

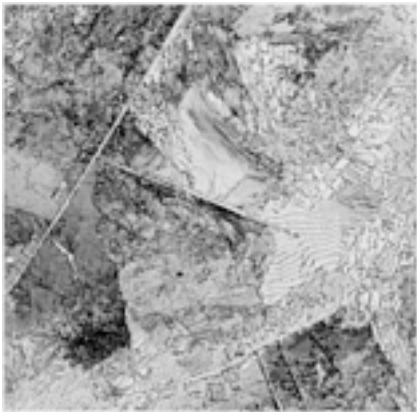
## Tool Steels: Metallographic Techniques and Microstructures

George F. Vander Voort, Supervisor, Applied Physics Research & Development, Carpenter Technology Corporation

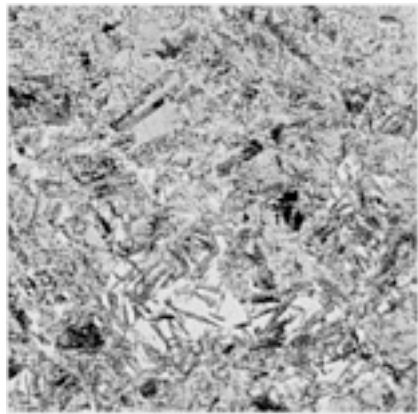
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[<Previous section in this article](#)

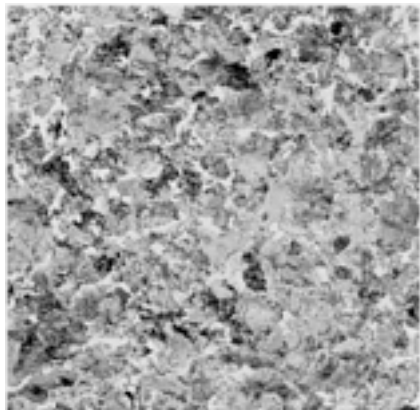
### Atlas of Microstructures for Tool Steels



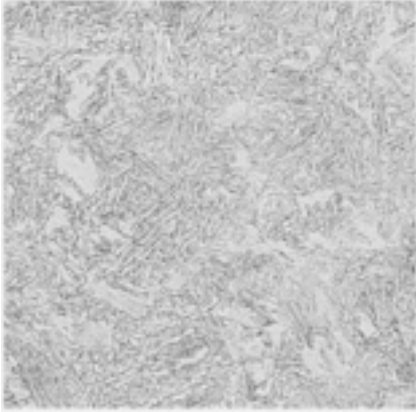
**Fig. 1** AISI W1 (1.3% C), as-rolled, containing pearlite and acicular cementite. 4% picral. 500×



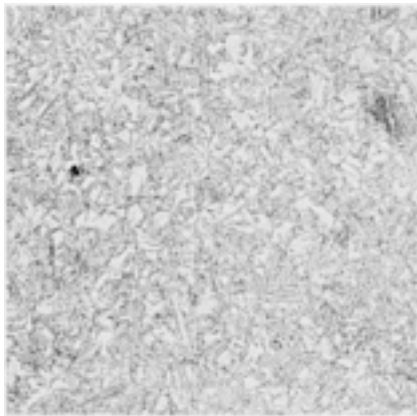
**Fig. 2** AISI L6, as-rolled, containing bainite and martensite (white). 2% nital. 500×



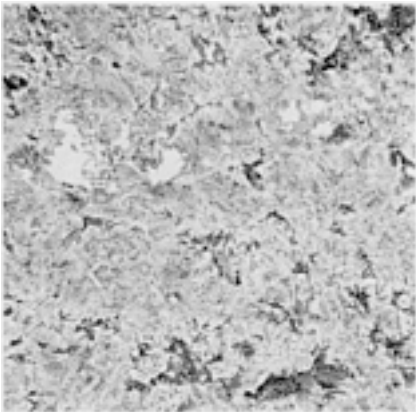
**Fig. 3** AISI S4, as-rolled, containing ferrite (white) and pearlite. 4% picral. 500×



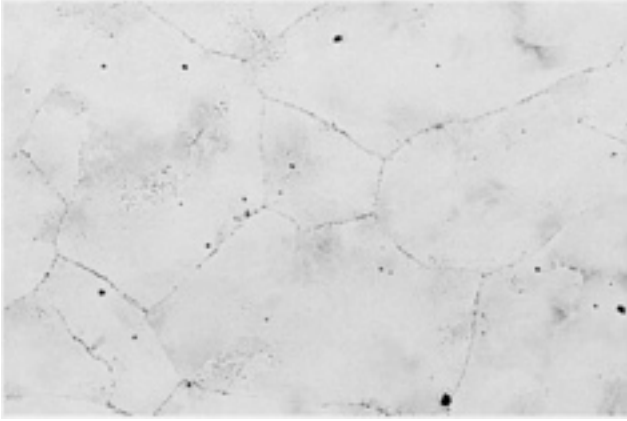
**Fig. 4** AISI S4, as-rolled, containing bainite and martensite (featureless patches). This bar was cooled at a faster rate after rolling than the one in [Fig. 3](#). 4% picral. 500×



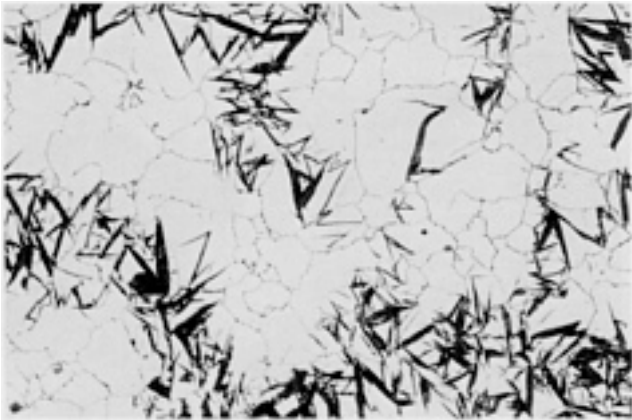
**Fig. 5** AISI S5, as-rolled, containing bainite and martensite (white). 2% nital. 500×



**Fig. 6** AISI O1, as-rolled, containing bainite and martensite (white patches). The dark patches are pearlite. 4% picral. 500×



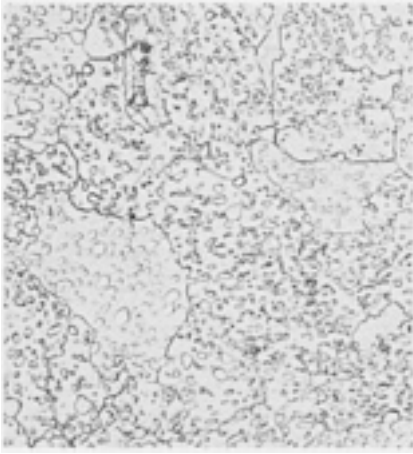
**Fig. 7** AISI L1, as-rolled, containing pearlite and a grain boundary cementite network. Boiling alkaline sodium picrate. 100×



