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**IMPROVING A PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING THE ASSAY OF GOLD IN A PRECIOUS ALLOY OF DIFFERENT COMPOSITION USING A TOUCHSTONE (p. 6-19)**

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We report testing the yellow and white jewelry alloys based on gold that contains nickel, zinc, palladium, using a touchstone by applying various chemical reagents and XFA (X-ray fluorescence analysis).

We have improved the procedure for assessing the conformity of assay of the precious alloys based on gold, considering the content of component composition by using the results from rubbing the alloys on a touchstone.

It was established that the magnitude of gold assay for precious alloys in the system AuAgZnCu, determined under the action of the reagent “chloric gold” on the touchstone, depends on the manifestation of contrast in the course of quality reaction against a standard sample (touch-needle).

Under the influence of the reagent, the “yellow” gold alloys demonstrate chloride compounds with silver and copper, being reduced to a metal powder of black and brown color. In this case, copper dissolves while gold, together with silver, forms an intensive residue on a strip that depends on the ligature composition of the alloy. It was established that the lower the assay of a tested sample, the greater the amount of “chlorine gold” that decomposes, the larger the sediment of silver chloride and the pure gold reduced from the reagent, and hence the darker the sediment.

It has been proven that testing the precious alloys of red color from the system AuAgZnCu 585 with a content of zinc (over 2 %), nickel, indium by using a reagent based on potassium dichromate and copper chloride is not effective.

The results of our analysis indicate the increased gold assay compared with a standard touch-needle.

To eliminate this phenomenon, it is recommended that one should first determine the composition of an alloy by the XFA method and construct an algorithm for testing in accordance with the content of the alloy by other reagents.

It was determined that the gold assay defined on a touchstone for alloys from the system AuAgZnCu 585 (a content of zinc is over 2 %) is more contrast under the influence of acidic reagents and depends on the component composition of the alloy.

It has been proven that the alloy of “white gold”, composed of palladium and silver (AuAgPd585), is not affected by the acid reagent for gold assay 585.

Testing the alloy of “white gold” (AuAgPd585) using an acid reagent for gold assay 750 yields the dark sediment of a bluish tint.

We have established a more contrast effect on the alloys of “white gold” and “yellow gold” of assay 750 from the acid reagent for gold alloys of assay 750.

**Keywords:** gold alloys, touchstone, “chlorine gold”, potassium dichromate, copper sulphate, assay control.

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**ANALYSIS AND COMPARISON OF MECHANICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF PROTECTIVE COATINGS OBTAINED AT DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS OF “TARGET – SUBSTRATE” (p. 19-27)**

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The effect of different combinations of the “target-substrate” on the mechanical and chemical properties of protective coatings obtained by ion-plasma treatment has been studied. The widespread use of ion-plasma technology for strengthening products is constrained by the imperfection of equipment, the lack of sufficient theoretical and experimental research for control and regulates the physical properties and technical parameters of the process. Eliminating these problems is possible based on further research and new solutions in the field of strengthening technology. For research in this direction, an experimental ion-plasma setup was used with software for regulating and controlling energy, dose, concentration of implanted ions, working gas pressure, coating thickness. The effective technique to improve the quality of the steel tool working surface has been applied, which made it possible to carry out mass transfer of alloying elements by ion-plasma surface treatment. Due to the controlled low-temperature two-stage ionization of nitrogen atoms and alloying elements in the reaction volume, the iron crystal lattice was saturated with implanted ions and carbonitride phases of the alloying elements, which are responsible for increasing hardness, wear and corrosion resistance. The optimal parameters of the implantation process ( $U_s=25$  kV,  $I_s=35$  mA,  $D=4.01 \cdot 10^{17}$  cm<sup>-2</sup> per hour) were revealed, which made it possible

to achieve an improvement in the surface properties of structural carbon, structural alloyed, tool steels. The relationship has been established between the service life of the products and the surface properties obtained after implantation. An increase in the service life of products with TiN coating (1.5–3 times), CrN (1.9–6 times) and ZrN (3–12 times) in comparison with uncoated products is shown. An analysis was conducted and the most effective variants of combinations “target – steel substrate” for practical application of protective coatings were determined. The use of relatively inexpensive steel products with enhanced strength characteristics has economic benefits for the manufacturer and is one of the trends in modern production.

**Keywords:** ion implantation, protective coating, steel substrate, wear resistance, service life.

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#### DETERMINING SPECIAL FEATURES IN THE TOPOGRAPHY OF PAPER WITH WATER MARKS AT THE MICRO AND NANOLEVELS (p. 28-35)

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We have studied the surface structure of tamper-proof paper with positive and negative watermarks at different scales – from a micrometer to a nanometer level, by using the methods of contact profilometry and atomic force microscopy. Experimental research has confirmed that the structural parameters of the tamper-proof paper's surface differ at regions with and without watermarks.

