

# Cutting Performance in Threading Turning and Grooving Turning of Ti-6Al-4V Alloy with a High-Pressure Coolant Supply

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## INTRODUCTION

Titanium alloys have high specific strength (strength/density) and corrosion resistance. Due to dimensional accuracy, titanium alloys are machined using a metal removal process. Titanium alloys have low thermal conductivity and show high chemical reactivity with many cutting tool materials [1]. Therefore, in cutting titanium alloys, as the cutting temperature is higher, and strong adhesion at the interface between the cutting tool and the chip occurs, the tool wear becomes large. The machinability of titanium and its alloys is poor due to the inherent properties of the materials [2]. In cutting Ti-6Al-4V alloy, complex wear mechanisms such as adhesion and diffusion are caused at higher cutting speeds [3]. Therefore, in cutting Ti-6Al-4V alloy, a slower cutting speed is necessary than that in cutting carbon steel.

To improve productivity, a high-speed cutting method is desired. In high-speed cutting, because the cutting temperature increases greatly, the tool materials are required to have both excellent wear resistance and heat resistance. For cooling and reducing tool wear, a wet cutting method is effective.

Due to the increase of the cutting fluid flow rate by injecting fluid at high pressure into the cutting edge, the cutting temperature decreases and the flank wear decreases [4]. High-pressure coolant cutting, which supplies coolant to the cutting part at high pressure, is effective for lowering the cutting temperature and reducing the tool wear [5, 6]. Furthermore, by supplying high-pressure coolant, the chip breakage performance is also improved [7]. For this reason, high-pressure coolant cutting is used for cutting of difficult-to-cut materials such as titanium alloy [8-13] and Inconel [4].

However, in the threading turning and the grooving turning of Ti-6Al-4V alloy with a high-pressure coolant supply the effects of the coolant pressure on the cutting performance have not been reported.

In this study, in threading turning and grooving turning of Ti-6Al-4V alloy with a high-pressure coolant supply, in order to identify an effective PCD tool for the high-speed cutting of Ti-6Al-4V, the effects of the diamond content and the diamond particle size on the tool wear were experimentally investigated. As the Ti-6Al-4V alloy was threading turned and grooving turned with a high-pressure coolant supplied, the chip configurations and the tool wear were experimentally investigated.

## Conclusions

In this study, Ti-6Al-4V alloy was threading turned and grooving turned with a pressurized coolant supplied, and the chip configurations and the tool wear were experimentally investigated.

The following results were obtained:

### A. Cutting Performance in Threading Turning Titanium Alloy with a Pressurized Coolant Supply

- (1) The main tool failure of un-coated ISO K10 cemented carbide was flank wear with a pressurized coolant supply.
- (2) Comparing the conventional coolant supply method and the pressurized coolant supply method, the flank wear width of the pressurized coolant supply method was smaller than that of the conventional coolant supply method.
- (3) Comparing the coolant pressures in the case of the pressurized coolant supply method, the flank wear width decreased with the increasing of coolant pressure, and the flank wear width "VB" became significantly smaller.

### B. Cutting Performance in Grooving Turning Titanium Alloy with a Pressurized Coolant Supply

- (1) The high-pressure coolant supply method was effective for improving the chip breakage performance.
- (2) In the case of the conventional coolant supply cutting, the fracture of the cutting part was becoming bigger at a cutting distance of 106.2 m. However, with the high-pressure coolant supply cutting, although wear is observed slightly on both

sides of the flank face, no major fracture are seen.

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# CUTTING PERFORMANCE IN GROOVING TURNING OF SUPER HEAT-RESISTANT ALLOY INCONEL 718 WITH A HIGH-PRESSURE COOLANT SUPPLY

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## INTRODUCTION

Hickel-based alloys such as Inconel 718 are difficult to cut due to their outstanding mechanical properties [1]. A major requirement of cutting tool materials used for machining nickel-based alloys is that they must possess adequate hot hardness to withstand elevated temperatures generated under high-speed conditions during machining. Most cutting tool materials lose their hardness at elevated temperatures resulting in weakening of the inter-particle bond strength and consequent acceleration of tool wear [2]. Therefore, in the cutting of a nickel based-alloy, due to the high cutting temperature and strong adhesion generated at the interface between the cutting tool and the chip, the wear of the tool becomes large. Thus, when cutting nickel-based alloys, a slower cutting rate is required than when cutting carbon steel.

High-speed cutting is desirable to improve productivity, however in high-speed cutting the rise in cutting temperature is significant. In particular, when cutting nickel-based alloys the cutting temperature rises rapidly, so the tool material must have both excellent wear resistance and heat resistance. Wet cutting is effective for cooling and cooling of tools.