**Fig. 8** AISI A2, as-rolled, containing plate martensite (black) and retained austenite (white). 2% nital. 500×



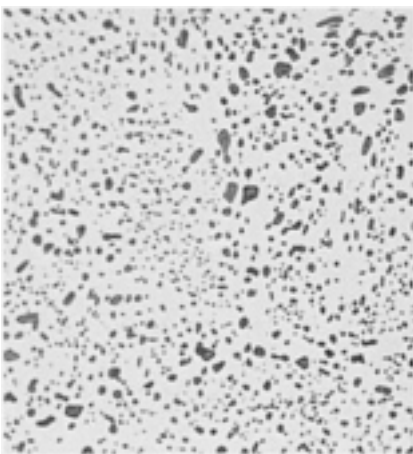
**Fig. 9**

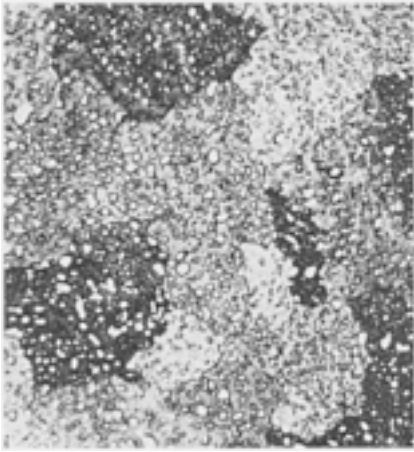
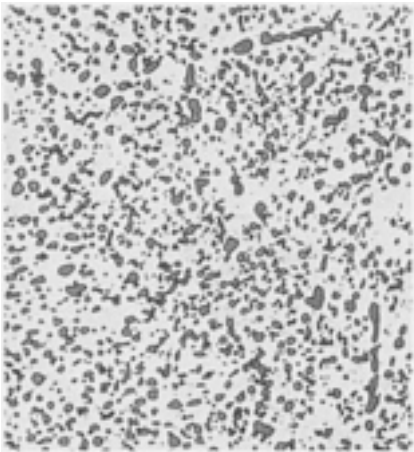
**Fig. 10**

[graphic]

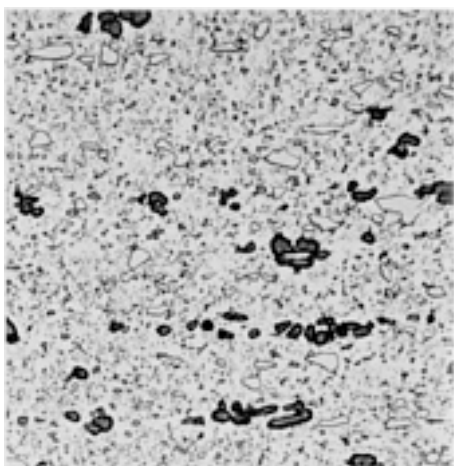
**Fig. 11**

AISI W2 (1.05% C) spheroidize annealed. [Fig. 9](#): etched with 4% picral to outline only cementite (uniform dissolution of the ferrite matrix). [Fig. 10](#): etched with 2% nital, which reveals ferrite grain boundaries and outlines cementite. Note that the ferrite in some grains is not attacked, and the carbides within these grains are barely visible. [Fig. 11](#): etched lightly with 4% picral, then tint-etched with Klemm's I reagent to color the ferrite (blue and red). 1000×

**Fig. 12**

**Fig. 13****Fig. 14**

AISI W2 (1.05% C), spheroidize annealed. [Fig. 12](#): etched with boiling alkaline sodium picrate for 60 s to color the cementite brown. [Fig. 13](#): etched lightly with 4% picral and tint etched with Beraha's  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3/\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5$  reagent to color the ferrite (wide range of colors). [Fig. 14](#): etched lightly with 4% picral and tint etched with Beraha's  $\text{Na}_2\text{MoO}_4$  reagent to color the cementite dark orange. See also [Fig. 9](#), [10](#), and [11](#). 1000 $\times$



**Fig. 15** A7 tool steel, as-received (mill annealed), longitudinal section. Dark particles are chromium carbide; light particles, vanadium carbide; matrix ferrite. 4 g NaOH, 4 g  $\text{KMnO}_4$ , 100 mL  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . 500 $\times$

[graphic]

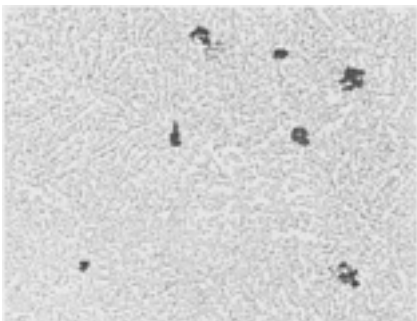
**Fig. 16** W4 water-hardening tool steel (0.98C-0.74Mn-0.14Cr-0.19Ni), as-received (mill annealed). 187 HB. Spheroidal cementite in a matrix of ferrite; a considerable amount of lamellar pearlite is also present. 4% picral. 1000×

[graphic]

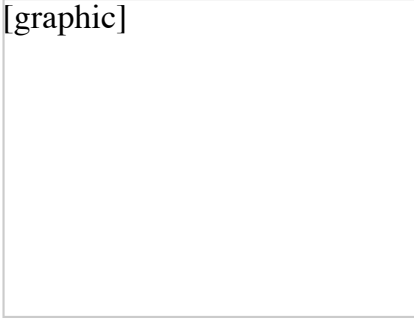
**Fig. 17** W4 water-hardening tool steel (0.96C-0.66Mn-0.23Cr), as-received (full annealed). 170 HB. Structure consists of spheroidal cementite in a ferrite matrix; no lamellar constituent is present. Compare with [Fig. 16](#). 4% picral. 1000×

[graphic]

**Fig. 18** W1 water-hardening tool steel (0.94C-0.21Mn), as-received (mill annealed). 170 HB. Structure: mixture of lamellar pearlite and spheroidal cementite in a matrix of ferrite, with a few large, globular carbide particles. 3% nital. 1000×



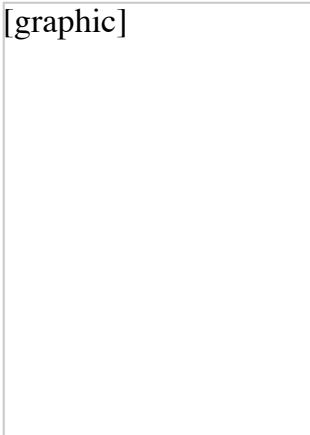
**Fig. 19** AISI O6, spheroidize annealed, transverse section. Note the globular appearance of the graphite (black). 4% picral. 500×



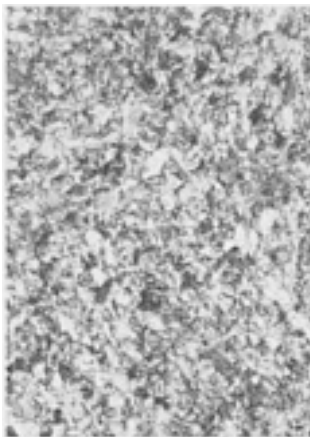
**Fig. 20** AISI O6, spheroidize annealed, longitudinal section. Note that the graphite is elongated in the rolling direction. 4% picral. 500×



**Fig. 21**



**Fig. 22**



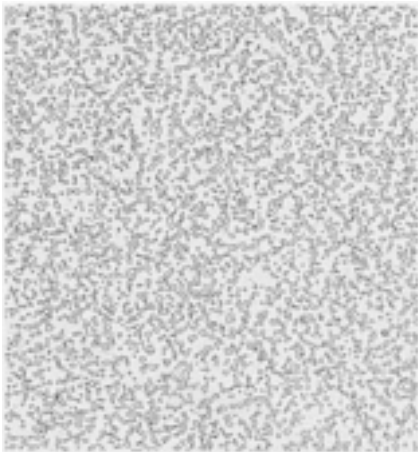
**Fig. 23**



[graphic]

