[Mansoura Engineering Journal](https://mej.researchcommons.org/home)

[Volume 19](https://mej.researchcommons.org/home/vol19) | [Issue 4](https://mej.researchcommons.org/home/vol19/iss4) Article 16

12-1-2021

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Recommended Citation

Abo-Gharbia, Fayez (2021) "Machinability Parameters in Finish Face Milling of Low Alloy Cr-Ni Steel with THR K30 Carbide Tool Part I: Cutting Forces, Specific Cutting Energy and Temperatures.," Mansoura Engineering Journal: Vol. 19 : Iss. 4 , Article 16. Available at:<https://doi.org/10.21608/bfemu.2021.164662>

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$M.15$ Mansoura Engineering Journal (MEJ) Vol. 19, No. 4, Dec. 1994

MACHINABILITY PARAMETERS IN FINISH FACE MILLING OF LOW ALLOY Cr-NI STEEL WITH THR K30 CARBIDE TOOL

PART I: CUTTING FORCES, SPECIFIC CUTTING ENERGY AND **TEMPERATURES**

عوامل قابلية التشفيل في التقريز الراسي الدقيق لسبيكة مثلب شيكل كررم باستعمال لقم کربیدیة تی إنش ار کی ۳۰

الجزء الأول : قرى القطع ، مائة القطع التوعية ، درجات الحرارة

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ملخمن: إنه لن الضروري إبراك التغيرات السطحية الناتجة من ممليات الشجليخ . لذلك فإن هذا البحث يندم وبناتش عملية التقريز السطحى الدتيق لسبيكة ملب في حالتها المبلاة بهدف استبدال عملية التجليخ السطحي . هذا العمل يعثل الجزء الأول من البحث الذي يتكون من جِرَسُنِ هيبَ بِبَاقِشِ استَعمالَ اللقم الكريبيانية ذات المبينات عالية التعرمة مم الكربيداتِ للكعبة بنسبة ٢٪ . ترقشت قابلية التشغيل في ثلاثة عرامل رهي قرى القطع ، طاقة القطع الترعية والحرارة المتولدة . تأثير تغيير شروط القطع وتأكل الحد القاطع على هذه العوامل تم مناقشته . أيضنا ستلوك زارية القص ركل من لجهادي القصي والعادي وطبيعة الإحتكاك على الحد القاطع الٹائری تم نحصیح .

وقد ترميلت الدراسة إلى أن هذا الذرع المتطور من اللقم الكربيدية يمكن استعماله بكفاءة حتى سرعة ١٧٦ متر / دفيقة وكانت قوى القطم الناتجة منخفضة بالمقارنة بأنواع أخرى من الكربيدات. لقد رجدت نسبة القمن ثابتة سم تغيير تأكل آلة القطم في حدود من ٥٠ إلى ٢٠٠ ميكرون ١ نسبت الزيادة الكبيرة في قرى القطع الرأسية إلى انخفاض معامل الإحتكاك إلى قيمة ٤ . - -كذلك التباين في حسابات درجات الحرارة ثم استمراهه . طاتة القطع الترمية عند سرمات القطع العالية وكذلك التغذيات كانت بقيمة ٢ ر ٢.٥ جيجاجرل/متر٢ على الترالي . هذه النتائج تزكد على أن التقريز الرأسي الدتيق باستعمال هذا النوع المتطور من اللقم الكربيدية يمكن استعماله كبديل من التجليخ الرئسي عندما يؤخذ في الإمتبار طاقة القطع الثرمية .

ABSTRACT

It is necessary to aware of the surface alterations that can be produced by grinding operations. This work deals with finish face milling of low alloy steel in its hardened conditions with view to replace surface grinding. This paper is the first of two dealing with the use of submicron grain cemented carbide with low percentage of cubic cabides of 2%. Three major machinability parameters were investigated; cutting force, specific cutting energy and the temperature. The effects of fundamental cutting conditions and the minor flank wear on the machinability parameters are investigated. Further, the behavior of shear angle and normal and shear stresses as well as contact condition on the minor cutting edge were examined. The THR K30 tools were found to be capable of operating at cutting speed up to 176 m/min. Forces with the THR tools are relatively lower than TTM tools at higher cutting speeds. It was also found that the cutting ratio is almost constant at worn minor flank wear of value between 50 to 200 um. The substantial increase in vertical component Fz, was attributed to the low coefficient of friction of approximate value of 0.4. Descripancies of the findings of the calculated temperatures are also discussed. The specific cutting energy was found to be a constant value of order 2 to 2.5 $GJ/m³$ at high speeds and feeds respectively. This proved that the finish face milling with THR K30 could be substituted for a vertical spindle surface grinding when judged on the basis of specific cutting energy. a contrato della كالمحافظ والأنجمجات بالوقائفين