The results of measurements by a contact profilometer have made it possible to trace a correlation between values of the profile's mean arithmetic deviation and the presence of watermarks. It was determined that the value for the profile's largest height does not depend on a measurement region, which could be related to the chaotic arrangement of fibers and particles of the filler in the paper bulk that protrude above the profile's line.

By analyzing the value of the profile's mean arithmetic deviation obtained by using a method of atomic-force microscopy, it was found that for regions with negative watermarks it is larger than that for regions with positive watermarks. The dependence of the profile's largest height on measurement region is not clearly observed. This may be due to that the size of the examined region (3,000×3,000 nm) covers only part of the pulp fibers.

Thus, the results of our analysis allow us to argue that both methods are suitable for estimating the characteristics of paper's surface, and determine the character of interaction between a given type of paper and printing inks during printing process. In particular, it has been established that the method of profilometry makes it possible to determine parameters of the paper's surface profile, formed in a certain way, while the atomic force microscopy method allows analysis of the morphology of its components, located at the surface (fibers, filler's particles, etc.). The availability of information on the structural properties of paper makes it possible to predict the quality of printing reproduction, specifically clearness of reproduction of thin guilloche lines on watermarks, which is relevant because it prevents flaws in printing products for special purposes.

**Keywords:** tamper-proof paper, roughness, contact profilometry, atomic force microscopy, surface structure of paper.

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**ANALYSIS OF CHANGE IN THE DECORATIVE PROPERTIES OF GRANITES UNDER THERMAL EXPOSURE (p. 35-43)**

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We investigated samples extracted in Ukraine from nine granite deposits experimentally. We performed tests of granite samples at high temperatures of 200, 400, 600, and 900 °C.

All presented granites showed a change in the color of surface at a temperature of 200 °C and higher. The behavior of granites under heating depends on their mineral composition, structure and texture.

Surfaces of all samples became lighter and some granite samples lost saturation of their color. The largest increase in L component (image of stone samples brightens) of the CIE Lab color system occurred on Cardinal Gray and Carpazi granite samples of natural stone under heating to 900 °C. The increase made up 42 and 44 %, respectively. The smallest increase in L component was on Gray Ukraine and L granites under heating to 900 °C. It made up 4 and 8.5 %, respectively.

The effect of temperature was less visible on red granite, since both fresh and heated samples had a similar red color. Flower of Ukraine granite samples acquired a uniform violet-pink color at the temperature of 900 °C due to the content of apatite and fluorite. Red spots appeared on gray granites under heating. The red spots located mainly around mica and other minerals, which were rich in Fe. Reddish-brown spots appeared at the temperature of 200 °C on green Verde Oliva granite. Red spots occupied 67 % of the sample area under heating to 900 °C.

We observed the greatest color change on granites, where the phase transition of dark-colored minerals (biotite and pyroxene) into polymorphic minerals took place. This gave granite samples a light color, as the minerals changed color from black to gray or white. Quartz provided the shades of white. White microcracks appeared under heating of quartz.

Noticeable aesthetic damage appears at temperatures from 200 to 400 °C at the surfaces of natural stone samples. Thus, one can



consider a fire with temperatures lower than this threshold as a “safe” fire in terms of aesthetic damage, if we take into consideration the heating coefficient of fire only and exclude ash and gases.

**Keywords:** granite, high temperatures, decorativeness of natural stone, mineral composition, granite structure.

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### A STUDY OF THE STRUCTURE AND PROPERTIES OF MATERIAL BASED ON AN IRON – COPPER COMPOSITE POWDER (p. 44-50)

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The study was conducted on the influence of chemical precipitation of copper on the change in the physical, chemical and technological properties of atomized powder based on iron. The kinetics of the copper deposition process from the solution of copper glycerate and the technological parameters of the deposition process have been established, helping obtain copper plating with adjustable thickness. The study of the physical properties of composite powders has shown that plating changes the shape, size, and morphology of the surface of particles of iron powder. Due to this, there are changes in the technological characteristics of iron powders, in particular their fluidity and bulk density increase. The study of the structure of composite powders has shown a difference in porosity at low pressures after compression, compared with the original iron powder, which is due to the best repositioning of particles at the stage of structural deformation. This allows the compression process to be carried out at lower pressures to obtain satisfactory porosity. Second pressing of briquettes based on composite powders results in a decrease in the total porosity of the material by 6–7 %, which is due to the effect of plastic copper, which is more easily deformed at a pressure of up to 800 MPa. The study of the physical and mechanical properties of composite powders has shown that plating with copper increases bending strength and toughness with hardness. The improvement of properties is due to the dissolution of copper in the iron after sintering and the formation of a solid copper solution in  $\alpha$ -Fe. In addition, the introduction of copper by chemical precipitation allows obtaining a material with a uniform distribution of the alloying component throughout the volume of iron, which is confirmed by the results of metallographic analysis and measurement of specific electrical resistance.

