

The effect of ion nitriding temperature on the high-temperature wear resistance of austenitic die-casting mold steel SDHA

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Austenitic mold steels exhibit significant potential in the die-casting industry due to their excellent high-temperature mechanical properties. However, their susceptibility to wear, scratching, and relatively low hardness impairs their wear resistance, thus limiting the application of austenitic steels in die-casting. In this study, austenitic hot-work mold steel (SDHA) with varying surface hardness was produced via ion nitriding at different temperatures. High-frequency ball-on-flat dry sliding reciprocating high-temperature wear tests were performed. The results indicated that nitriding at 560°C produced the highest surface hardness (1331.6 HV0.2), the greatest average nitride layer thickness (20.7 μm), and the lowest wear rate ($11.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2/\text{N}$ at 600°C). The average coefficient of friction (Cof) increased slightly, which was attributed to the increased surface roughness caused by plastic deformation from ion sputtering etching pores and the formation of γN . As the wear temperature increased (from 200°C to 600°C), a glazed layer, primarily composed of sintered oxides and oxidized debris, formed on the contact surface, effectively reducing the contact area and lowering the Cof by 36.76% compared to low-temperature friction.

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