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NOMENCLATURE

- feed; mm/tooth and a series of the serie f_1
- a_p depth of cut; mm وسابل يكلونك
- D cutter diameter; mm
- $\gamma_{\rm r}$ tool cutting edge angle; deg.
- trailing cutting edge angle; deg. γ_1
- Worn trailing end cutting edge angle; deg. $Δδ$
- radial rake angle; deg γp
- axial rake angle; deg γŗ
- α_p radial clearance angle; deg.
- axial clearance angle; deg. $\alpha_{\rm f}$
- δ Setting angle, deg. های دریایا که ۱۰
- angle between tool entry and tool exit; deg. $\phi_{\rm S}$
- entry angle; deg. φE
- $\phi_{\rm A}$ exit angle; deg.
- angle of engagment; deg. ε^-
- initial contact angle; deg. i
- F_y cutting force component; N
- F_{Z} vertical force component; N
- $N_{\rm r}$ rotating direction.

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When a component is to be made from an alloy such as alloy steels exhibiting high surface sensitivity, attention must be given to surface integrity considerations. The quality of the machined surface can be decided by the surface integrity properties such as surface roughness, hardness variations, structural changes, residual stress etc. Various grinding operations tended to develop tensile stress in the machined surfaces. This agrees with the theory that tensile stresses are caused by high temperatures. These can cause an overtempered martensite to form at a very thin layer at the surface and untempered martensite to form at the surface. Since, the later can crack and so affect the fatigue and stress corrosion life of component, its presence is undesirable [1,2]. Clearly any way of improving and correcting surface damage produced during grinding operations would be most welcome.

The present study attemps to cary out investigations on finish face milling of a low alloy steel in its hardened conditions with the THR K30 tools to replace the vertical spindle surface grinding procedure. In this paper force components are studied with the purpose of finding the conditions to improve the quality of machined surface. Cutting experiments were conducted to present in depth study the effects of cutting speed, feed, minor flank wear on force components. In order to arrive a better understanding of the performance of the THR K30 inserts, we have paid particular attension to the shear angle, specific cutting energy, normal and shear stresses, condition of contact on the minor flank area as well as temperatures.

2- CONDSIDERATIONS ON THE CABIDE TOOLS

With recent develoments in tool material technology, the application of cost saving operation such as finish face milling in finished machining of steels appears to be a practical alternative to grinding.

To achieve this substitution, cutting tools capable of machining the alloy steel should combine good wear resistance at high temperatures with adequate thermal and mechanical fatigue strength and toughness. Conventional sintered carbides of ISO TTM of grade P30 partially meet the requirements and their modified compositions of ISO THR of grade K30 to provide the required properties are suitable. Conventional and modified compositions of each grade can be seen in Table (1).

Treat [3], suggested that the large improvements in tool performance, in terms of increasing the transverse rupture strength and toughness, can be achieved by the introduction of the cubic carbides (Tic. Tac and Nbc) in relatively small amounts. In this respect, the current research will be conducted with the steel cutting grades TTM, 17.5%, and THR, 2%, of high and low percentage of cubic carbides respectively.

The use of THR of grade K30 as a cutting tool suitable for milling steel with a tensile strength of up to 500 $N/mm²$ especially titanium alloys, stainless, heat resistance steels, nickle alloys, high temperatures alloys, non ferrous

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metals and aluminum and zink alloys. On account of its high binder metal content, this fine grain Wc-Co alloys exhibits greater toughness and excellent transverse rupture strength, the THR is therefore suitable for cutting under adverse conditions. S. Philadelphia

