

Change the hardness of the alloy based on changing the composition of aluminum alloys

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Abstract: This article analyzes the influence of germanium on aluminum alloys. The article examines how germanium oxide is introduced into its composition during melting of aluminum-manganese, aluminum-copper, aluminum-magnesium alloys and its hardness changes. Based on the results of the conducted research, the conclusions and suggestions of the authors are presented at the end of the article.

Keywords: Hardness, alloying, aluminum, manganese, copper, magnesium, germanium, furnace.

Introduction: Aluminum alloys have better mechanical and technological properties than pure aluminum. Therefore, aluminum alloys are widely used in mechanical engineering, aircraft manufacturing, shipbuilding, construction and agriculture. Aluminum stands out among structural materials due to its important properties (relative strength, electrical and thermal conductivity, corrosion resistance). Aluminum forms solid solutions with different compositions that look like alloying elements. Due to the growing demand for aluminum alloys in industry, scientists around the world are conducting research to improve their

properties. In particular, research aimed at improving the properties of aluminum alloys by introducing various alloying elements into them was carried out by the Iranian scientist S.G. Shabestari and others studied the influence of copper and the state of solidification on the microstructure and mechanical properties of Al-Si-Mg alloys. The researchers used aluminum alloy grade A356 with a copper content of 0.2–2.5%, cast under various solidification conditions (in sand, graphite, copper, and cast iron molds). The highest tensile strength was obtained with heat treatment of alloys (T6), mold cooling rate (graphite) and copper

content up to 1.5%. The best mechanical properties were demonstrated by dissolving approximately 1.5% Cu in the Al-Si-Mg alloy in graphite molds. In this article, the authors studied the effect of introducing germanium oxide into aluminum and its mechanical properties, including hardness.

METHODS

The studies were conducted on aluminum alloys in the aluminum-copper, aluminum-magnesium and aluminum-manganese systems. These alloys contain germanium oxide. As a result of the introduction of this compound, the oxygen contained in it was released, and the germanium was absorbed by the alloy. Germanium is located in period 4 th group,14 of the periodic table of chemical elements, with atomic

number 32. Denoted as Ge (Germany), Germanium is a grey-white intermediate optical material that is shiny like metals. Like silicon, it is a semiconductor. Germanium is usually extracted from nickel and tungsten ores as a semi-metallic compound. It is also obtained from the composition of silicates. After very complex processing of the ore, germanium oxide is released in the form of GeO_2 . In the experiments, aluminum alloys were melted in a resistance furnace with the addition of germanium oxide. First, for comparison, samples were cast in aluminum alloys without the addition of germanium oxide. At the next stage, the element germanium was added to the alloys of the selected grade in the form of oxide in an amount of 0.1% to 0.3% relative to the batch.



Fig.1. Processed samples.

From each selected alloy grade, samples with three different compositions were cast. The cast samples were cut on a lathe to the required size and shape. The

cut and processed samples are shown in figure1. The following tables present the chemical composition of the samples.

Table 1.

Alloy in the aluminum-manganese system

№	Brand	Percentage of elements by mass, %										
		Al	Si	Fe	Cu	Mn	Mg	Ti	Be	Zn	Ge	Cr
1	AMц	96,3-99	0,6	0,7	0,05-0,2	1-1,5	-	-	-	0,1	-	-
2	AMц	96,3-99	0,6	0,7	0,05-0,2	1-1,5	-	-	-	0,1	1	-
3	AMц	96,3-99	0,6	0,7	0,05-0,2	1-1,5	-	-	-	0,1	2	-
4	AMц	96,3-99	0,6	0,7	0,05-0,2	1-1,5	-	-	-	0,1	3	-

Table 2.

Alloy in the aluminum-copper system

№	Brand	Percentage of elements by mass, %										
		Al	Si	Fe	Cu	Mn	Mg	Ti	Be	Zn	Ge	Cr
1	Д16	91-94,7	0,5	0,5	3,8-4,9	0,3-0,9	1,2-1,8	0,1	-	0,3	-	0,5
2	Д16	91-94,7	0,5	0,5	3,8-4,9	0,3-0,9	1,2-1,8	0,1	-	0,3	1	0,5
3	Д16	91-94,7	0,5	0,5	3,8-4,9	0,3-0,9	1,2-1,8	0,1	-	0,3	2	0,5
4	Д16	91-94,7	0,5	0,5	3,8-4,9	0,3-0,9	1,2-1,8	0,1	-	0,3	3	0,5

Table 3.

