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INFREVENCIAL OF URANIUM FLUCKIDE REGISTANCE OF NICKEL-MARROING STEEL

by

Tetsuro Kuroda and Kenichi Hashimoto

(Japanese patent, Kokai 137,840/75)

Translated from the Japanese by the Japan Information Jentre of Joience and Technology

March 1977

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AUSTRALIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT

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AUSTRALIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION LIB/TRANS SERIES

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JAPAN PATENT, KOKAI 137840/1975

TITLE

IMPROVEMENT OF URANIUM FLUORIDE RESISTANCE OF NICKEL-MARAGING STEEL

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

IMPROVEMENT OF URANIUM FLUORIDE RESISTANCE OF NICKEL-MARAGING STEEL

CLAIM

A process to improve the resistance of maraging nickel steel against UF $_6$ comprising heating the steel up to 500°C in air to form an oxidation film on the surface.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a process to improve the resistance of maraging nickel steel against ${\tt UF}_{\rm K}$.

Although maraging nickel steel is a super strength steel with high toughness, it has a disadvantage of being corroded in an atmosphere of UF $_6$ gas. The resistance of the steel against UF $_6$ cannot be greatly improved by changing more or less the composition of the maraging steel of 18% Ni type which is mainly used for practical purposes at present. Application of surface treatments has been proposed to improve the resistance of maraging nickel steel against UF $_6$. For instance the surface of maraging steel can be coated with

nickel or steel by plating which has good resistance against UF_6 . However, it is practically impossible to obtain perfect plating without pinholes. The pinholes in the plating on the maraging steel are corroded preferentially by UF_6 gas and the film of plating is separated. Thus, plating maraging steel cannot be recommended to improve its resistance against UF_6 .

An object of this invention is to provide a new process of surface treatment to improve the resistance of maraging nickel steel against UF_c .

The present invention can be briefly stated as the following:

By the study of surface treatments to improve the resistance of maraging nickel steel against UF $_6$ it has been discovered that the oxidation film formed on maraging nickel steel heated up to 500°C in air has an excellent resistance against UF $_6$ and is not corroded with UF $_6$ at all.

Generally speaking maraging nickel steel is endowed with a strength higher than 175 kg/mm² by ageing at 450 to 500°C for 1 to 5 hours after solution treatment and cold working. Ageing of maraging steel is usually carried out in vacuum or in Ar gas atmosphere. According to the present invention an oxidation film of improved resistance winst UF₆ and sufficient strength can be obtained by simply ageing the maraging nickel steel in air. Furthermore the oxidation film formed at temperatures up to 500°C has good cohesiveness to matrix. When maraging steel is heated above 500°C, the oxidation film shows a tendency to be easily separated from the matrix, the grains of precipitated austenite grow due to high temperature and the strength decreases considerably. From above description, it is known that sufficient strength and oxidation film with good resistance against UF₆ can be obtained by ageing maraging nickel steel at 450 to 500°C for 1 to 5 hours in air.

Example

Four kinds of maraging 18% Ni steel shown in Table 1 were prepared about 500g each by melting electrolytic iron, electrolytic nickel, electrolytic cobalt, ferro-molybdenum, ferro-titanium and appropriately small amounts of Al, Si and Mn as deoxidizer.

Each ingot was annealed for homogenization, hot-rolled to 5 mm thickness, cold-rolled to 3 mm thickness and solution-treated at 850°C for 1 hour. Three specimens of 2 mmt x 20 mmw x 50 mml were cut out from the sheet of each kind of the maraging steel. The surface of the specimens was machine-polished (to the degree of finishing of WV) and they were supersonic-cleaned in trichloro-ethylene. The specimens were heaten at 450 to 500°C in air to form oxidation

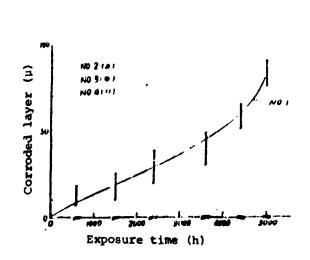
film on the surface and exposed to an atmosphere containing 500 mHg UF₆ and 260 mHg Ar. The exposure was carried out at 90°C and for the period up to 5000 hours during which at a certain interval the cross section of each specimen was observed under an optical microscope to measure the corroded layer. The results are shown in Figure. No.1 shows the specimen heated at 480°C in vacuum. No.2 shows one heated at 480°C, No.3 at 500°C and No.4 at 450°C. No.2 and 4 were all heated in air for 5 hours. As evidently shown in the Figure, the corroded layer of No.1 aged in vacuum increased with the increase in the exposure time and a corroded layer of 75 to 90µ was formed after 5000 hours of exposure. On the other hand, no corroded layer was formed on No.2 and 4 aged in air because their oxidation films were not corroded at all even after the exposure of 5000 hours.

As described above, the example of the present invention has evidently shown that the .esistance of the customary maraging 18% Ni steel against $\rm UF_6$ is greatly improved by being heated at 450 to 500°C in air for several hours to form oxidation film on the surface.