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3- LITERATURE REVIEW

Most of the research work conducted in the past was concerned with the performance of H.S.S., carbides and sialon cutting tools in which the workpiece ranged from nickle base alloys to titanium [4,5]. They presented namorous valuable data on surface integrity. Later research work was concerned with the optimum cutting conditions based on the tool behaviour that led to significant understanding of machining process, the effects of cutting parameters on surface integrity in turning were also investigated Experiments on the finished surface produced by diamond turning $[6.7]$. tools [8] and by Cubic Boron Nitride [9] were conducted. Imperfictions in the finished surface were inspected and related to the form and behaviour of the diamond tool [8], while turning with Cubic Boron Nitride did provide an alternative to the cylinderical grinding of hardened tool steel [9]. However, generally high costs are typical of Cubic Boron Nitride tools. Experiments with face milling of a hardened steel using a sintered carbide P20 and sintred carbide of modified composition and structure THM K10 based on the tool wear behaviour have been carried out by Philip [10]. This investigation presented a very little information of a systematic kind in which the relationships between the cutting forces, surface finish, tool life and surface integrity was not clarified in face milling. Previous work on the machinability of metals were discussed from viewpoints of the chip formation, cutting forces, temperatures and the surface integrity of the workpiece [11-23]. So, sound understanding of the machinability factors are of prime importance for further development of machined surface quality and better choise of cutting tool materials. Abo-Gharbia [24] studied the mechanism of surface generation in face milling of air craft alloys. The surface topographical parameters were improved with an increase in cutting speed after the welded layers on the minor cutting edge had disappeared. In the light of this work [24], it seems diserable to increase the frictional heating and subsequent softining of the workpiece surface. Thus, tools that are very refractory will be called for.

4- EXPERIMENTAL CONDITIONS

4.1- Choise of Tools

For the sake of comparison, the TTM grade was used in the present tests as a basis on which to determine an improvement in tool life based on cutting forces and surface roughness brought about by THR grades. Widia indexable inserts for face milling ISO designation TPJN THR K30 were used for the test program as well as TPJN TTM P30 inserts. These throwaway inserts were 16.5 mm in length, 3.18mm in thickness and the cutting edge was of a land width of 1.5 mm and having three possible cutting edges each.

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One insert at a time was used throught the present research. The method used is not a new concept when studying a face milling process, since a number of other workers used a single tipe i.e. fly cutting.

4.2- Experimental Set-up and Design of Specimen

Fig.(1a,b) show the experimental set-up with front and rear views. The as received low alloy 1-1/4% Cr-Ni steel were machined into rectangular shaped specimen shown in Fig. (1c) to dimensions according to standard industrial practice and testing for face milling [25], recommended that the ratio between the milling cutter diameter and the width of the workpiece is 1.6. The specimen used for force and wear measurements were held by means of bolts to a quartz three component cutting force dynamometer, Kistler type 9265B. The dynamometer is normally used in the horizontal plane and a fixture of a solid piece of gray cast iron had to be made to hold it vertically as shown in Fig. (1d). It was necessary to raise the surface roughness test specimen above the table to enable the cutter to make contact with it. However, it was considered a better support for test peice to be bolted onto a bolster over hanging the rear of the machine table of about 150 mm and this raised the test piece of about 170 mm above the table.

4.3- The Cutter

The cutter selected was a standard WIDAX M60 high shear milling cutter for positive indexable inserts, having an enterence angle of 45° and a nominal diamter of 125 mm. The face mill was mounted on a stub arbor and secured in the main spindle of the FW 400-VI milling machine of cutting motor of 13.5 kW and feeding motor of 2.2 Kw.

4.4- Cutting Conditions

Three cutting parameters were chosen, namely, cutting speed, feed per tooth and cutting edge condition. The safe width of the minor wear that could be produced without causing surface damages was 250 um as a standard worn tool [25], provided the surface roughness of values 1 um should not allowed to exceed. In this work actual machinability tests were conducted in order to determine the best use of the carbide tips type TTM P30 and THR K30.

A summary of the cutting conditions used in the experiments are given in Table (2) .

4.5- Contact Condition

The initial point of contact between tool and workpiece was determined using the Kronenberg graphical method [26]. Initial contact may occurs at any of the corners of the parallelogram defined by the intersection of the tool face by the uncut chip Fig. (le). In the present tests, the conditions were adopted to produce contact at the point V.

4.6- Cutting Action

The technique of down milling as shown in Fig. (1c) should be used whenever possible when machining steel alloys because the tool life is higher, as the tool is required to cut immediately on contact with the workpiece when using this method.

5- EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE AND MEASUREMENTS

Cutting force measurements were carried out on every pass as well as the wear. The effect of cutting speed, feed and the amount of minor flank on cutting force was investigaed for both TTM P30 and THR K30 carbide tips. The cutting was carried out dry. The magnitudes of the vertical force Fz and cutting force Fy, were measured as the average of the recorded values when the tool was nearly approaching the end of the cutting pass.