**Fig. 24**

AISI W1 (1.05% C). Influence of starting structure on spheroidization. [Fig. 21](#): as-rolled, contains coarse and fine pearlite. [Fig. 22](#): after spheroidization (heat to 760 °C, or 1400 °F, cool at a rate of 11 °C/h, or 20 °F/h to 595 °C, or 1100 °F, air cool). [Fig. 23](#): austenitized at 870 °C (1600 °F) and oil quenched to produce fine pearlite. [Fig. 24](#): austenitized as in [Fig. 23](#); annealed as in [Fig. 22](#). Note the more uniform spherical carbide shape compared to [Fig. 22](#). 4% picral. 500×



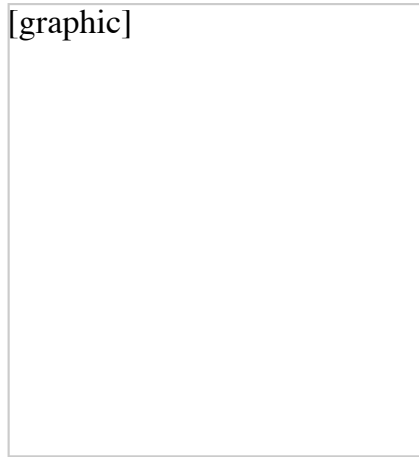
**Fig. 25** AISI L1, spheroidize annealed. Note the very well formed spheroidal carbides. 4% picral. 500×



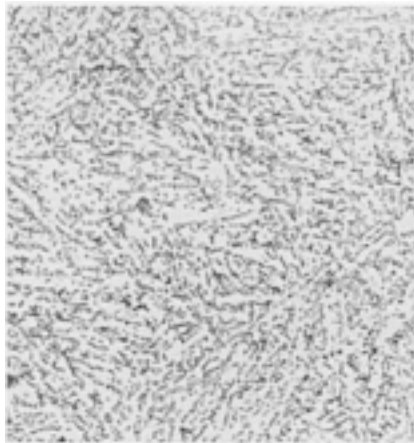
[graphic]

**Fig. 26** AISI S2, spheroidize annealed. 4% picral. 1000×

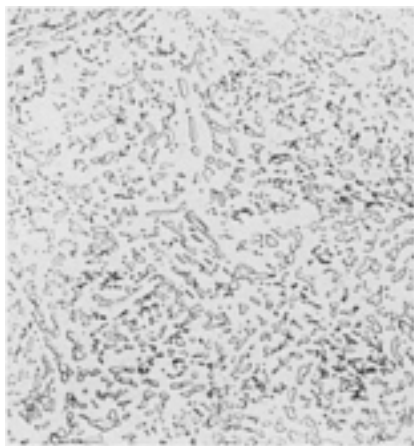




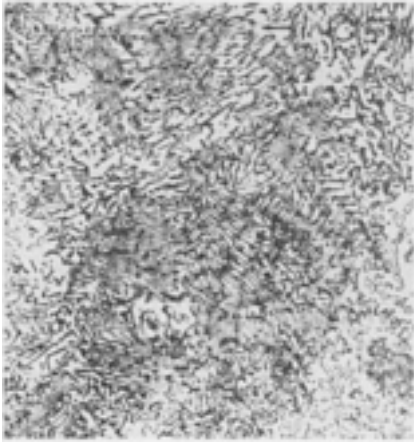
**Fig. 27** AISI S5, spheroidize annealed. 4% picral. 500×



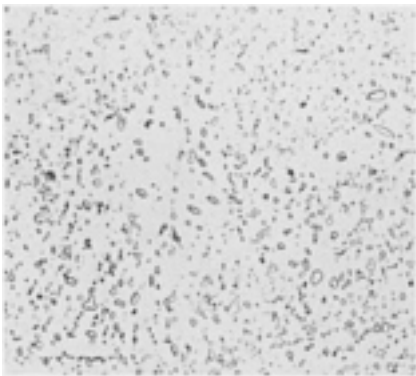
**Fig. 28** AISI S7, spheroidize annealed. 4% picral. 1000×



**Fig. 29** AISI A6, spheroidize annealed. 4% picral. 1000×



**Fig. 30** AISI A6, partially spheroidized. Note lamellar pearlite. 4% picral. 1000×



**Fig. 31** AISI H13 chromium hot-worked tool steel, spheroidize annealed. 4% picral. 1000×



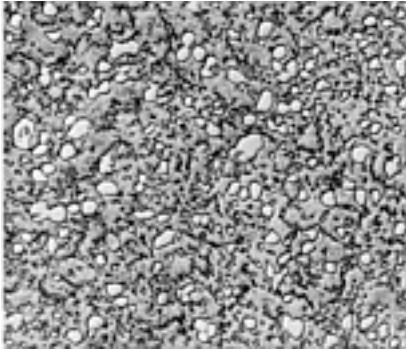
**Fig. 32** AISI M2 molybdenum high-speed tool steel, spheroidize annealed. 4% picral. 1000×

[graphic]

**Fig. 33** A7 tool steel, box annealed at 900 °C (1650 °F) for 1 h per 25 mm (1.0 in.) of container thickness and cooled at no more than 28 °C/h (50 °F/h). Massive alloy carbide and spheroidal carbide in a ferrite matrix. 4% nital. 1000×

[graphic]

**Fig. 34** A10 tool steel as-received (mill annealed). Section transverse to rolling direction. At the magnification used, the structure is poorly resolved. Nital. 100×



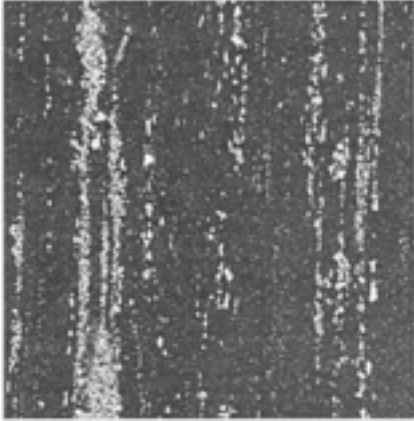
**Fig. 35** H23 tool steel, annealed by austenitizing at 870 °C (1600 °F) for 2 h and cooling at 28 °C/h (50 °F/h) to 540 °C (1000 °F), then air cooling. 98 HRB. Structure consists of tiny spheroidal and some larger alloy carbide particles in a matrix of ferrite. Kalling's reagent. 500×

[graphic]

**Fig. 36** H26 tool steel, annealed by austenitizing at 900 °C (1650 °F), cooling at 8.5 °C/h (15 °F/h) to 650 °C (1200 °F), then air cooling. 22 to 23 HRC. Structure consists of a dispersion of fine particles of alloy carbide in a matrix of ferrite. Picral with HCl, 10 s. 500×

[graphic]

