

A2 Tool Steel

	Identification
UNS Number	
• T30102	
AISI Number	

Type A2

	Type Analysis										
Carbon	1.00 %	Manganese	0.80 %								
Silicon	0.30 %	Chromium	5.25 %								
Molybdenum	1.10 %	Vanadium	0.21 %								
Iron	91.35 %										

General Information

Description

A2 tool steel is an air hardening tool steel capable of being hardened throughout, even in heavy sections. This tool steel has been used for applications in which the sections are very large or involve extreme accuracy of size and extreme hazards in hardening. A2 tool steel displays good balance between hardness and toughness. It is available as a DeCarb-Free product. DCF bars have been cold finished in the mill, thereby eliminating the need for bar bark removal.

Applications

A2 tool steel has been used in applications which require extreme accuracy and safety in hardening and when the sections are heavy. Typical applications have included:

Large blanking dies Thread roller dies Long punches Rolls Master hubs Trimming dies Forming dies Precision tools Gauges Coining dies

	Properties									
Physical Properties										
Specific Gravity	7.87									
Density	0.2840	lb/in ³								
Mean CTE										
68 to 212°F	5.94	x 10 ⊸ in/in/°F								
68 to 392°F	6.67	x 10 ⊸ in/in/°F								
68 to 572°F	7.06	x 10 ⊸ in/in/°F								
68 to 752°F	7.33	x 10 ⊸ in/in/°F								
68 to 932°F	7.61	x 10 -₀ in/in/°F								
68 to 1112°F	7.78	x 10 ⊸ in/in/°F								
68 to 1292°F	7.94	x 10 ⊸ in/in/°F								
68 to 1382°F	8.00	x 10 ₅ in/in/°F								

Mean Coefficient of Thermal Expansion-A2 Tool Steel

The following figures are the average coefficients between room temperature and the specified elevated temperature. They represent material in the annealed condition and the dimensions are in in/in/° temperature.

Room Ter	nperature	Average C	Coefficient		
68°F to 212 392 572 752	20°C to	10"/°F	10"%°C		
212	100	5.96	10.7		
392	200	6.64	12.0		
572	300	7.05	12.7		
	400	7.36	13.2		
932	500	7.60	13.7		
1112	600	7.75	14.0		
1292	700	7.92	14.3		
1382	750	7.98	14,4		

Modulus of Elasticity (E)

Isothermal Transformation Diagram—A2 Tool Steel Austenitizing Temperature - 1750° F (954° C)



29.5 x 10 3 ksi

Typical Mechanical Properties



Tensile and Yield Strengths-A2 Tool Steel





Typical Unnotched Izod Impact Strength-A2 Tool Steel

Heat Treatment

Decarburization

Like all high carbon tool steels, A2 tool steel is subject to decarburization during thermal processing and precautions must be taken to control this condition. Modern furnaces are available which provide environments designed to minimize decarburization.

Normalizing

Normalizing A2 tool steel is not recommended and is not necessary after furnace cooling as described above.

Annealing

For annealing, this tool steel should be either packed in a suitable container, using a neutral packing compound, or placed in a controlled atmosphere furnace. Heat uniformly to 1550/1600°F (843/871°C) and cool very slowly in the furnace at a rate of not more than 20°F (11°C) per hour until the furnace is black. The furnace may then be turned off and allowed to cool naturally. This will produce a maximum hardness of Brinell 228.

Hardening

Tools made from A2 tool steel may be hardened by placing them in a furnace maintained at a temperature of 1725/1775°F (940/969°C). Let the tools heat naturally to the furnace temperature, soak for 20 minutes plus 5 minutes per inch of thickness and air quench. Control of decarburization can be accomplished by using any one of the several modern heat-treating furnaces designed for this purpose. If endothermic atmospheres are used, a dew point between +40/50°F (+4/10°C) is suggested. In older type manually operated exothermic atmosphere furnaces, an oxidizing atmosphere is required. Excess oxygen of about 4 to 6% is preferred. If no atmosphere is available, the tool should be pack hardened or wrapped in stainless steel foil to protect its surface.

Deformation (Size Change) in Hardening

Remember that tool steels hold size best when quenched from the proper hardening temperature. If overheated they tend to show shrinkage after tempering. A2 tool steel is particularly sensitive to this problem and therefore should never be hardened from a temperature above 1775°F (968°C). The temperatures used to develop this data are shown within the hyperlink entitled "Size Change." Tool steel can be expected to expand when tempered below 600°F (316°C) but to shrink when tempered between 600 and 975°F (316 and 924°C). The following size change graph within the hyperlink below illustrates typical length changes of A2 tool steel after having been properly hardened and tempered. Note that the length change information is presented in inches per inch of original length.

Size Change in Hardening-A2 Tool Steel

1" (25.4 mm) diameter, air quenched from 1750° F (954° C), tempered 1 hour at temperature.



Stress Relieving

To relieve machining stresses for greater accuracy in hardening, first rough machine, then heat to a temperature of 1200/1250°F (649/677°C) for a minimum of one hour at temperature and cool slowly. After cooling, parts may be finish machined.

Tempering

The best combination of hardness and toughness is obtained by tempering A2 tool steel at 400°F (204°C). For greater ductility with some sacrifice in hardness, temper at 700°F (371°C). The following table within the hyperlink entitled "Effect of Tempering Temperature on Hardness" shows the effect of tempering.

Effect of Tempering Temperature-A2 Tool Steel

Air quenched from 1775° F (969° C) and tempered 1 hour at heat.