After one pass along the length of the workpiece, the single insert was removed from the cutter and the measurements of the minor wear width were taken. This procedure was repeated using the same cutting condition untill the end of tool life reached, which defined on the bases of surface roughness. Because of the comparison with surface grinding, a mean surface roughness of I um was taken to define the end of the tool life.

6- EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

6.1- Cutting Forces

a- Effect of Cutting Speeds.

A serious of short time experiments were carried out to determine the variation of cutting force Fy and vertical force Fz produced as a result of changing cutting speed. It can be seen in Fig. (2), that the force Fy and Fz are dependent on the cutting speed. At the lower speeds from 70 to 90 m/min, the force components Fy. Fz for both TTM and THR tool slightly increased and then decrease with a further increase in cutting speed for only THR tool tending to become constant at high cutting speeds. From Fig. (2), it can also be seen that the THR tool perform better than TTM tool at higher cutting speeds.

b- Effect of Feeds

Two sets of results were obtained at cutting speed of 110 m/min, one set using TTM and a second set using THR tools. Successive cuts were taken using feed varying from 0.05 to 0.25 mm/tooth in increments of 0.05 mm. The graph of the force components plotted against feed per tooth is shown in Fig. (3). Within the range of feeds used, the results show a strong linear relationship between Fy force and feed for both sets. The other Fz force increased with increased feed but the rate of increases reduced as feed incrased. The exception is at the lower feed of 0.05 mm/tooth where a tendency to constant is appearant in the forces. The pattern for both sets was similar except that the THR tool produces slightly lower Fz force than TTM tool. This means that the THR tool has lesser sliding contact with increasing feed per tooth compared with TTM tool.

c- Effect of Minor Flank Wear

Fig. (4) indicates that up to about 100 um minor wear, it appeares that the force component almost independent of the wear, but as the wear increased it appeared that the force were directly proportional to the amount of flank wear. It can be also seen that, the minor flank wear increase the force component Fy only a little, whereas increases the vertical force Fz remarkably in both the TTM and THR inserts. An explanation was given by Zorev[27] of this increases in vertical force to the effect of the elastic reaction of the layer of machined material lying under tool provided that the built up edge or secondary shear zone on the tool face were disappeared. As the THR tools has a high resitance to failure through mechanical fatigue in addition to the resistance to flank wear and deformation, they are more stable and offer some protection against adheasion by workpiece material. With progress of cutting, the adheasion of workpiece material on minor flank decreased and this was confirmed by X-ray distribution image of iron through all the tests conducted. This means that the increase in vertical force Fz of THR tool was due to the increase of elastic reaction of the machined layer as the tool was more stable.

6.2- Shear Angle

The values of rc was measured and indicated in the upper part of Fig. (4). It can be seen that, in spite of the variation of the minor flank wear width (50 to 200 µm), rc is almost constant of about 0.6. Zorev[27] indicate that the constancy of cutting ratio means that the force acting on the minor flank do not take part in chip formation. The force increments must therefore be attributed to an increase in the force acting on the minor face due to the minor flank wear. In addition, no change in the appearant coefficient of friction at the tool rake nither the geometry of cutting as a result of increasing the minor wear. In order to achieve better understanding of the relation between force and hardness with a worn tool, a short machinability test was carried out on four different heat treatment work materials in respect of their hardness. The variation of force components with work material hardness indicates that the increase of work hardness increases the force component Fy only a little, whereas the force component Fz was substantially incrased as shown in Fig. (5). This can be explained by the fact that, the hard materials accelerate the wear on the cutting tool rapidly and increase the force components especially the vertical force.

6.3- Normal and shear stresses

In the following an attempt will be made to determine both normal and tangential stress on the minor flank. Figure (6) is a typical plot of calculated normal stress, σ_{m} f and tangential stress, τ_{m} f, on the minor In the calculation of both stresses, the tool force components were flank. corrected for the ploughing force where the force components with using a sharp tool were deducted. The results of this test showed that normal stresses, omf, on the minor face rises substantially with an increase in the hardness, while the tangential stress, τ_{m} rises slightly. In addition, these calculated stresses were higher than the ultimate tensile strength of the

material, approximately 1235-1389 N/mm^2 , indicating that the work hardening effect of the material has exceeded the thermal softening effect as the tool of 100 um minor flank wear was passed on the machined surface. The higher value of microhardness found on the deformed layer of the machined surface is also evedent.