Although the oxidation film formed below 450°C also has a good resistance against UF₆, it is unfavorable from the view point of productivity because the maraging steel must be heated a longer time to get a necessary strength. In the range of heating temperatures of 450 to 500°C the most practical ageing temperature is 480 to 500°C and the heating time is 3 to 5 hours. When the maraging steel is heated for more than 5 hours, the strength of the steel increases but the toughness of it begins to decrease.

Brief description of the figure

The figure is a characteristic figure to show the relationship between the exposure time of specimens in the gas of UF_{κ} and the corroded layer.



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Kuroda Tilane, Hashinala Kunichi (Hetoche 1/10)

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ш м49 д : д24

朝野庁民間選 「明の名称。エファル・マルエーフンプは、新した刊名の

特許出額人

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19 日本国特許庁

公開特許公報

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条明の本外、エッテル・マルユージング側の側 U7。単数単級

発力機長の機能

ルフナル・マルエーザング間を大乗中で 800 C 以下の名式に始集して、数数に別化額を受求を ることを得象とするルンテル・マルエージングが の取り5,也改得点。

発売の非確な意味

- 本権所はエジナル・マルエージング語つ計UP。 独を改善する方法に翻する。

エファル・マルエーノンを倒は物性のでだれた 趣意力様であるが、UP。ガス容器集中にあらずと 概念されるなるがある。最近、取用化されている のは主に196エンテル器のマルエーソンを倒で あるが、その確認を多少、変化をせても、計UP。 他は個本的には使きされない。エファル・マルエ ーノンを倒の前UP。後を表響する方面として、数 概念器を用すり数が考えられる。数据基礎としては 計UP。我の表材なエファル、個などのつき曲です ルユージング間を被倒する方法がある。しかし、 小孔のない気を無欠なのつきを物すととは内部上 不可能であり、マルエージング間に不完全なのつ なをもして、 100mg ままのであますもと小孔 が UP。ガスに過去のに質えるれてのつき間か付配 する。このように、マルエージング間とのつきを 除すことは計 UF。後次等の上からは特別でない。 本見明の多的はトッナル・マルエージング間の 財 UP。 節を発音する前項が発音機構を循係する にある。

本集界の要点は次の通りである。エファル・マルエーノンド側の別はど。我を改善する資源無理品を適利した無度、食の事が切りかだるれた。 すなわる、エファル・マルエーノンド側を大禁中である ではずの事件に発展して全成される際心臓は耐いがあるものであり、など。メスに事際しても全く資金されない。

一個のエクテル・マティ・ジング側は原体化製 開発の存储が立ち的し、 その他 450~5000 で 1 ・ 5時時時間であるとはは 1 175回/mm! 以上の

格岡 450- 137 846 ②

毎月を集有させている。 点者のマルエ・ブンテ盟 の政策構造は真を中あるいは五七月、名表気で行 なわれている。使つてる花園により、は東のエフ タグ・マルムニジング調が特別処理を単に大能中 で収集すれば新りPa性改良に食好な糖化模が展慮 され、かつ、十分な集电が扱られる。しかも、 まらりで以下で放成される頭に機はマトリツフス との名物性が良好である。マルエーブング間を まじりではとで加藤すると新化物はマトリンクス からお客に封御する順向を示す。また、時期包収 が高いために食血オースケフォトが生涯し無度が 着しく低ぎする。以上のことからニファル・マル エージング商を大気中で 430~560でで 1 ~ 5時 関格者をおばす分なる無度が得られ、かつ生成し た酸化糖は良好な前UP。性を有することになる。 ...

ひょうきェックル・マルス・ジング間をそれ

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それぞれ的ままもま無難した。

者インゴントを均質化質的質化器関加工してる mmi の夢るだし、多ちと内間加工して 3 pmi の夢 まべし、吹いできるもで、1時間の感体化基準を 着した。女にそれぞれの倒得につきるmml x まり × 5.0 mm4の製件を3枚ず 乗り出した。そ して養養を機能的意味で(35マ)に仕上げた。各 我料をライクロルエテレン中で適量値及予し、大 気中で430~500では最時間加熱して、成長の変 森に駅化粧を申載させて、500mmHFUPa+240 mmlifAiの事業気中に基準をせた。試験条件は算 数を統行に各番器時間 指化 各試外の新曲を光学器 Rボイ。No. 1 は食金中で180℃に3時間抽象 No. 2~4は人気中でもれぞれ No. 3は4 8 0 ℃。 No. 312 5 0 0 C , No. 415 4 5 3 C K 4 5 時間和 思したものである。誰から明らかなようは、真宝 中で時間を推したNo. jis BR時間の推開と共化費 角巻も増加し、 6006時間番禺では75~90 gの

鹿魚をんず、使つて、他会用は私収をれなかつた。 **聞の計画が扱が多しく内上するのパルボ中の内角** 何から明らかにまれた。

den.

4.5.0 で以下の転換により形成される単化機の ~まままで無無難度にないて着も希別的な特殊無 置は 48月~8日日じであり、加州時間に 3 ~ 5 時間 である。3甲戌以上加熱するとサルス・ブノブ間 の無度は増加するが、発性が無ドする場所と水で

暴虐の無単な展秀

銀は供食材の32。ガス中央貨物機と含金をの額

; 8 40 (2) 新記以外の発明者、特許出職人または代理人 3700 時期 (九)