Tempering 1	Tempering Temperature					
۰۴	°C	Rockwell C Hardness				
As Ha	rdened	63/64				
300	149	63/64				
350	177	61/63				
400	204	60/62				
450	232	59/61				
500	260	58/60				
600	316	57/59				
700	371	57/59				
800	427	57/59				
900	482	57/59				
1000	538	56/58				
1100	593	50/51				
1200	649	44/45				

A2 Tool Steel

Workability

Forging

A2 tool steel forges very much like a high-speed steel. Heat uniformly and forge from a temperature between 1950 and 2050°F (1066 and 1121°C). Do not continue forging below 1700°F (927°C); reheat as often as necessary. Small, simple forgings can be cooled slowly in lime. The best practice for large forgings is to place them in a furnace heated to about 1550°F (843°C), soak uniformly at this heat, then shut off the heat and cool the job slowly in the furnace. This is not an anneal; after the forging is cold, it must be annealed as described in the "annealing" section that follows.

Machinability

The machinability of A2 tool steel may be rated between 60/65% of Type W-1 tool steel or about 40 to 50 % of B1112.

Following are typical feeds and speeds for A2 tool steel.

	Hig	h-Speed To	pols	Carbide					
Depth of Cut, In.	Grand	Fred	Test	Speed	i, fpm	Fred			
	Speed, fpm	Feed, ipr	Tool Material	Brazed	Throw Away	Feed, ipr	Tool Material		
.150	75	.015	M-2	270	315	.015	C-6		
.025	85	.007	M-3	315	380	.007	C-7		

Turning-Single-Point and Box Tools

Turning—Cut-Off and Form Tools

	1	Feed, ipr									
Speed, fpm		ut-Off Too idth, Inch			Form Width,		Tool Material				
	1/16	1/8	1/4	1/2	1	1-1/2	2				
60	.001	.0015	.002	.0015	.001	.001	.0007	M-2			
205	.003	.0045	.006	.003	.0025	.0025	.0015	C-6			

Drilling

Canad				Feed	d, ipr				Tool		
Speed, fpm	Nominal Hole Diameter, Inches										
	1/16	1/8	1/4	1/2	3/4	1	1.1/2	2			
45	.001	.001	.003	.005	.007	.008	.010	.012	M-1;M-10		

Reaming

High-Speed Tool								Carbide Tool	
		F							
Speed, fpm		Rea	amer Dian	Tool Material	Speed, fpm	Tool Material			
	1/8	1/4	1/2	1	1.1/2	2			
45	.003	.005	.008	.011	.015	.018	M-7	150	C-2

A2 Tool Steel

Tapping

Speed, fpm	Tool Material
25	M-1; M-7; M-10

Die Threading

		To al Matarial		
7 or Less	8 to 15	16 to 24	25 and up, T.P.I.	Tool Material
8-12	12-18	18-25	20-30	M-1;M-2;M-7;M-10

Milling-End Peripheral

Depth of Cut, In. Speed, fpm		High-Speed Tools							Carbide Tools				
	Feed-Inches per tooth						Feed-Inches per tooth						
	Speed,	Gutter Diameter, mones				Tool	Speed,	Gutter Diameter, menea			Tool		
	rpm	1/4	1/2	3/4	1-2	Material	fpm	1/4	1/2	3/4	1.2	Material	
.050	75	.001	.002	.003	.004	M-2;M-7	300	.0015	.0025	.004	.005	C-6	

Broaching

Speed, fpm	Chip Load, Inches per tooth	Tool Material	
15	.003	M-42	

Sawing-Power Hack Saw

Pitch—Teeth per Inch					
	Material Thick	Speed	Feed		
Under 1/4	1/4-3/4	3/4-2	Over 2	Strokes/Minute	Inches/Stroke
10	6	6	4	140	.006
10	6	6	4	70	.003
10	10	6	4	85	.003
10	10	6	4	55	.005
10	8	6	4	75	.003

Figures used for all metal removal operations covered are average. On certain work, the nature of the part may require adjustment of speeds and feeds. Each job has to be developed for best production results with optimum tool life. Speeds or feeds should be increased or decreased in small steps.

Additional Machinability Notes

Figures used for all metal removal operations covered are average. On certain work, the nature of the part may require adjustment of speeds and feeds. Each job has to be developed for best production results with optimum tool life. Speeds or feed should be increased or decreased in small steps.

Other Information

Wear Resistance

The wear characteristics of A2 tool steel shown within the hyperlink entitled "Dry Sand/Rubber Wheel Abrasion Test" were generated using ASTM-G65 Procedure A titled "Standard Practice for Conducting Dry Sand/Rubber Wheel Abrasion Tests". The data are presented as a volume loss as required by the ASTM Standard. Note, therefore, that a lower number indicates better wear resistance.

DrySand/Rubber Wheel Abrasion Test-A2 Tool Steel All specimens air hardened from 1777° F (969° C) and tempered for 1 hour.

Tempering Temperature		Rockwell C	Average Volume	
۰F	°C	Hardness	Loss ASTM	
As H	ardened	64/65	57.7	
400	204	60.5	61.2	
450	232	60	62.6	
1025	552	56.5	75.7	
1100	593	51/52	83.4	
1200	649	45/46	107.7	

Applicable Specifications

• ASTM A681

• QQ-T-570

Forms Manufactured

Bar-Rounds

Technical Articles

· A Three-Point Program for Improving the Performance of Cold Work Tooling

· New Powder Metal Die Steel for Cold Work Tooling Applications

The ABC's of Alloy Selection, Heat Treating and Maintaining Cold Work Tooling

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