Considering the material properties in terms of ductility index γ/p as suggested by Robenstine [28], where γ is the surface free energy and p is the hardness. He suggested that the crack propagations are the result of high stresses during cutting. Such considerable stresses were produced on the machined surface of the tested alloy as shown in Fig. (6). The production of crack, however, consists in the generation of two new surfaces and this requires a certain amount of surface free energy of material y, [28], accordingly, the metal becomes less brittle and more machinable. Thus, the stressed layer associated with high hardness in addition to the cracks left in the machined surface due to the segmented chip formation [29], will have a higher surface free energy than with an unstressed region. Therefore, the residual stress locked in the deformed layer under such condition will be compressive. The evedence in support of the suggestion that the trapped residual stresses are compressive can be found in ref. $[24]$.

6.4- Condition of Contact on the Minor Cutting Edge

In Fig. (7), the change of coefficient of friction, μ , at the minor flank of a high value of 0.93 with low hardness number to a low value of 0.2 with high hardness number indicates that low hardness metals have an adhesive nature friction. Whereas, the low coefficient of friction associated with machining hard alloys will cause an increase of the verticla force component Fz relative to other force component as in Fy. When machining was carried out on the tested alloy of hardness of, 360-415 BH. with an inserted tip of THR K30 having a minor flank wear breadth of 100 um, the substantial increase in vertical component, Fz, can be attributed to the low coefficient of friction of approximately 0.4.

6.5- Specific Cutting Energy

It is obtained by dividing the tengential force component, Fy, at any instance by the corresponding chip-section. The relationship obtained for the current material investigated and the THR tool show how the P_S , various with the cutting speed and the feed as shown in Figs. (8) and (9) respectively.

The P_s, tends to a constant values, of approximately 2.0 and 2.5 $GJ/m³$ at the higher values of feed and speed respectively. This indicates that both speed and feed had similar type of behaviour,

Figure (10) shows Ps plotted against cutting speed and feed on log log scale. It can be seen that the specific cutting energy various slightly with speed while the feed has more pronounced effect on the P_s and yielding the relationship;

$$
P_s \propto \frac{1}{V^y}
$$
 and $P_s \propto \frac{1}{S^x}$

where y and x takes values of -0.0088 and -4.0 respectively. The indices obtained by least square analysis.

For the sake of comparison, the specific cutting energy found in grinding of order 20 GJ/m3 for alloy steels [30]. This is about 10 times greater than that required to cut similar material with face milling. This substantial increase is a result of the relatively small depth of cut normally used in grinding which, in turn, leads the stresses twards tension due to the increased cutting energy. Therefore grinding is an insufficient metal cutting process when judged on the basis of specific energy.

6.6- Computation of Temperatures

Since the increasing cutting temperature is considered to play a role to eliminate the surface troubles associated with steels, thus the attension will be paid to study the temperature rise in the well known three cutting zones. The primary and secondary temperature rise calculated by the method proposed by Boothroyd [31].

In most practical circumstances, the cutting tool is not perfectly sharp and therefore the theird heat source would be existed owing to a friction between the tool and the new workpiece surface. However, more energy dissipation and existence of very high instantaneous surface temperature in milling was reported by Schmidit [32].

Figure (11) shows the calculated temperature rise in the primary deformation zone, Q_p , the temperature rise along secondary deformation zone, Q_s, and the average maximum temperature in surfce layer, 12. It can be seen that at the lower part of Fig.(11), the temperature in the primary and secondary deforamation zones reduces slightly with an increase in cutting speed. This slight decreasing in temperature with increasing cutting speed can be explained in term of shear strain y. It is confirmed by the consideration of the fundamental aspects of chip formation that the increasing of the cutting speed will increase the cutting ratio r_c , and In machining hard materials, the accordingly the shear angle, ϕ_C . inclination of cracks [33] is to be determined only by the work material and is expressed by;

$$
\phi_{\rm c} = \frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{\gamma}{2}
$$

From this expression, small shear strain, γ , or less ductile work material, gives large shear angle, ϕ_c . Since the temperature rise at shear zone is proportional to the skear strain, y, and since the 75 to 90% of the total heat in the chip is due to the shear of the chip. It follows that the decrease in cutting speed increases the amount of shear zone heat because of the increase in shearing strain.