**Fig. 37**

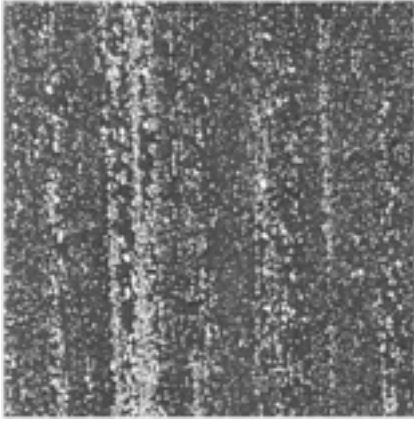
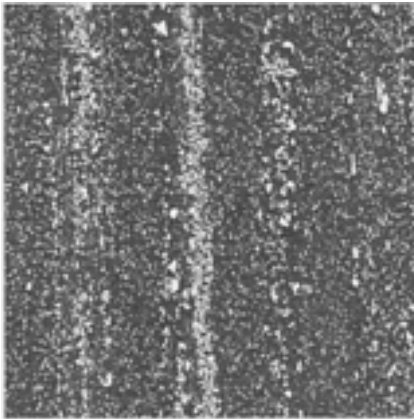


**Fig. 38**



**Fig. 39**

AISI M2, round bars. Carbide segregation at the center of round bars of different diameters. [Fig. 37](#): 27-mm ( $1\frac{1}{16}$ -in.) diam. [Fig. 38](#): 67-mm ( $2\frac{5}{8}$ -in.) diam. [Fig. 39](#): 105-mm ( $4\frac{1}{8}$ -in.) diam. 10% nital. 100×

**Fig. 40****Fig. 41**

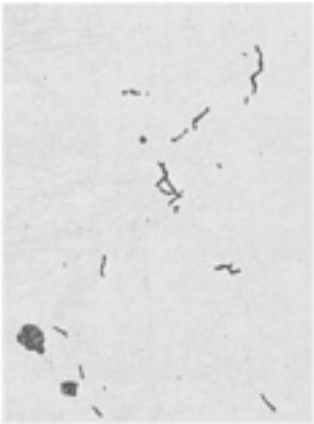
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**Fig. 42**

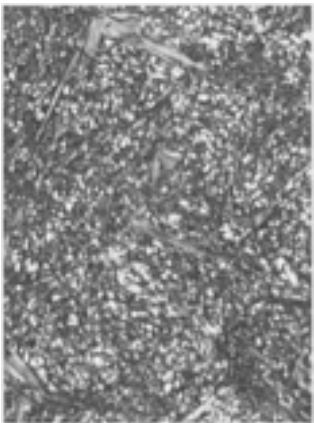
AISI T1, round bars. Carbide segregation at the center of round bars of different diameters. [Fig. 40](#): 35-mm ( $1\frac{3}{8}$ -in.) diam. [Fig. 41](#): 64-mm ( $2\frac{1}{2}$ -in.) diam. [Fig. 42](#): 83-mm ( $3\frac{1}{4}$ -in.) diam. 10% nital. 100×



**Fig. 43**



**Fig. 44**



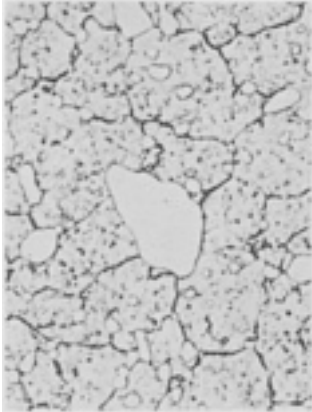
**Fig. 45**

[graphic]

**Fig. 46**

AISI W1 (1% C), overaustenitized at 925 °C (1700 °F) and water quenched, producing martensite,

retained austenite, and small patches of pearlite. Influence of etchant on revealing as-quenched martensite. [Fig. 43](#): 2% nital etch reveals martensite and pearlite (black). [Fig. 44](#): 4% picral etch reveals pearlite, but only faintly reveals martensite. [Fig. 45](#): 5% aqueous sodium metabisulfite etch produces a strong contrast between the martensite and retained austenite (white). [Fig. 46](#): Beraha's  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3/\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5$  reagent produces similar results to [Fig. 45](#), but pearlite is more visible. 500×



**Fig. 47**

[graphic]

**Fig. 48**

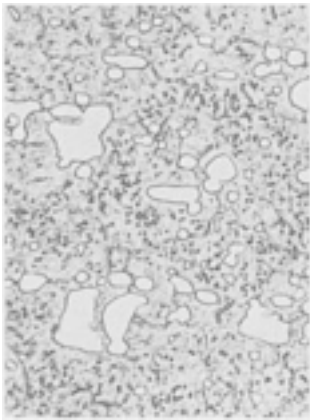
[graphic]

**Fig. 49**

[graphic]

**Fig. 50**

AISI D2, austenitized at 1040 °C (1900 °F), air quenched and tempered at 200 °C (400 °F). Influence of etchant on revealed martensite. [Fig. 47](#): 10% nital etch reveals grain boundaries, carbides, and martensite (light). [Fig. 48](#): 4% picral plus HCl etch reveals carbides and martensite (light). [Fig. 49](#): heat tinted at 540 °C (1000 °F) for 5 min after 10% nital etch to produce greater contrast and reveal the retained austenite. [Fig. 50](#): superpicral etch reveals retained austenite as white, but carbide also appears white. 1000×



**Fig. 51**

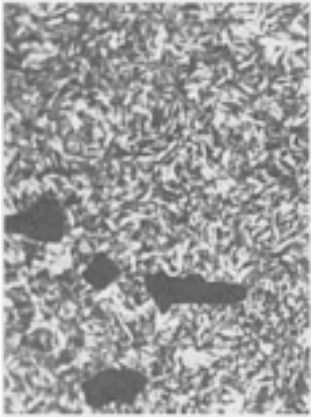
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**Fig. 52**



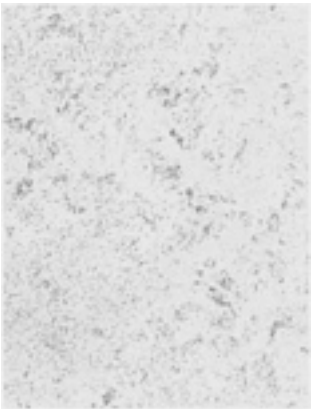
[graphic]

**Fig. 53**

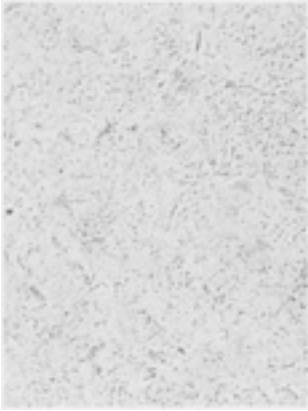


**Fig. 54**

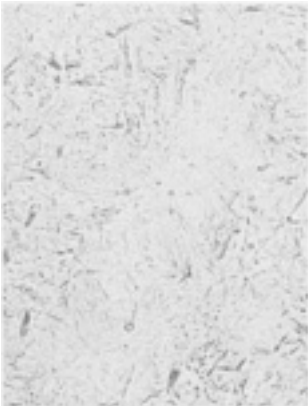
[Fig. 51](#), [52](#): AISI D2, quenched and tempered, [Fig. 53](#), [54](#): AHT tool steel, quenched and tempered. Use of vapor-deposited zinc selenide to accentuate carbide detection and retained austenite. Samples were etched first with 4% picral plus HCl ([Fig. 51](#), [53](#)) to outline the carbides, then coated with a thin layer of zinc selenide ([Fig. 52](#), [54](#)) to reveal the carbides (dark violet), retained austenite (white), and martensite (dark). 1000×



