Foreword

This publication, Bearing Steels: Into the 21st Century, contains papers presented at the symposium of the same name, held on 19–21 November 1996 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The symposium was sponsored by ASTM Committee A-1 on Steel, Stainless Steel, and Related Alloys and its Subcommittee A01.28 on Bearing Steels. Joseph J. C. Hoo (symposium chairman) of General Bearing Corp. in West Nyack, NY and Willard B. Green, Jr. of the Torrington Co. in Torrington, CT are editors of the resulting publication.
Contents

Overview—W. B. Green, Jr. ix

SUBCOMMITTEE A01.28 ON BEARING STEELS

A Brief History, Status, and Mission of ASTM Subcommittee A01.28 on Bearing Steels—W. B. Green, Jr. 3

BEARING STEEL CLEANLINESS

Inclusion Ratings: Past, Present, and Future—G. F. Vander Voort 13

Quantification of Large Inclusions in Bearing Steels—T. B. Lund and K. Torresvoll 27


Simulation of the Behavior of Short Cracks at Inclusions Under Rolling Contact Fatigue Loading—Specially the Effect of Plasticity—A. Melander 70

What Happens to the Fatigue Limit of Bearing Steel Without Nonmetallic Inclusions?: Fatigue Strength of Electron Beam Remelted Super Clean Bearing Steel—Y. Murakami, T. Toriyama, K. Tsubota, and K. Furumura 87

BEARING LIFE/ROLLING CONTACT FATIGUE

Nucleation of Fatigue in Very Low Oxygen Bearing Steels—T. B. LUND, S. A. JOHANSSON, AND L. J. PATRIK OLUND

Rolling Contact Fatigue Behavior of Heat Resistant Bearing Steels at High Operational Temperatures—H.-J. BOHMER, T. HIRSCH, AND E. STREIT

Fatigue and Material Response in Rolling Contact—A. P. VOSKAMP

A New Type of Flaking Failure in Bearings for Electrical Instruments of Automotive Engines—K. TAMADA, H. TANAKA, AND N. TSUSHIMA

Bearing Steel Production

Bearing Steels 20/20—A Steelmaker’s Viewpoint—A Look Back 20 Years and a Look Forward 20 Years—B. M. GLASGAL


Application of Continuous Casting Steel 100CR6 (SAE 52 100) for Bearing—F. STAHL, TH. HIRSCH, AND P. MAYR


Through Hardening Bearing Steels


New Steels Now in Use for Automotive Rolling Element Bearings—N. TSUSHIMA, K. MAEDA, H. NAKASHIMA, AND H. KASHIMURA

Case Hardening Bearing Steels

Case Hardening Medium Carbon Steel for Tough and Long Bearing Under Severe Lubrication Conditions—K. FURUMURA, Y. MURAKAMI, AND T. ABE

New Steels and Methods for Induction Hardening of Bearing Rings and Rollers—B. K. OUCHAKOV AND K. Z. SHEPELJAKOVSKY

AIRCRAFT/AEROSPACE BEARING STEELS: PART I

The History and Future of Aircraft Turbine Engine Bearing Steels—
P. K. PEARSON 335


AIRCRAFT/AEROSPACE BEARING STEELS: PART II


CORROSION RESISTANT BEARING STEELS

A New Corrosion Resistant, Martensitic Stainless Steel for Improved Performance in Miniature Bearings—C. M. TOMASELLO, J. L. MALONEY, P. C. WARD, AND J. P. MATERKOWSKI 437


The Evaluation of Corrosion Resistant Rod End Rolling Element Bearings—J. BRAZA, K. GIUNTOLI, AND J. R. IMUNDO 460

Laser Glazed Bearings—D. W. HETZNER 471

BEARINGS WITH SURFACE MODIFICATION

Rolling Contact Fatigue Properties of TIN/NBN Superlattice Coatings on M-50 Steel—M. A. LISTON 499

The Application of Resonance Ultrasound Spectroscopy to Bearing Rollers—G. W. RHODES 511

Author Index 519

Subject Index 521
Overview

The anti-friction bearing industry is once again indebted to Joseph J. C. Hoo for his leadership in organizing and chairing an international symposium on Bearing Steels and related subjects. His efforts have brought together experts from around the world to present their work. This symposium, Joe's fifth, was entitled "Bearing Steels into the 21st Century", and was sponsored by the American Society for Testing and Materials Committee A01 and its subcommittee A01.28 on Bearing Steels. It was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 19-21, 1996. Special Technical Publications (STPs) for the four previous symposia have been published and are listed here for quick reference:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>STP</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>STP 575</td>
<td>Bearing Steels: The Rating of Nonmetallic Inclusions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>STP 771</td>
<td>Rolling Contact Fatigue Testing of Bearing Steels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>STP 987</td>
<td>Effect of Steel Manufacturing Processes on the Quality of Bearing Steels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>STP 1195</td>
<td>Creative Use of Bearing Steels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The symposia titles and subject matter have been carefully chosen to follow the evolution of bearing and bearing steel technology over the last quarter century. It is certainly fitting that this symposium focused on where the industry is headed in the 21st century. The collection of work reported in these five STPs provides a unique focus on the international thinking in the bearing industry from the materials and materials processing point of view.

The symposium was organized in 9 separate categories, some sessions updating information previously presented, and some presenting brand new materials and processing to advance bearing technology. Subjects covered include steel cleanliness and measuring methods, bearing fatigue life, and advanced steel processing. Also covered are advances in both thru-hardening and carburizing heat treatments, progress in aerospace and corrosion resistant materials, and surface modifying processes, such as induction hardening and coating methods. Details of the sessions and the papers are covered in the index to this STP.

With each symposium, the international participation is increasing. 175 to 200 engineers and scientists from around the world attended this symposium, some coming to these gatherings for the first time. The organizers are grateful for the wide interest and participation. This book is a collection of 33 papers presented in New Orleans. It is the work of researchers from (alphabetically) Austria, Belgium, China, France, Germany, Greece, Japan, Netherlands, Russia, Sweden, UK, and USA. Some of these countries participated for the first time in an ASTM sponsored event. They represented 10 bearing companies, 15 steel producing companies, 8 universities and research institutes, and 4 miscellaneous bearing users.
OVERVIEW

We are sure that the work contained in this and previous STPs has advanced that world's knowledge of those simple, yet complicated, devices known as anti-friction bearings, be they ball, roller, or needle. We also hope that some of these papers will form the foundation for future research to further advance our industry. While we have come a long way in the past 25 years, we do not know all the answers yet. The challenge of the future is, of course, to make bearings that last longer, are smaller, more corrosion resistant, and more cost effective. The researchers of the future have work to do. We hope that ASTM symposia will continue to provide forums to report advances toward these goals.

Joe Hoo, because of his international stature, has been successful in bringing together world leaders in bearing technology to present their research. We hope that the spirit of sharing information continues as the world gets smaller, and probably more competitive. On behalf of the ASTM Subcommittee A01.28 on Bearing Steels, and the world bearing industry - thanks, Joe.

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