As far as the workpiece temperature is concerned, there is more shear zone

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heat and more time is allowed for heat transfe to the workpiece because a contact for a longer time at low speeds, one would excepted more heat at lower speed. The results of the calculated temperature presented in Fig. (11) may be held true as it was based on sharp tool. It is not possible to make similar calculation with a tool having a minor flank wear. However, with a tool having flank wear Zorev [27] stated that, most of the specific cutting work consists primarily of the specific work of friction on the clearance face. Smillar results had been obtained by Konig etal[34]. Konig explains that, this friction results in high levels of temperatures that will not to be dissipate with the chip, but most of it flows into workpiece. In the light of this discussion it would be expected that the high temperatures would be attained at high speed, with tools having minor flank wear. On the other hand, noteced that the chips produced, using a worn tool of minor flank value of 100 um at the higher speed range between 140 to 176 m/min, were all segmented and less burned at the edges compared with chips produced at low speed range. In the light of this evedence, it is now clear that the THR K30 inserts performed better at high speed range because the tool temperature was not allowed to reach its steady state value[35].

CONCLUSIONS

The surfaces of low alloy Ct-Ni steel in its hordened conditions were face milled using conventional sintred carbides of TTM P30 and submicron grain cemented carbides with low percentage of cubic carbides of 2% of THR K30 to find if surface grinding can be replaced by fine face milling. On the basis of the experimental results, the following conclusion can be made.

1- A short time face milling tests carried out at cutting speed up to 176 m/min showed that the modified compositions THR K30 carbide performed in terms of force better than the conventional TTM P30 carbide components. With respect to the THR K30 tools, the force components were found to be decrease with cutting speed and then remain fairly constant at a higher cutting speed.

2- The THR K30 carbide inserts of minor wear values between 50 to 250 um can be successful applied in face milling at a high cutting speed range up to 176 m/min in comparison with the conventional tools. This because they provided stranger cutting edge due to the stabilization of the worn tool under the higher cutting conditions.

3- Minor flank wear caused by a brasion, the most likely wear mechanism, was found to be the predominart wear tupe observed in this study. Therefore, in finish face milling, the cutting conditions has to be determined on minor flank wear.

4- The sudden increase in the vertical force Fz associated with THR K30 tools was related to elastic deformation on the machined surface when the minor

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flank wear exceeds a certain value of about 100 um. This was attributed to the constancy of cutting ratio of about 0.6 as well as the low coefficient of friction of about 0.4.

5- A smooth minor flank surface was found to exist in all tests conducted between cutting speed of values 110 to 176 and feed of 0.1 mm/tooth. While, decreasing the cutting speed caused the minor flank wear conditions to be severe. Since the minor flank wear affect the produced machined surface during back cutting action, therefore a high surface quality values can be achieved within the high speed range.

6- The value of calculated normal and shear stresses were found to be higher than the ultimate tensile strength of the tested alloy. An explination for this differences is that the work hardening effect of the tested alloy has exceeds the thermal softening effect as the tool of a 100 um flank wear passed on the surface with a cutting speed of 110 m/min and feed of 0.1 $m m/t$ ooth.

7- The value of the specific cutting energy in the current tests was found to be almost the tenth as low as the value in surface grinding of simillar alloy found in literatures.

8- The calculated temperatures rise in primary and secondary deformation zone and workpiece temperature using a sharp tool were found to decreased with the increasing in cutting speed. This was explained by the fact that the high cutting speed will shorten the heating cycle in interrupted cutting.

 $9 - AI$ higher cutting temperatures encountred when the worn tool is applied at high speed range between 140 to 176 m/min. the chip produced were all segmented and less burned at the edges compared with chips produced at low speed. This suggests a greater stability of the tool workpiece - machine system where the tool softening was not likely to occure.

10- In some cases, it is now possible to machine the tested alloy using fine face milling without the need for subsequent grinding operations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author would like to express his sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. A.A. Aboukhashaba, Chairman of Production Engineering and Design Department, Faculty of Engineering, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for his valuable suggestions and discussions and continuous encouragement. The author greatfully acknowledge the help of Eng. Abdulazim El-dahshoury . Faculty of Engineering, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, during typing of this work.

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Table 1: *Composition and Physical Properties of WIDIA milling grades

*Data reproduced from an outlines of grades, Krupp, Widia.

Table 2 : The cutting conditions used in the experiments

 (a)

 (b)

Fig(1) Experimental set up arrangement with(a) front view and(b) rear view.

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