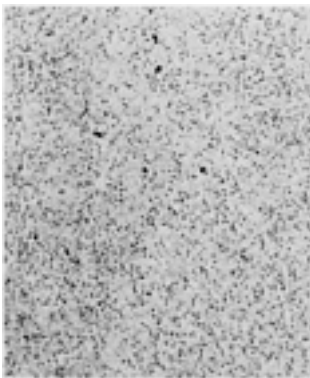
**Fig. 55**

**Fig. 56**

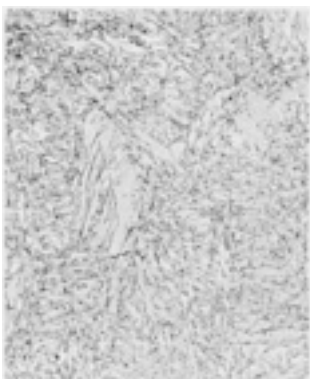
[graphic]

**Fig. 57****Fig. 58**

AISI S7 (0.5% C). Influence of austenitizing temperature. [Fig. 55](#): austenitized at 915 °C (1675 °F) 1 h for every 25 mm (1.0 in.) of thickness and air quenched. Sample is underaustenitized. [Fig. 56](#): austenitized at 925 °C (1700 °F). Slightly underaustenitized. [Fig. 57](#): austenitized at the preferred temperature of 940 °C (1725 °F). [Fig. 58](#): austenitized at 955 °C (1750 °F). Slightly overaustenitized, note coarsening, no visible carbide. 4% picral. 500×

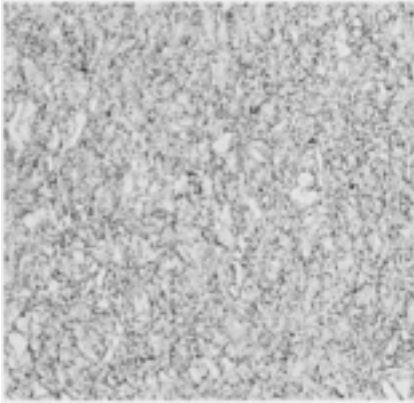
**Fig. 59****Fig. 60**

[graphic]

**Fig. 61****Fig. 62**

AISI O1. Influence of austenitizing temperature on microstructure. [Fig. 59](#): austenitized at 800 °C (1475 °F) 1 h for every 25 mm (1.0 in.) of thickness. 65 HRC, grain size 9.5. Specimen properly austenitized. [Fig. 60](#): austenitized at 870 °C (1600 °F). 65 HRC, grain size 9. Overaustenitized. [Fig. 61](#): austenitized at 980 °C (1800 °F). 64 HRC, grain size 7. Very overaustenitized; all carbide dissolved. [Fig. 62](#): austenitized at 1100 °C (2010 °F). 64 HRC, grain size 3. Severely overaustenitized,

note retained austenite (white). 4% picral. 500×



**Fig. 63**

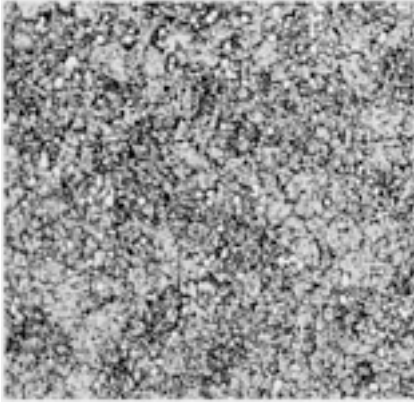
[graphic]

**Fig. 64**

[graphic]

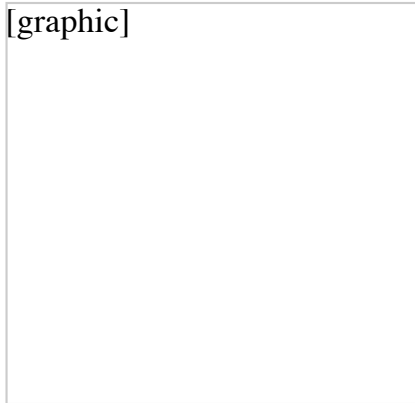
**Fig. 65**

AISI A2. Influence of austenitizing temperature on microstructure. [Fig. 63](#): underaustenitized at 870 °C (1600 °F), air quenched. 48 HRC. 2% nital. 500×. [Fig. 64](#): austenitized at 950 °C (1750 °F) air quenched and tempered at 200 °C (400 °F). 61 HRC. Correctly austenitized. Vilella's reagent. 1000×. [Fig. 65](#): overaustenitized at 1095 °C (2000 °F), air quenched. Most of the carbides have been dissolved, and the grains are quite large. Retained austenite is faintly visible. 2% nital. 500×

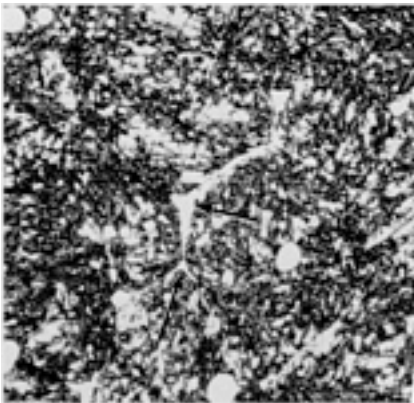


**Fig. 66** AISI M2, normal quenched and tempered condition. 1200 °C (2200 °F) for 5 min in salt, oil quench, double tempered at 595 °C (1100 °F). 64 to 65 HRC. 3% nital. 500×

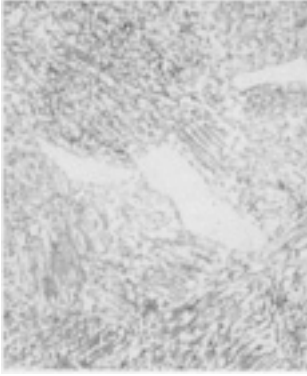
[graphic]



**Fig. 67** AISI M2. Heat treated at 1220 °C (2225 °F) for 5 min in salt, oil quench, 1175 °C (2150 °F) for 5 min in salt, oil quench. 64 HRC. Grain growth due to rehardening without annealing between heat treatments. 10% nital. 400×



**Fig. 68** AISI M2. Heat treated at 1260 °C (2300 °F) for 5 min in salt, oil quench, double tempered at 540 °C (1000 °F). 66 HRC. Overaustenitization and onset of grain boundary melting (arrow). 3% nital/Vilella's reagent. 1000×



**Fig. 69** AISI S5 austenitized and isothermally transformed at 650 °C (1200 °F) for 4 h (air cooled) to form ferrite and coarse pearlite. 23 to 24 HRC. 4% picral. 1000×

[graphic]

**Fig. 70** AISI S5 austenitized, isothermally transformed at 595 °C (1100 °F) for 8 h and air cooled to form ferrite and fine pearlite. 36 HRC. 4% picral. 1000×

[graphic]

**Fig. 71** AISI S5 austenitized, isothermally transformed (partially) at 540 °C (1000 °F) for 8 h, and water quenched to form upper bainite (dark); balance of austenite formed martensite. 4% picral/2% nital. 1000×

[graphic]

**Fig. 72** AISI S5 austenitized, isothermally transformed at 400 °C (750 °F) for 1 h, and air cooled to

form lower bainite. 37 to 38 HRC. 4% picral/2% nital. 1000×.