High-pressure coolant cutting is effective for lowering the cutting temperature and reducing the tool wear [3-6]. By supplying high-pressure coolant into the cutting edge, the cutting temperature decreases and the flank wear decreases [7]. Furthermore, by supplying high-pressure coolant, the chip breakage performance is also improved [4-6]. Therefore, studies on high-pressure coolant cutting of difficult-to-cut materials such as titanium alloy [8-12] and Inconel [7, 13] has been carried out in addition to the above. However, in the grooving turning of nickel-based alloys with a high-pressure coolant supply the effects of the coolant pressure on the cutting performance have not been reported.

In this study, in grooving turning of Inconel 718 with a pressure coolant supply, the chip configurations and the tool wear were experimentally investigated.

## CONCLUSION

In this study, Inconel 718 was grooving turned with a pressurized coolant supplied, and the chip configurations and the tool wear were experimentally investigated.

The following results were obtained:

- (1) The pressure coolant supply method improved the chip breakage performance.
- (2) In the case of low-pressure coolant supply cutting, the mass per chip increased with increasing cutting speed. However, in the case of high-pressure coolant supply cutting, there was no difference in the mass per chip even if the cutting speed was increased.
- (3) It seemed that the bending of chips caused by high-pressure fluid has a large influence on chip breakage in high-pressure coolant cutting.
- (4) Comparing the cutting of the conventional coolant supply cutting with the cutting of the pressure coolant cutting, the tool wear with the pressure coolant supply was smaller than that with the conventional coolant supply.
- (5) Comparing the cutting of the low-pressure coolant supply with the cutting of the high-pressure coolant supply, the tool wear with the high-pressure coolant supply was smaller than that with the low-pressure coolant supply.

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turning experiment. I would like to thank TOKUPI Corporation for their support in the thread turning test, which enabled this work to be conducted. I would also like to express my gratitude to Tungaloy Corporation for supplying the grooving insert and the external grooving turning holder.

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# Wear Mechanism of Multilayer AlCrWN/AlCrWSiN-coatings on Cemented Carbide Tools Prepared by Arc Ion Plating in Dry Cutting of Hardened Sintered Steel

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## INTRODUCTION

Comparing the performances of the AlCrN coated tool and TiN coated tool, the AlCrN coated tool can increase the depth of cut by about 33% [1]. Furthermore due to the better heat resistance of the AlCrN coating film, the tool life of the end mill with the AlCrN coating is longer than that with the TiAlN coating [2-3]. However, our study results show that the critical scratch load of the AlCrN coating film, which is the value measured by the scratch test, is 77 N and the micro-hardness is 2760 HV0.25 N. Therefore, in order to improve both the critical scratch load and micro-hardness of the AlCrN coating film, a cathode material of the Al-Cr-W target with tungsten (W) added to the cathode material of the Al-Cr target was used [4]. The Al-Cr-W based coating film has both high hardness and excellent critical scratch load and can be used sufficiently as a coating film of WC-Co cemented carbide cutting tools [4]. Furthermore, the friction between the face of the cutting tool and the chip decreases when W is added [5-6].

The addition of Si to the TiN coating film converts the [111]-oriented columnar structure to a dense fine grain structure.

Thin films of Ti-Si-N have been deposited by physical vapor deposition to improve the wear resistance of TiN coatings [7]. Cutting experiments showed that the TiAlSiN coated end mill with a Si content of 4.78 atom% had the least flank wear and improved its milling distance by about 20% over the TiAlN coated end mill [8]. Furthermore, at a temperature of 700 °C or lower, the hardness of the AlCrWSiN film is higher than the hardness of AlCrN [9]. The addition of Si leads to the refinement of crystal grains and greatly influences the phase composition and mechanical properties due to its formation. Amorphous Si3N4 [10-11]. Many multilayer coating films have been developed to improve tool life [12-16].

The rate of wear of the AlCrWN/AlCrWSiN-coated tool, which has the multilayer coating system, was slower than that of the single layer AlCrWSiN coated tool in the cutting of hardened steel at a feed rate of 0.2 mm/rev [17]. In addition, the tool wear of the AlCrWN/AlCrWSiN-coated tool, which has the multilayer coating system, was investigated in the cutting of hardened sintered steel. [18]. Furthermore, the properties of the multilayer AlCrWN/AlCrWSiN-coating film were also clarified [18]. However, the wear mechanism of the multilayer AlCrWN/AlCrWSiN-coated tool has not been clarified in the cutting of hardened sintered steel.

In this study, to clarify the wear mechanism of the multilayer AlCrWN/AlCrWSiN-coated tool in the cutting of hardened sintered steel, the rate of wear in the cutting of hardened sintered steel using three types of coated tools was investigated. The Type I tool had a single layer (Al60, Cr25, W15)N coating film, the Type II tool had a single layer (Al53, Cr23, W14, Si10)N coating film and the Type III tool had a multilayer (Al60, Cr25, W15)N/(Al53, Cr23, W14, Si10)N-coating film. SEM observation and EDS mapping analysis of the abraded surface of the coating film were performed.

