



TPM23

ULTRACLEAN

PM HSS for cutting tools and dies

TPM23 UltraClean is a high-speed tool steel obtained by powder metallurgy. It is characterized by very good toughness and good wear resistance.

Applications

TPM23 UltraClean also finds numerous applications in the field of cold work tools for cutting, stamping, spinning as well as for punches or dies.

TPM23 UltraClean can also be used for cold working rollers and also for electrodes in ultrasonic welding machines.

TPM23 UltraClean is used for cutting tools (*milling cutters, spindles, knives, etc.*).

Main properties

- Very good toughness
- Good compressive strength
- Good wear resistance

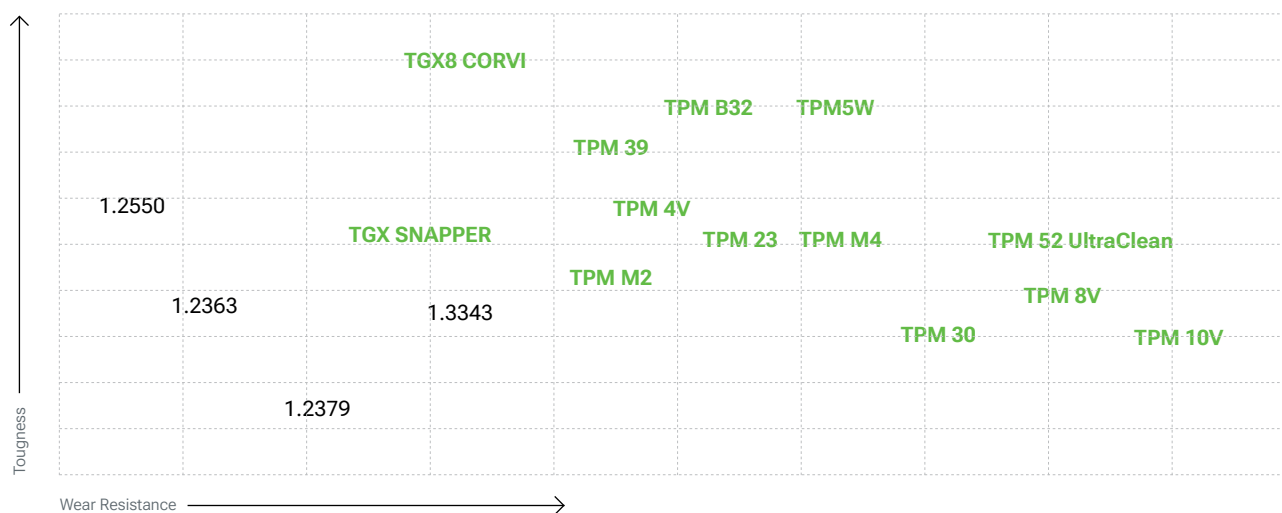
Comparison with the other PM tool steels available at TG Steels, the position on the toughness vs wear resistance diagram is shown here under.

Chemical composition (typical)

C	W	Mo	Cr	V	Co
1.30	6.40	5.00	4.10	3.00	-

Designation

Werkstoff Nr	ISO	China GB	JIS Japan	UK	AISI USA	Russia Gost	AFNOR	Other / Special
1.3344 / 1.3395	PM HS 6-5-3 / X130WMoCrV6-5-4-3	CW6Mo5Cr4V3	PM SKH53	BM3 class 2	PM M 3-2	-	-	-





Comparison HSS grades

GRADE	EXECUTION	HOT HARDNESS	WEAR RESISTANCE	TOUGHNESS	MACHINABILITY (ANNEALED)	GRINDABILITY
3343	Conventional	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●
3243	Conventional	●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●	●●●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●
3247	Conventional	●●●●●●●	●●●●●●	●●●	●●●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●
TPM M4	PM steel	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
TPM M42	PM steel	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
TPM23	PM steel	●●●●●●	●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
TPM30	PM steel	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
TPM60	PM steel	●●●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●	●●●	●●●●●●

Structure

The structure of the TPM23 UltraClean is fine and homogeneous without precipitation or alignments of carbides.

Due to its elaboration by powder metallurgy with Hot Isostatic Compression the typical size of the carbides is about 2 μm and the level of cleanliness is far better than conventional cold work tool steels.