[graphic]

**Fig. 73**

[graphic]

**Fig. 74**

[graphic]

**Fig. 75**

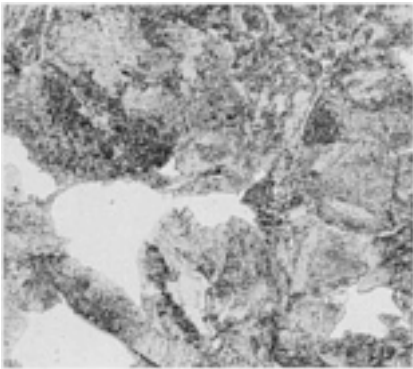
AISI S7. Continuous cooling transformations. Some very fine undissolved carbide is present in all specimens in this series. [Fig. 73](#): austenitized at 940 °C (1725 °F) and cooled at 2780 °C/h (5000 °F/h). 62 HRC. Structure is martensite plus a small amount of bainite. [Fig. 74](#): cooled at 1390 °C/h (2500 °F/h) to produce a greater amount of bainite. 61.5 HRC. [Fig. 75](#): cooled at 830 °C/h (1500 °F/h). 56.5 HRC. Structure is mostly bainite plus some martensite (light). 4% picral. 500×

[graphic]

**Fig. 76**

[graphic]

**Fig. 77**



**Fig. 78**

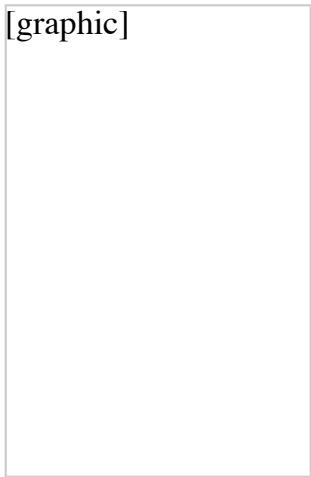
AISI S7. Continuous cooling transformations. Some very fine carbide is present in all specimens in this series. [Fig. 76](#): austenitized at 940 °C (1725 °F) and cooled at 445 °C/h (800 °F/h). 51.5 HRC. Structure is nearly all bainite with some small patches of martensite (white). [Fig. 77](#): cooled at 220 h (400 °F/h). 45 HRC. Structure is mostly bainite with fine pearlite at the prior-austenite grain boundaries. [Fig. 78](#): cooled at 28 °C/h (50 °F/h) to 620 °C (1150 °F), then water quenched. Austenite present at 620 °C (1150 °F) was transformed to martensite. Structure is mostly fine pearlite with patches of martensite (white). See also [Fig. 73](#), [74](#), and [75](#). 4% picral. 500×





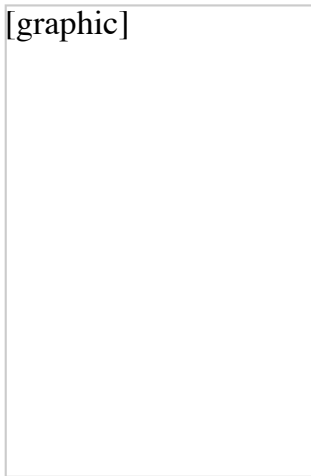
**Fig. 79**

[graphic]



**Fig. 80**

[graphic]

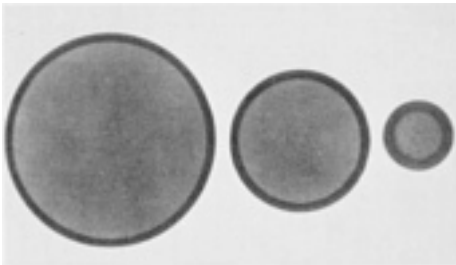


**Fig. 81**

**Fig. 82**

AISI O1. Influence of tempering temperature. All specimens austenitized at 800 °C (1475 °F), oil quenched, and tempered at different temperatures. [Fig. 79](#): 200 °C (400 °F). 60 HRC. [Fig. 80](#): 315 °C (600 °F). 55 HRC. [Fig. 81](#): 425 °C (800 °F). 49 HRC. [Fig. 82](#): 540 °C (1000 °F). 43 HRC. 4% pearlite. 500x

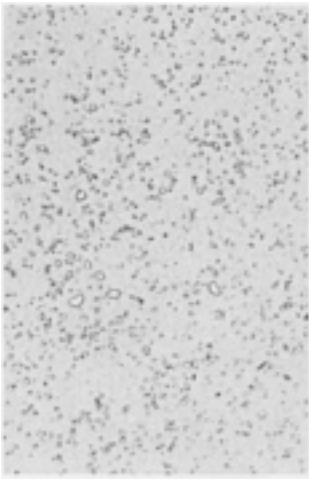
[graphic]

**Fig. 83****Fig. 84**

[graphic]

**Fig. 85**

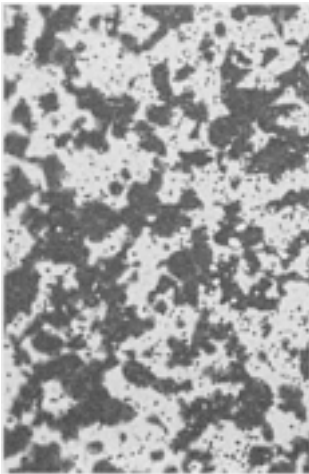
AISI W1. Austenitized at 800 °C (1475 °F), brine quenched, and tempered 2 h at 150 °C (300 °F). Black rings are hardened zones in 75-, 50-, and 25-mm (3-, 2-, and 1 -in.) diam bars. Core hardness decreases with increasing bar diameter. [Fig. 83](#): shallow-hardening grade. Case, 65 HRC; core, 34 to 43 HRC. [Fig. 84](#): medium-hardening grade. Case, 64.5 HRC; core, 36 to 41 HRC. [Fig. 85](#): deep-hardening grade. Case, 65 HRC; core, 36.5 to 45 HRC. Hot 50% HCl. One half actual size.



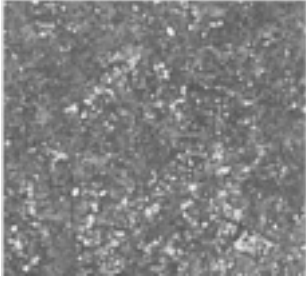
**Fig. 86**

[graphic]

**Fig. 87**



**Fig. 88**

**Fig. 89**

AISI W1 (1.05% C), 19-mm (0.75-in.) diam bars; brine quenched. [Fig. 86](#): hardened case microstructure. 64 HRC. Case contains as-quenched martensite and undissolved carbides. 4% picral. [Fig. 87](#): 2% nital etch reveals martensite as dark rather than light. [Fig. 88](#): transition zone. 55 HRC. Martensite is light, undissolved, carbide is outlined, and pearlite is dark. 4% picral. [Fig. 89](#): core microstructure. 42 to 44 HRC. 4% picral etch reveals fine pearlite matrix (black) containing some patches of martensite (white) and undissolved carbides (outlined white particles). 1000×

[graphic]

**Fig. 90**

[graphic]

**Fig. 91**

[graphic]

**Fig. 92**

AISI F2, heated to 870 °C (1600 °F), water quenched, and tempered at 150 °C (300 °F). [Fig. 90](#): case microstructure. 63 HRC. 2% nital. [Fig. 91](#): transition region. Martensite (light) and pearlite (dark) are present between the surface and center. 4% picral. [Fig. 92](#): core microstructure. 48 HRC. 4% picral etch reveals pearlite, carbides, and some martensite. 1000×