## Conclusion

In this study, SEM observation and EDS mapping analysis of the abraded surface of the coating film were performed in order to clarify the wear mechanism of the AlCrWN/AlCrWSiN-coating film in the cutting of hardened sintered steel. The Type I tool had a single layer (Al60, Cr25, W15)N coating film, the Type II tool had a single layer (Al53, Cr23, W14, Si10)N coating film and the Type III tool had a multilayer (Al60, Cr25, W15)N/(Al53, Cr23, W14, Si10)N-coating film.

The following results were obtained:

- (1) The wear rate of the Type III tool was the slowest.
- (2) The area of the worn surface on the rake face "S" and the contact length between the rake face and the chip "D" were measured. Comparing the three types of coated tools, both the "S" and the "D" of the Type I tool were the smallest, and those of the Type II tool were the largest.
- (3) The main wear mechanism of the Type II and the Type III tool was abrasive wear. However, the main wear mechanism of the Type I tool was both abrasive wear and adhesion wear.
- (4) The critical scratch load of the Type I tool, 81 N, was lower than that of the Type II or the Type III tool, over 130 N. Therefore, comparing the Type I and Type III tools, due to the wear mechanism of the Type I tool being both abrasive wear and adhesion wear, the wear rate of the Type I tool, which has the lower critical scratch load, was slower.

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# Chip Breakability in Turning of 7075 Aluminium Alloy with a High-Pressure Coolant Supply

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## INTRODUCTION

Because of its extremely high strength to weight ratio [1], 7075 aluminum alloy is used for highly stressed structural parts including aircraft fittings, gears and shafts and various other commercial aircraft, aerospace and transportation equipment [2]. The machinability of metals is estimated by the cutting force, tool life, surface finish and chip shape. Due to the strength and hardness of aluminum alloys, the cutting force and tool life are relatively unproblematic, and the chip breakability is the most important feature to ensure reliable operation in automated machining [3].

One improvement in chip cracking is the use of free-cutting alloys. Conventionally, Pb is added to aluminum alloys to improve the chip breakability. However, due to the negative impact on the environment, the addition of Pb has been banned in many countries. The addition of Si improves chip breaking performance [4]-[6], but when turning Si-added aluminum alloys with high speed steel tools, tool wear increases with the increase of Si contents [4]-[5], [7]-[8].

On the other hand, supplying coolant to the cutting area at high pressure improves chip breakability performance [9]-[11], and supplying high-pressure coolant to the cutting edge lowers the cutting temperature and reduces flank wear [12]. This method is also effective in reducing tool wear [9]-[11], [13]. Therefore, many studies on high-pressure coolant supply cutting of hard-to-cut materials such as hardened steel [14], titanium alloy [15]-[19], Inconel [12], [20], cemented carbide [21] have been conducted. However, there have been no reports on the effect of the coolant pressure on the chip breakability performance when aluminum alloys are turned with a high-pressure coolant supplied.

In this study, in turning of 7075 aluminum alloy with a high-pressure coolant supply, the chip configurations, the mass and thickness of chip were experimentally investigated.

## CONCLUSIONS

In this study, in turning of 7075 aluminum alloy with a high-pressure coolant supply, the chip configurations, the mass of chip and the thickness of chip were experimentally investigated.

The following results were obtained:

- (1) In the case of a cutting speed of 5.0 m/s, a feed rate from 0.05 mm/rev to 0.50 mm/rev and a depth of cut from 0.1 mm to 3.0 mm, chips were not broken at a feed rate of 0.15 mm/rev or less in the conventional coolant supply. In the high-pressure coolant supply, the combination area of feed rate and depth of cut that can be broken chip was wider than in the conventional coolant supply. In the high-pressure coolant supply at a coolant pressure of 7 MPa, there is a combination area of feed rate and depth of cut that can be not broken chip. However, chips were broken in all areas at a coolant pressure of 20 MPa.
- (2) In the case of both the high-pressure coolant supply, which has a coolant pressure of 7, 14 or 20 MPa, and the conventional coolant supply, the thickness of chip increased with the increase of the depth of cut. And, the thickness of chip did not change depending on the cutting method, namely the high-pressure coolant supply cutting method and the conventional coolant supply cutting method.
- (3) In the case of both the conventional and the high-pressure coolant supply, the thickness of chip decreased with the increase of the cutting speed.