Hardness at the time of delivery

Annealed for 270 HB max.

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

Hardness	Compressive yield strength MPa	Impact test unnotched probe J at 23°C
60	2400	60
62	2700	50
64	3000	40

Physical properties

Temperature	20°C	400°C	600°C
Volumic mass kg/m ³	8	7770	7700
Young Modulus N/mm ²	225000	207000	183000
Thermal conductivity W/m.K	25	29	27
Coefficient of linear expansion 10 ⁻⁶ /K	12	12.2	12.6

Heat treatment

SOFT ANNEALING

Temperature: 850 - 900°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 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 3 steps.

- **1st preheating step:**
temperature: 400°C time: 30 s/mm of thickness
- **2nd preheating step:**
temperature: 850°C time: 30 s/mm of thickness
- **3rd preheating step:**
temperature: 1050°C time: 30 s/mm of thickness

Recommended austenitizing temperature: 1140 - 1150°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 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.

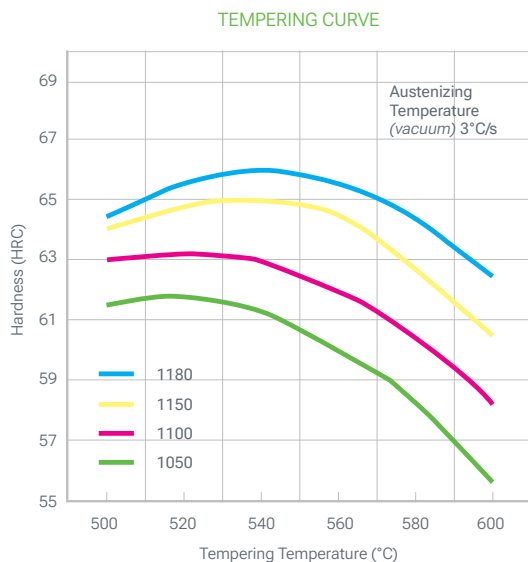
The temperature range from -70°C up to -120°C (*named cold treatment of steel*) leads to the complete transformation of austenite into martensite and as a consequence to better stability associated with improved hardness and better wear resistance and the temperature range from -135°C down to -190°C (*named cryotreatment of steel*) leads also to the complete transformation of austenite and also the the precipitation of ultrafine carbides improving a lot the wear resistance without modification of the toughness. This treatment is optional for common applications.

TEMPERING

To ensure a minimum residual austenite rate as well as greater tool stability, it is essential to perform double (*better triple*) tempering. Each tempering is followed by a cooling under 100°C. Depending on the use of the final part the following tempering temperatures are recommended:

Austenitizing temperature	Tempering temperature	Hardness	Properties
	520°C	63 / 68 HRC	Better wear resistance
1140 / 1150°C	550°C	63 / 65 HRC	Wear and toughness
	560°C	62 / 64 HRC	Better toughness

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

TPM23 UltraClean can be nitrided at temperatures less than or equal to 20°C below tempering temperatures without risk of deterioration of the mechanical characteristics.

PVD, CVD

3343 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.

Machining

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

GRINDING IN ANNEALED CONDITIONS

	Carbide insert		Solid tool
	Rough machining	½ Finishing	Finishing
Cutting speed m/min	110 - 130	125 - 160	40 - 50
Feed mm/r	0.35	0.15	0.01 - 0.1
Depth of cut mm	2 - 3	1 - 1.5	0.01 - 0.1

TURNING IN ANNEALED CONDITIONS

	Carbide insert		HSS tool
	Rough turning	½ Finishing	Turning
Cutting speed m/min	110 - 140	165 - 200	15
Feed mm/r	0.35	0.15	0.1 - 0.2
Depth of cut mm	2 - 3	1 - 1.5	0.5 - 2.0

DRILLING IN ANNEALED CONDITIONS CARBIDE DRILL

	Insert	Solid
Cutting speed m/min	130	70
Feed mm/r	0.10	0.20

HSS TWIST DRILL

Drill diameter mm	Cutting speed m/min	Feed mm/r
< 5		0.07
5 - 10	11	0.15
10 - 15		0.22
15 - 20		0.30

FINE GRINDING

General indications for grinding wheels to be used on TPM23 UltraClean 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

TPM23 UltraClean 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.



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