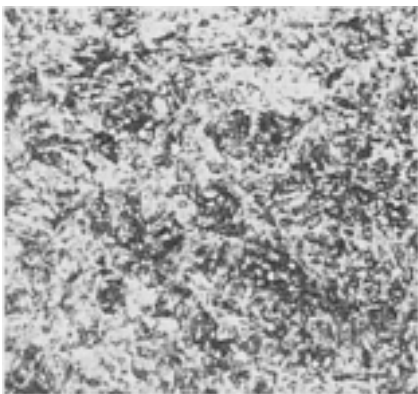
**Fig. 93**

[graphic]

**Fig. 94**

[graphic]**Fig. 95**[graphic]**Fig. 96**

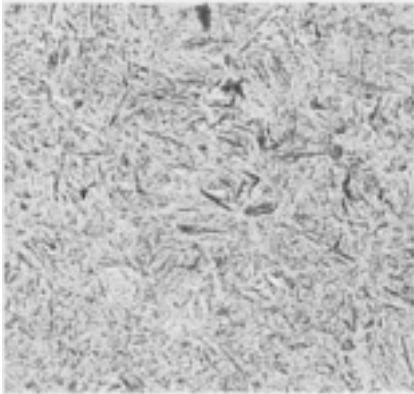
AISI S2, heated to 845 °C (1550 °F), water quenched, and tempered at 150 °C (300 °F). [Fig. 93](#): 59.5 HRC. Structure consists of martensite and some very fine undissolved carbide. 2% nital. 1000×. [Fig. 94](#): surface of part that was decarburized, then carburized and heat treated. Note white ferrite grains below the dark surface layer. 3% nital. 200×. [Fig. 95](#): as in [Fig. 94](#), but at 400×. Ferrite at 260 HK, martensite in surface layer at 665 HK, martensite beneath ferrite increased from 400 to 635 HK going away from ferrite. [Fig. 96](#): core structure. 580 HK. Martensite (dark), some undissolved carbides and ferrite (white) formed during quenching. 3% nital. 1000×



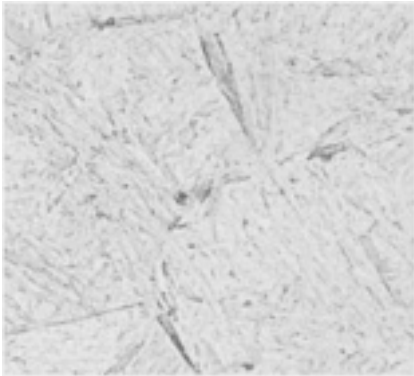
**Fig. 97** AISI L6, heated to 840 °C (1550 °F), oil quenched and tempered at 150 °C (300 °F). 61 HRC. Martensite and undissolved carbides are revealed. 2% nital. 1000×

[graphic]

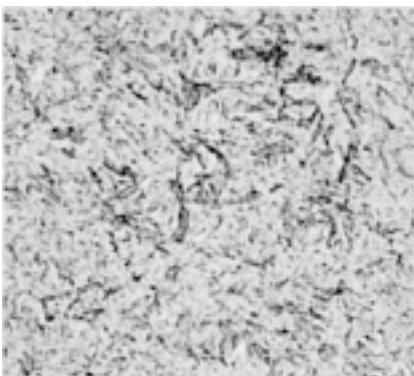
**Fig. 98** AISI O2, heated to 850 °C (1500 °F), oil quenched and tempered at 175 °C (350 °F). 61 HRC. Martensite and a small amount of undissolved carbide are revealed. 2% nital. 1000×



**Fig. 99** AISI S1, heated to 955 °C ( 1750 °F), oil quenched and tempered at 150 °C (300 °F). 58 to 59 HRC. Only martensite is visible. 2% nital. 500×

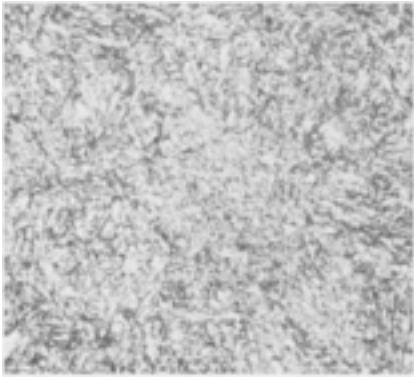


**Fig. 100** AISI S5, heated to 870 °C (1600 °F) and oil quenched. 62 HRC. Only martensite is visible. 4% picral/2% nital. 1000×



**Fig. 101** AISI S5 heated to 870 °C (1600 °F), oil quenched and tempered at 175 °C (350 °F). 60

HRC. Only martensite is visible. 2% nital. 1000×

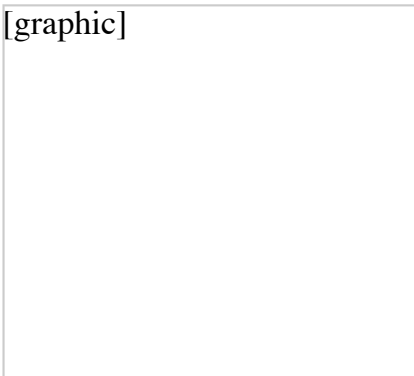


**Fig. 102** AISI S5 heated to 870 °C (1600 °F), oil quenched and tempered at 480 °C (900 °F). 51 to 52 HRC. Only martensite is visible. 2% nital. 1000×

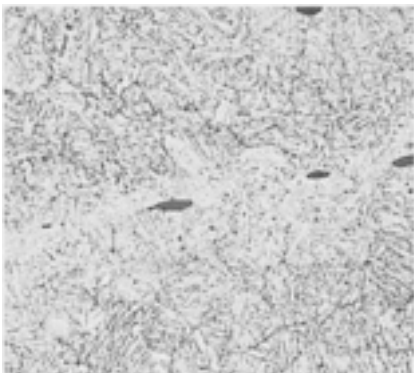


**Fig. 103** AISI S7, heated to 940 °C (1725 °F), air quenched and tempered at 200 °C (400 °F). 58 HRC. Martensite and a small amount of undissolved carbides are observed. Vilella's reagent. 1000×

[graphic]

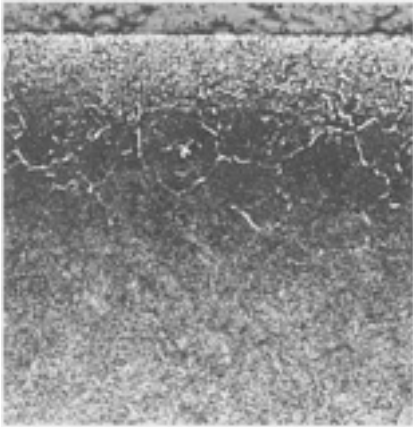


**Fig. 104** AISI S7 heated to 940 °C (1725 °F), air quenched and tempered at 495 °C (925 °F). 52 HRC. Martensite and a small amount of undissolved carbide are observed. Vilella's reagent. 1000×

