

OTEVA 91 SC

Oil tempered SiCrVMo-alloyed ultra-high tensile valve spring wire for surface nitriding

OTEVA® 91 SC is a Super Clean steel, especially intended for the manufacture of clutch/transmission springs with extremely high fatigue properties and good relaxation properties at increased working temperatures.

Manufactured as standard in shaved condition in sizes from Ø 2.00 mm to 10.0 mm, or in egg or elliptical shape corresponding to round cross section 2.50 mm to 6.00 mm. Other wire sizes on request.

Chemical composition

Element	Weight %
C	0.50% - 0.70%
Si	1.80% - 2.20%
Mn	0.30% - 0.60%
P max.	0.020%
S max.	0.025%
Cr	0.80% - 1.00%
V	0.05% - 0.15%
Mo	0.05% - 0.15%

Cleanliness in steel

The presence of non-metallic inclusions in the wire rod is inspected for every heat of OTEVA® 91 SC in accordance with the Suzuki Garphyttan method by the steel supplier.

Before release for production, Suzuki Garphyttan performs non-metallic inclusion inspection for every fifth heat. The criteria for supplier inspection and releasing inspection are the following;

For wire rod samples: Inclusion size max. 15 µm down to 1 mm below surface. Inspection area: 1 000 mm².

Inclusion size, surface	5-10 µm	>10-15 µm	>15 µm
Max. number of inclusions	50	7	0

For OTEVA 91 SC PLUS, every heat is inspected including a SEM-EDS analysis of inclusions > 10µm to verify a Super Clean composition.

As stated by IVSWMA, International Valve Spring Wire Manufacturers Association, it is likely to find occasional inclusions in valve spring quality steel of a size larger than 30 µm.

Mechanical properties

Table definitions

Diameter: Other wire sizes on request.

Tolerance: Ovality, i. e. the difference between the largest and smallest dimension of a cross section, is maximum half the tolerance range.

Tensile strength: Conversion from tensile strength to hardness values can be calculated in standard ISO EN 18265. The tensile strength R_m within one coil does not vary more than 50 N/mm^2 .

Torsions: Torsion test is carried out at $\leq 6.0 \text{ mm}$ for assessing deformability. The fracture of the torsion test piece shall be smooth and perpendicular to the wire axis. The rupture shall show no longitudinal cracks.

For round wire

Diameter (mm)	Tolerance (mm)	Tensile Strength (N/mm^2)	Torsions (l=300 mm, min. revs)	Reduct. of area (min. %)
2.00 - 2.50	± 0.020	2180 - 2280	5	45
2.51 - 3.20	± 0.020	2130 - 2230	5	45
3.21 - 4.00	± 0.025	2080 - 2180	4	45
4.01 - 5.00	± 0.025	2030 - 2130	3	45
5.01 - 5.60	± 0.030	1980 - 2080	3	40
5.61 - 6.00	± 0.035	1980 - 2080	3	40
6.01 - 7.00	± 0.040	1910 - 2010		35
7.01 - 8.00	± 0.045	1860 - 1960		35

Diameter (mm)	Tolerance (mm)	Tensile Strength (N/mm ²)	Torsions (l=300 mm, min. revs)	Reduct. of area (min. %)
8.01 - 9.00	±0.045	1860 - 1960		35
9.01 - 10.00	±0.050	1860 - 1960		35

Yield point

The proof stress $R_{p0.2}$ is min. 0.8 x tensile strength of the wire. The proof stress will rise above 0.9 x tensile strength after stress relieving the springs.

Surface conditions

Surface condition

Surface condition – non-destructive testing

In the standard size range 2.00 - 6.00 mm the wire is tested continuously in Eddy Current equipment to a surface level of ≥ 40 microns. For size range 6.01-8.60 mm is tested continuously in Eddy Current equipment to a surface level of ≥ 60 microns. Other wire sizes on request.

Surface condition – end sample test

The wire is end sample tested by means of etch testing and binocular inspection as well as microscopical inspection of the material structure.

Max. permissible depth of partial surface decarburization and surface defects, 1 % x wire diameter. In shaved condition; for diameters ≤ 2.00 mm 10 μ m, for diameters > 2.00 mm 0.5% x d. For diameters > 6.60-10.00 mm 0.7% x d.

Technical specification

Property	Value
E modulus of elasticity	206 kN/mm ²
G modulus of shear	79.5 kN/mm ²

Steel grades and product standards

Nearest equivalent product standards	ASTM A877 D
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Recommendations

Heat treatment

As soon as possible after coiling, the springs should be stress relieved. Depending on nitriding temperature used later in the valve spring manufacturing process, this temperature may be decreased. See recommended procedure in the table below.

Hot presetting

After shot peening, the springs should be hot preset or stress relieved. In order to reach optimum fatigue and relaxation properties, the springs must be preset at an appropriate stress.

Soft shot peening

Before the nitriding process a soft shot peening process shall be applied in order to remove the oxide layer on the spring wire surface.

Nitriding

Springs of OTEVA® 91 SC should be nitrided to obtain optimum fatigue and relaxation properties. Our recommendation is gas nitriding.

