond the critical temperature
- And suddenly cooling it in oil or water

Purposes

- Increases resistance to wear
- Increases abrasion resistance
- For making cutting tools

Tempering

- Heating already hardened steel to temperature lower than own hardening temperature
- Then slow cooling
- ❖ To retain strength and hardness reheating temp should be less than 400°C



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Purpose

- Removes stresses and strains
- Reduces brittleness
- Reduces hardness
- Increases toughness
- Increases ductility
- High temper cutting tools

Normalizing

- Heating alloy above its higher critical temperature &
- ❖ Allowing it to cool gradually in air.

Purpose

- Recovers homogeneity
- Refines grains
- Removes internal stresses
- Increases toughness
- Normalized used in engineering works

Carburizing

- ❖ Alloy articles heated with charcoal in a cast iron box to about 950°C
- Allowed to keep sufficient time in iron box itself
- Carbon gets absorbed
- Allowed to cool slowly
- Outer skin of the alloy article covered with high-carbon

Purpose

To produce hard wearing surface

Nitriding

- ❖ Heating alloy in presence of ammonia to about 550°C
- Dissociation of ammonia produces N₂
- ❖ And N₂ combines with alloy to form hard nitride

Purpose

To get super hard surface