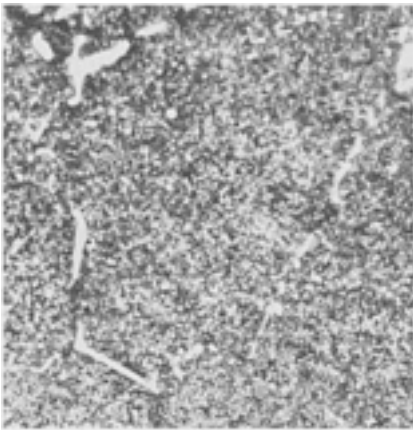




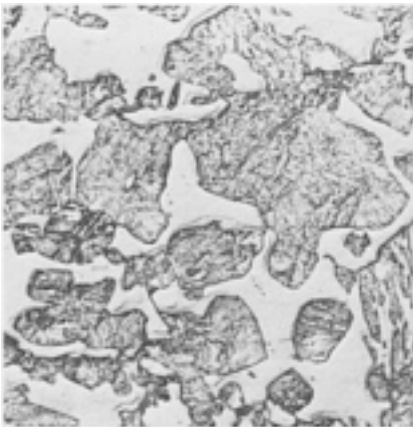
**Fig. 105** AISI P20 heated to 900 °C (1650 °F), water quenched and tempered at 525 °C (975 °F). 32 HRC. Matrix is martensite. Dark particles are manganese sulfides. Contrast process orthochromatic film. 2% nital. 500×



**Fig. 106**



**Fig. 107**

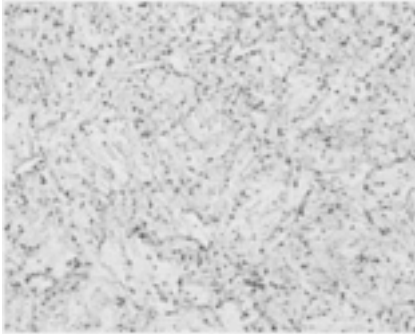


**Fig. 108**

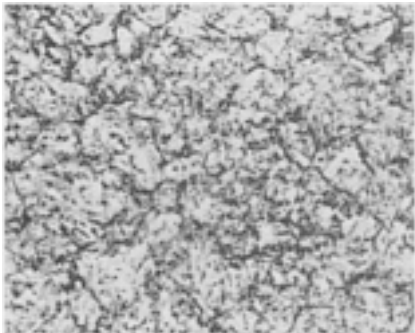
AISI P5, heat treated. Case, 59.5 HRC; core, 22 HRC. [Fig. 106](#): carburized case. Note the carbide enrichment and networking in the case region. Matrix is martensite. 100×. [Fig. 107](#): carburized case microstructure. 1000×. [Fig. 108](#): differential interference contrast micrograph, core microstructure. Austenitization temperature used to harden the case is too low for the core; note the ferrite (white) and martensite (dark) in the underaustenitized core. 2% nital. 400×

[graphic]

**Fig. 109** AISI A6, heated to 840 °C (1550 °F), air quenched and tempered at 150 °C (300 °F). 61.5 HRC. Martensite plus a small amount of undissolved carbide are observed. 2% nital. 1000×



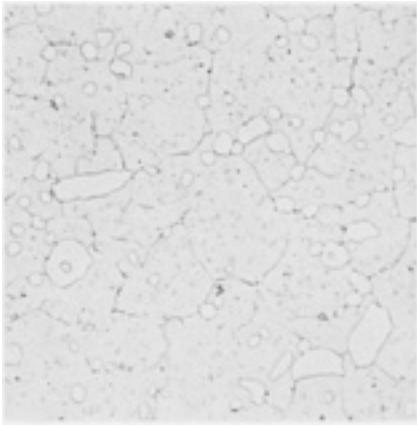
**Fig. 110** AISI H11, heated to 1010 °C (1850 °F), air quenched and double tempered at 510 °C (950 °F). 52 HRC. Martensite plus a small amount of very fine carbide are visible. Vilello's reagent. 1000×



**Fig. 111** AISI H13, heated to 1025 °C (1875 °F), air quenched and double tempered at 595 °C (1100 °F). 42 HRC. All martensite plus a small amount of very fine undissolved carbide. 2% nital. 1000×

[graphic]

**Fig. 112** AISI H21, heated to 1200 °C (2200 °F), oil quenched and tempered at 595 °C (1100 °F). 53.5 HRC. Martensite and undissolved carbide are observed. 2% nital/Vilella's reagent. 1000×



**Fig. 113** AISI D2, heated to 1010 °C (1850 °F), air quenched and tempered at 200 °C (400 °F). 59.5 HRC. Martensite plus substantial undissolved carbide; note the prior-austenite grain boundaries. 2% nital. 1000×

[graphic]

**Fig. 114** AISI D3, heated to 980 °C (1800 °F), oil, quenched and tempered at 200 °C (400 °F). 60.5 HRC. Martensite plus substantial undissolved carbide are visible. 2% nital/Vilella's reagent. 1000×

[graphic]

**Fig. 115** AISI M1, heated to 1175 °C (2150 °F), oil quenched and triple tempered at 480 °C (900 °F). 62 HRC. Martensite plus undissolved carbide are revealed. 2% nital. 1000×

[graphic]



**Fig. 116** AISI M2, heated to 1120 °C (2050 °F), oil quenched and double tempered at 480 °C (900 °F). 62 HRC. Martensite plus undissolved carbide are revealed. Vilella's reagent. 1000×

[graphic]

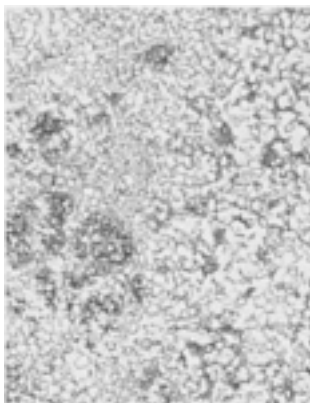


**Fig. 117** AISI M4, heated to 1220 °C (2225 °F), oil quenched and double tempered at 480 °C (900 °F). 62 HRC. Martensite plus undissolved carbide are revealed. Vilella's reagent. 1000×

[graphic]



**Fig. 118** AISI M42, heated to 1175 °C (2150 °F), oil quenched and triple tempered at 565 °C (1050 °F). 65 HRC. Martensite plus undissolved carbide are observed. Vilella's reagent. 1000×



**Fig. 119** AISI T15, powder-made. Sample was slow cooled after hot isostatic pressing. 28 HRC. Structure is partially annealed. 3% nital. 1000×

[graphic]

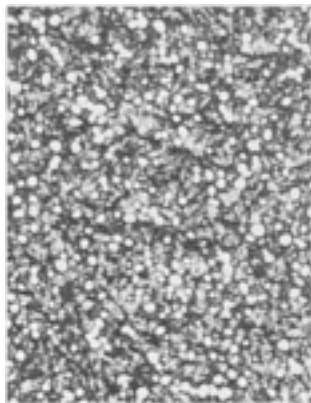


**Fig. 120** AISI T15, powder-made. Sample was hot isostatically pressed, forged, and annealed. 24 HRC. Structure is fully annealed. 3% nital. 1000×

[graphic]



**Fig. 121** AISI T15, powder-made. Processed as in [Fig. 120](#), then hardened: heated to 1230 °C (2250 °F) for 5 min in salt, oil quenched, triple tempered 2 h each at 540 °C (1000 °F). 65 HRC. 3% nital. 1000×



**Fig. 122** AISI T15, powder-made. Same sample as in [Fig. 121](#), but etched in 100 mL H<sub>2</sub>O, 1 mL HCl, 1 g K<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, and 1 g NH<sub>4</sub>F · HF. 1000×

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