There are grounds to argue that it is possible to control the amount of copper in an iron powder with a given thickness of plating by a chemical precipitation method, which helps obtain powdered material with high performance characteristics.

**Keywords:** plating, chemical precipitation, composite powder, moulding, compaction, sealing, morphology, impact strength, electrical resistance.

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#### DETERMINING THE INFLUENCE OF CARBON BLACK IN OIL ON THE WEAR RESISTANCE OF ELEMENTS IN THE TRIBOLOGICAL SYSTEM “STEEL – OIL – BRONZE” (p. 51-58)

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The results of experimental research into the influence of the concentration of carbon black in industrial oil I-30A and on wear resistance of the tribological system “steel-oil-bronze” are presented. It is assumed that carbon black, obtained by the electric arc method under laboratory conditions, consists of conglomerates and micro- and nanoparticles of carbon, which are found in a wide range from nanometers to tenths of millimeters.

The procedure, materials, and equipment for experimental studies of wear resistance of the parts of the tribosystem “steel-bronze” on the friction machine SMC-2 was shown. The research procedure methodology involved the variation by two independent factors: concentration of carbon black in industrial oil I-30A and external loading. Sliding velocity, contour area of the contact and initial temperature of the tribosystem remained constant factors.

The obtained experimental data made it possible to establish two main patterns that characterize the process of friction and wear in the studied tribological system. The first pattern reveals the influence of the concentration of carbon black in industrial oil I-30A and external load on friction torque in the couple “steel – bronze”. The second pattern reveals the influence of the same factors on wear

resistance of the parts that were tested on the friction machine. The obtained patterns correlate among themselves and determine the scope of rational concentration of conglomerates of micro- and nanoparticles of carbon in industrial oil I-30A, which was applied as a lubricant in the tested tribological system.

At the final stage of the research, the surfaces of the parts of friction were studied at the atomic-force microscope "Solver P47-Pro" made by manufacturing company NT-MDT. These studies made it possible to reveal the mechanism of modification of the surface layer of steel and bronze by carbon nanoparticles in their interaction in the tribological system at friction.

**Keywords:** carbon conglomerate, carbon nanoparticles, friction pair, tribological system, industrial oil.

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**STUDYING THE PHYSICAL-CHEMICAL TRANSFORMATIONS AT RESOURCESAVING REDUCTION MELTING OF CHROME-NICKEL-CONTAINING METALLURGICAL WASTE (p. 59-64)**

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We have investigated the physicochemical characteristics of chromium-nickel-containing waste from the production of corrosion-resistant steels and a doped alloy obtained by reduction smelting. This is necessary to determine the parameters that reduce the losses of Ni and Cr during the processing of doped oxide raw materials and using the resulting dopant. It was determined that the alloy with the O/C ratio in the charge in the range of 1.09–1.78 had the  $\gamma$ -Fe and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}$  phases with alloying elements as substitutional atoms. At O/C=1.78, the phase composition predominantly consisted of  $\gamma$ -Fe with a weak manifestation of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}$ . A phased O/C change in charge of 1.33 and 1.09 resulted in an increase in the emergence of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{C}$  on diffractograms. The microstructure of the chrome-nickel-containing corrosion-resistant steels scale mixture is disordered with the presence of particles of different sizes and shapes. The content of the alloying elements Ni and Cr was 7.65 % wt. and 14.26 % wt., respectively, at the oxygen content at the level of 29.70 % wt. The microstructure of the doped alloy with a different O/C ratio in the charge had a clear manifestation of several phases, characterized by differences in the content of the main alloying elements. The Ni content in the studied areas of different phases varied within 1.41–20.90 % wt., Cr – 1.27–32.90 % wt. According to research, the most acceptable O/C ratio in the charge is 1.78. In this case, reduction was achieved with predominance in the phase composition of  $\gamma$ -Fe with a relatively weak manifestation of residual carbon as the carbide component. In other words, we have determined the indicators for the processing of chromium-nickel-containing industrial wastes and the production of a doped smelting product with a relatively low carbon content. This expands the possibilities of resource saving using the obtained alloy with the replacement of a certain proportion of standard alloying materials in the smelting of carbon-limited steel grades.

**Keywords:** corrosion-resistant steel scale, alloyed technogenic waste, reduction smelting, X-ray phase studies.

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