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Development of hard and wear resistant tungsten doped DLC coatings for dry rotary swaging tools

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Rotary swaging is an incremental cold metal forging process for manufacturing of rotationally symmetric automotive components such as axles or gear shafts in short cycle times. Nowadays, a good surface quality of the manufactured work pieces and a minimized adhesive tool wear is achieved by an extensive use of lubricants usually made of crude oil. The absence of lubricant would improve the ecological balance and accelerate further work piece processing since complex cleaning steps become obsolete. However, preliminary applications tests under dry conditions using conventional tools exhibit heavy adhesive tool wear against steel and aluminum work pieces and result in insufficient work piece qualities up to process instabilities. In order to meet the requirements of dry rotary swaging, non-adhesive hard and wear resistant multilayer coating systems (CrN_x/a-C:H:W/a-C:H) based on tungsten doped amorphous carbon films were developed by reactive magnetron-sputtering. These coating systems are characterized by low friction and high resistance against fatigue. The influence of magnetron-sputtering parameters, tungsten content, heat treatment, surface pretreatment and the film design on the mechanical and tribological properties of the multilayer coating systems were examined. Finally, real rotary swaging experiments with selected self-made and coated tools under various rotary swaging conditions were performed.

Keywords

Reactive Magnetron-Sputtering
Diamond like Carbon
Multilayer Coatings
Dry Rotary Swaging
Application Tests