Alloy in the aluminum-magnesium system

№	Brand	Percentage of elements by mass, %										
		Al	Si	Fe	Cu	Mn	Mg	Ti	Be	Zn	Ge	Cr
1	AMr5	91,9-94	0,5	0,5	0,1	0,3-0,8	4,8-5,8	0,1	0,005	0,2	-	-
2	AMr5	91,9-94	0,5	0,5	0,1	0,3-0,8	4,8-5,8	0,1	0,005	0,2	1	-
3	AMr5	91,9-94	0,5	0,5	0,1	0,3-0,8	4,8-5,8	0,1	0,005	0,2	2	-
4	AMr5	91,9-94	0,5	0,5	0,1	0,3-0,8	4,8-5,8	0,1	0,005	0,2	3	-

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The cut and processed samples were ground and their hardness was measured. Hardness was measured on

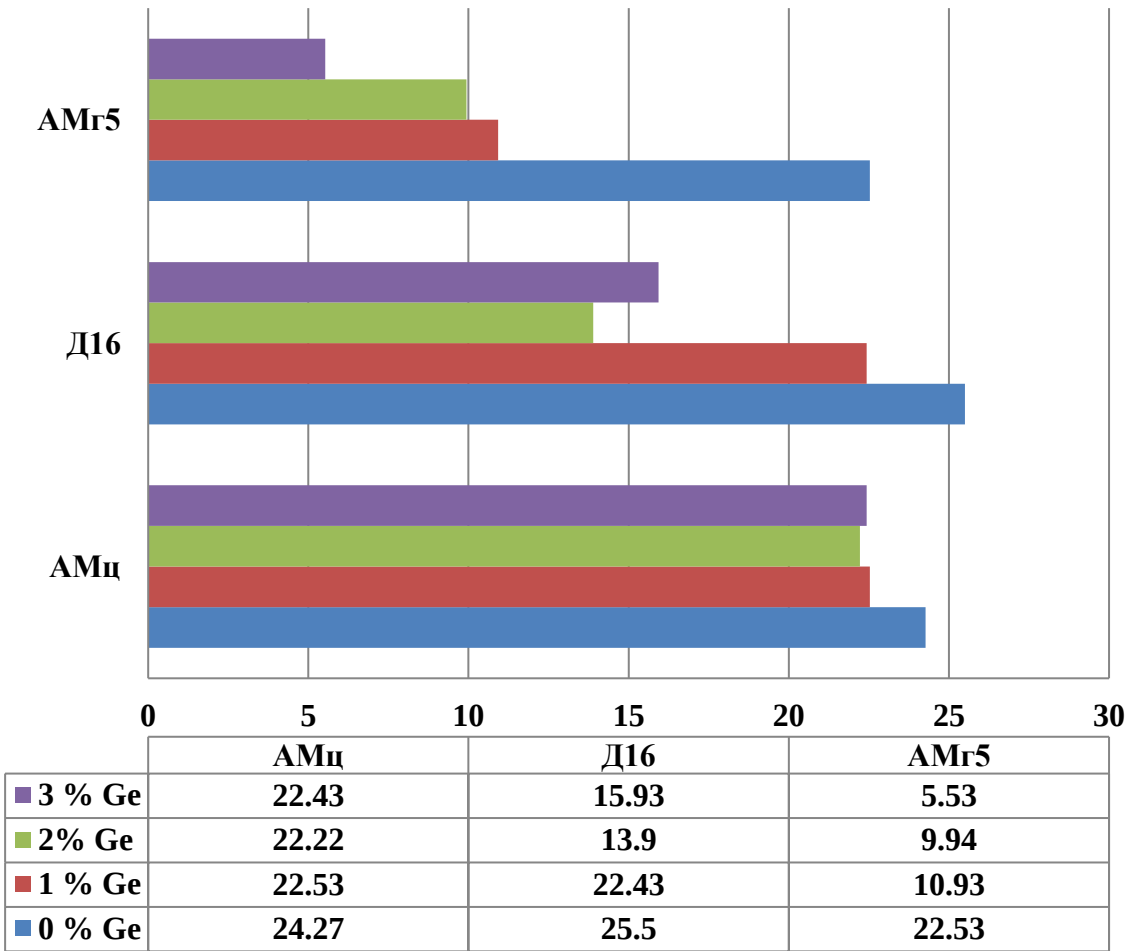
the Brinell scale. To measure hardness, a hardness tester "Rockwell type hardness tester FR" was used. (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Rockwell type hardness tester FR.

The hardness of the samples was measured at three different points on the same surface. The results of the hardness measurements are presented in the diagrams below.

Results of hardness measurments



CONCLUSION

Based on the experience gained, the following conclusions can be drawn. Overall, germanium oxide did not have a positive effect on the hardness of aluminum alloys. Germanium oxide did not have a significant effect on the hardness of the alloy in the aluminum-manganese system. However, this sharply reduced the hardness of alloys in the aluminum-copper and aluminum-magnesium systems. Therefore, it is recommended to include germanium oxide in the alloy composition together with other elements. For example, studies have shown that its inclusion in combination with strontium and silicon increases the hardness of the alloy.

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