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# Tool Wear of (Al,Cr,W)/(Al,Cr,W,Si)-Based-Coated Cemented Carbide Tools in Cutting of Hardened Steel

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## INTRODUCTION

The hardened steel AISI D2 has high hardness, strength and wear resistance. In cutting hardened steel AISI D2, the tool wear increases. Polycrystalline Cubic Boron Nitride (PCBN) is generally used as the cutting tool material in cutting hardened steel. Linhu Tang et al. investigated the wear performance and mechanisms of the PCBN tool in dry hard turning of AISI D2 hardened steel at various hardness levels ( $40\text{--}60 \pm 1$  HRC) [1]. However, in milling, a major tool failure of c-BN readily occurs by fracture because c-BN has poor fracture toughness. Coated cemented carbide tools, which have good fracture toughness and wear resistance, seem to be effective cutting tool materials. TiN, Ti(C,N) and (Ti,Al)N are generally used for the coating film [2].

Cr-Al-N is expected to play a very important role in the future of Surface Engineering, manufacturing industry and in preventing wear of critical components in a wide range of applications [3]. When investigating the potentials of newly developed (Cr,Al)N coatings compared to uncoated tools, CrxAl<sub>y</sub>N coatings with different chromium to aluminum contents were deposited onto indexed carbide inserts. In order to find improved coatings for dry machining operations both tribological and wear tests were performed [4].

The machining performance of AlCrN and AlTiN coated cemented carbide inserts were investigated during end milling of MDN 250 maraging steel. As a result, the AlCrN coating had better wear resistance and machining performance compared to the AlTiN coating [5]. The performance of mono-layered AlCrN and multi-layered AlTiN/PVD coatings on mixed alumina inserts were investigated in the turning of hardened AISI 52100 steel. As a result, the AlCrN coating exhibited superior machining behavior at higher cutting speeds indicating the suitability of the coating at elevated machining speeds [6]. Tadahiro Wada et al. reported that an (Al,Cr,W)N coated cemented carbide is an effective tool material for cutting sintered steel [7] and hardened sintered steel [8].

The incorporation of Si [9], Y [9], W [10], Fe [11], Zr [12] or Ti [13] into (Cr, Al)N was reported. In cutting hardened steel [14] or sintered steel [15], the wear resistance of (Al, Cr, W)N coated tools with W added to (Al, Cr)N coated tools was improved. The wear resistance of (Al, Cr, W)(C,N) coated tools with C added to (Al,Cr,W)N coated tools was improved [14][17]. Furthermore, the wear resistance of (Al, Cr, W,Si)N coated tools with Si added to (Al, Cr,W)N coated tools was improved [18].

On the other hand, gradient and multilayered coatings composed of nitride layers show superior mechanical strength, such as hardness and wear resistance, as compared to mono-layered coatings due to their specific interfaces [19]. For this reason, many studies on multilayer coatings have been conducted [19][24].

In addition, many studies dealing with multi-layer (Al,Cr,W)/(Al,Cr,W,Si) coating films handled in this study have been reported [25][28]. As a result of comprehensive judgment of the study results of Tadahiro Wada et al. the following two points were clarified. (1) The wear resistance of PVD-coated tools was improved by adding W and Si to (Al, Cr) targets. (2) Multi-layer coating films have better wear resistance than single-layer coating film. However, the effect of components (Al, Cr, W, Si) on tool wear have not been clarified.

In this study, two types of aluminum/chromium/tungsten/silicon target cathode materials with varying constituents were used to improve the wear resistance of coated cutting tools in cutting hardened steel. For comparison, a cathode material of one type of aluminum/chromium/tungsten target was also used. In addition, multi-layer coating materials were used, including combinations of aluminum/chromium/tungsten/silicon based coating films and aluminum/chromium/tungsten based coating films. Using these three types of targets, the hardened steel was cut with a cutting tool in which cemented carbide K10 substrate metal was PVD coated and the tool wear was examined.

## Conclusions

In this study, a carbonitride coating film was deposited on a cemented carbide ISO K10 using three different Al-Cr-W-Si targets. The coating film structure consisted of mono-layer film and multi-layer films. The hardened steel ASTM D2 was cut with five types of coated cemented carbide tools. The tool wear of the coated tools was experimentally investigated.

The following results were obtained:

- (1) Comparing the wear progress of the (Al53,Cr23,W14,Si10)(C,N)- and (Al58,Cr25,W7,Si10)(C,N)-coated tool, the wear progress of the (Al58,Cr25,W7,Si10)(C,N)-coated tool is slightly slower than that of the (Al53,Cr23,W14,Si10)(C,N)-coated tool.
- (2) Comparing the wear progress of the (Al60,Cr25,W15)(C,N)/(Al53,Cr23,W14,Si10)(C,N)- and the (Al53,Cr23,W14,Si10)(C,N)/(Al58,Cr25,W7,Si10)(C,N)-coated tool, the wear progress of the (Al53,Cr23,W14,Si10)(C,N)/(Al58,Cr25,W7,Si10)(C,N)-coated tool is slightly slower than that of the (Al60,Cr25,W15)(C,N)/(Al53,Cr23,W14,Si10)(C,N)-coated tool.

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