Shot peening

In order to obtain optimum fatigue properties, the process time should be adjusted to get a complete treatment. Size of shots should be adapted to wire dimension, pitch and shot peening equipment.

For nitrided springs with an extremely hard surface zone, it is important to use a shot peening media with high hardness. Shot peening of the inside of the spring coils is particularly critical.

Spring conditions for tests

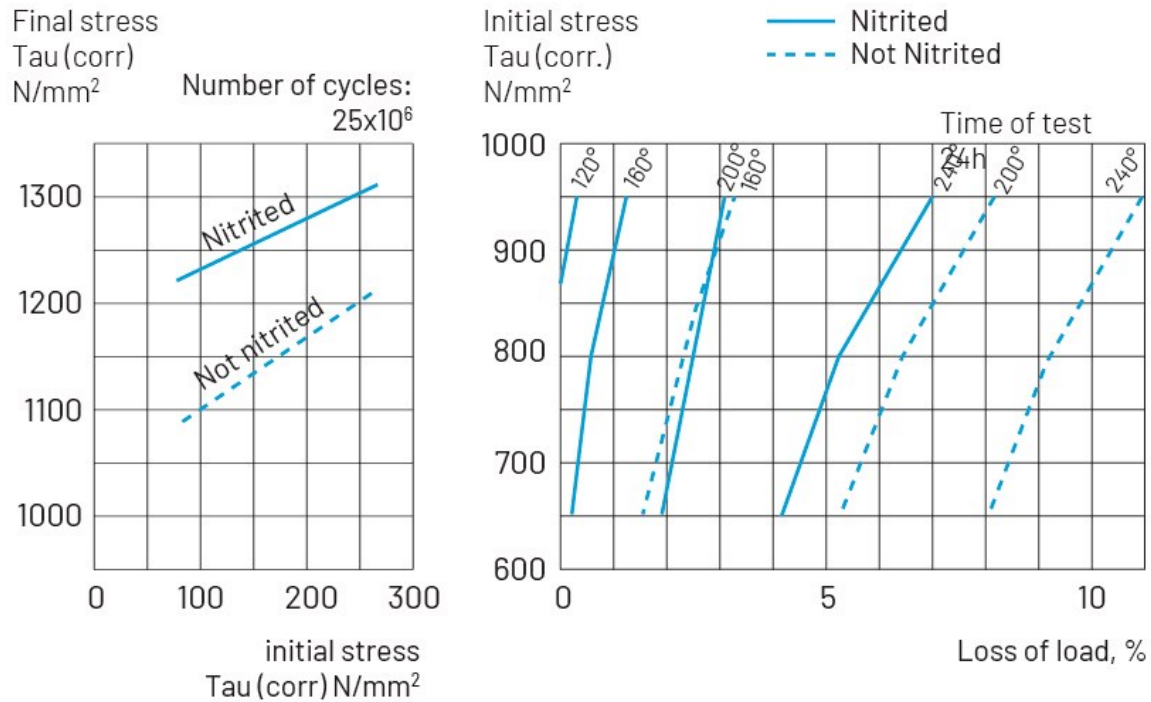
Spring conditions for fatigue and relaxation tests (specially designed test spring) Diagram 1 and 2:

Wire size	Ø 3.85 mm
Diameter external	26.95 mm
Spring length, l ₀	53.0 mm
N active	4.15
Spring index	6.0
Stress relieving	
Temperature	450 ±5 °C (840 ±10 °F) min. 420 °C (790 ±10 °F) for nitriding
Time	30 minutes
Soft shot peened	
Speed	20-30 m/s
Time	5 min
Shot size	0.8 mm
Nitriding	
Temperature	450-470°C
Time	5-20 hours

Aim for surface hardness	Min. 800 Hv
Aim for core hardness	Min. 560 Hv
Compound (white) layer	Max. 1 μm .
Shot peening (triple shot peening for nitrided springs)	
1st treatment	Pressure 0.3 MPa (~60m/s)* with RCW shot size 0.6 mm (hardness 800 Hv) for 20 minutes.
2nd treatment 3rd treatment	Pressure 0.3 MPa (~60m/s)* with RCW shot size 0.25 mm (hardness 800 Hv) for 10 minutes. Pressure 0.2 MPa (~40m/s)* with fine shot size (hardness 700 Hv) for 10 minutes. 0.55 – 0.60 mm
Aim for Almen arc-height	
Hot presetting (theoretically set)	1500 N/mm ² (nitrided springs) 1300 N/mm ² (not nitrided springs)
Temperature	200°C (max. 250°C)
Time	10 minutes

* Pressure setting for an air blast system and the approximate corresponding shot speed for a centrifugal blast wheel (in brackets).

Relaxation and fatigue properties



In diagram 1 the fatigue properties of this grade are illustrated in a Goodman-diagram, based on a special test spring design.

Diagram 2 shows the relaxation properties (loss of load) of springs made from OTEVA® 91 SC wire subjected to static compression at different temperatures, nitrided/not nitrided.