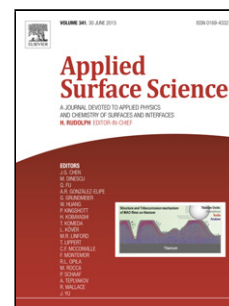


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# Effect of nitrided-layer microstructure control on wear behavior of AISI H13 hot work die steel

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## Highlights

- Wear behavior of steel H13 with different nitrided surface layer was investigated.
- The microstructure of the nitrided surface layer had been precisely controlled.
- The wear mechanisms of nitrided surface layers were revealed.

## Abstract

Gas nitriding has become a popular thermo-chemical surface treatment, which is being used to develop thermal/mechanical fatigue and wear characteristics of iron and steels. In this study, the gas nitriding of AISI H13 hot work die steel was carried out in flowing  $\text{NH}_3$  gas at  $550^\circ\text{C}$  for 5~15 h. By adjusting the nitrogen potential ranging from 0.18 to 2.8, three types of nitrided surface layer consisting of  $\epsilon\text{-Fe}_{2-3}\text{N}$  and  $\gamma'\text{-Fe}_4\text{N}$  phases,  $\gamma'\text{-Fe}_4\text{N}$  single-phase, as well as the  $\alpha\text{-(Fe, N)}$  phase had been prepared, respectively. The corresponding microstructure, hardness and thickness of the nitrided layer were systematically characterized. A contrastive analysis of influence of nitrided-layer microstructure control on wear behavior of AISI H13

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