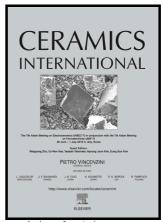
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Thermal stability and oxidation resistance of V-alloyed TiAIN coatings

Yu X. Xu a, Li Chen a, Fei Pei a, b, Jian L. Yue c, Yong Du a

^a State Key Laboratory of Powder Metallurgy, Central South University, Changsha 410083, China

^b Key Laboratory of Marine Materials and Related Technologies, Ningbo Institute of Materials Technology and Engineering, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Ningbo Zhejiang, 315201, China

^c School of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Central South University, Changsha 410083, China

Abstract: V-containing nitride coatings recently attract a wide range of research interests owing to their excellent tribological properties. To evaluate their comprehensive properties, a comparative study on the intrinsic thermal stability and oxidation resistance of TiAlN and TiAlVN coatings are conducted here. Ti_{0.56}Al_{0.44}N, $Ti_{0.50}Al_{0.44}V_{0.06}N$, and $Ti_{0.40}Al_{0.50}V_{0.10}N$ coatings, deposited by cathodic arc evaporation, exhibit a single-phase face-centered cubic structure with a hardness of 28.9 – 29.8 GPa. The V-containing coatings show a pronounced age-hardening upon annealing, which contributes to a hardness increase of 3.7 and 4.8 GPa at 800 °C for $Ti_{0.50}Al_{0.44}V_{0.06}N$ and $Ti_{0.40}Al_{0.50}V_{0.10}N$, respectively, corresponding to 2.9 GPa for Ti_{0.56}Al_{0.44}N. Also, alloying with V retards the formation of wurtzite AlN upon annealing, especially in Ti_{0.50}Al_{0.44}V_{0.06}N, and thus keeps a higher hardness above 30 GPa even annealing at 1100 °C, while the hardness of Ti_{0.56}Al_{0.44}N significantly reduces to 27.8 ± 0.6 GPa. However, alloying with V into TiAlN leads to an earlier formation of rutile TiO₂ and also Ti-rich oxide top-layer on the outside surface instead of dense Al₂O₃, and thus degrades the oxidation resistance. When exposed to air at 700 °C for 10 h, the $Ti_{0.50}Al_{0.44}V_{0.06}N$ and $Ti_{0.40}Al_{0.50}V_{0.10}N$ coatings suffer from a severe oxidation, whereas only a compact oxide scale with a thickness of ~80 nm for $Ti_{0.56}Al_{0.44}N$ is formed.

Keywords: Films; TiAlVN; Hardness; Thermal properties

^{*} Corresponding author. E-mail address: chenli_927@126.com (L. Chen); jlyue2010@csu.edu.cn (J. L. Yue)

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