



HIGH PERFORMANCE MOLD STEELS FOR INJECTION OF REINFORCED PLASTICS

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Modern industrial parts production in mainly automotive and electronic industries is characterized by the trend to substitute metals by reinforced plastics. Being much lighter and therefore weight-saving, such plastic components help to reduce CO_2 emissions, which is a clear ecologic focus worldwide. Intricate geometries, thin wall-thicknesses and large areas of the parts are characteristics that call for a growing amount of glass or carbon fibers in the plastics to obtain sufficient stability.

Plastics reinforced by fibers tend to be much more abrasive than conventional plastics and thus may cause premature wear of an injection mold. In order to fight excessive and early wear in molds, BÖHLER Edelstahl is offering a wide variety of high-quality tooling steels that are setting new standards in the production of heavy-duty components made from reinforced plastics.



The plastics



REQUIREMENTS AND TRENDS

- New types of high performance plastics (GF, CF, fibre length, filler material)
- Increasing wear resistance requirements on mold material
- Increasing corrosion resistance of mold material
- Complexity of parts increased (light weight construction)
- Increase productivity through shorter cycle times (thermal conductivity)
- Higher closing pressures and working temperatures



Typical failure modes



Slider in plastic mold PA66 + 30% GF Premature fracture due to low material toughness



Core Pin - Microstructure PBT + 45% GF Corrosive attack due to insufficient corrosion resistance



Mold Insert PVC + %20 GF Massive wear on surface due to lack of wear resistance

BEST APT STEEL GRADES FOR INJECTION OF REINFORCED PLASTICS

BÖHLER grade	Chemical composition (average, %)						Standards		
	С	Cr	Мо	Ni	V	Others	DIN / EN	AISI	
BÖHLER K600	0,45	1,30	0,25	4,00	-	-	< 1.2767 > X45NiCrMo4		
BÖHLER W300	0,36	5,00	1,30	-	0,40	Si = 1,10	< 1.2343 > X38CrMoV5-	1 H11	
BÖHLER W400	0,36	5,00	1,30	-	0,45	Si = 0,20	~ 1.2340 –	~ H11	
BÖHLER W403	0,38	5,00	2,80	-	0,65	Si = 0,20	~ 1.2367 –	-	
	0,50	4,50	3,00	-	0,55	Si = 0,20	Patented	-	
	1,10	8,30	2,10	-	0,50	Si = 0,90	Patented	-	
BÖHLER K490 MICROCLEFIN [®]	1,40	6,40	1,50	3,70	3,50	+ Nb	Patented	-	
BÖHLER K390 MICROCLEGIN	2,50	4,00	4,00	-	9,00	W = 1,00 Co = 2,00	Patented	-	

Non corrosion resistant steels



Corrosion resistant steels

BÖHLER grade		Chemical composition (average, %)						Standards		
	С	Cr	Мо	Ni	V	Others	DIN / EN		AISI	
BÖHLER M303 EXTRA HIGH HARD	0,27	14,50	1,00	0,85	-	+ N	~ 1.2316	X36CrMo17	-	
BÖHLER M310	0,38	14,30	-	-	0,20	-	~ 1.2083	X42Cr13 X40Cr14	~ 420	
BÖHLER M333	0,28	13,50	-	-	-	+ N	Pater	nted	~ 420	
BÖHLER M340	0,54	17,30	1,10	-	0,10	+ N	Pater	nted	-	
BÖHLER M368 MICROCLEAN	0,54	17,30	1,10	-	0,10	+ N	Pater	nted	-	
BÖHLER M390	1,90	20,00	1,00	-	4,00	W = 0,60	Pate	nted	-	

MATERIAL SELECTION CRITERIA FOR MOLD-MAKER AND PARTS MANUFACTURER

Mold **BÖHLER** grade Plastic Content Mold Mold Mold surface processed of fiber hardness cavity design requirement BÖHLER K600 PP, PE, ABS, 0 - 15 % ≤ 50 HRC $\star\star$ $\star\star$ $\star\star$ ISODUR' PS, PC, PA BÖHLER W300 \leq 50 HRC 0 - 20 % ***** $\star\star$ $\star\star\star$ 150**BLOC** BÖHLER W400 0-20 % ** ≤ 52 HRC ***** ***** VMR BÖHLER W403 0 - 30 % \leq 52 HRC **** **** **** VMR BÖHLER W360 All Thermo and 0-65 % ≤ 57 HRC **** ***** $\star\star\star$ IS BLOC Duroplasts BÖHLER K340 0-65 % * \star $\star\star$ products \leq 62 HRC ISODUR' BÖHLER K490 0 - 65 % ≤ 64 HRC ** ** **** BÖHLER K390 0 - 65 % ≤ 64 HRC * × **** **MICROCLEAN**

Non corrosion resistant steels*

Simple

Low

*) Please note that this table has to be understood as general guideline only. Any deviating individual case has to be discussed separately.



Standard

Corrosion resistant steels*

BÖHLER grade	Plastic processed	Content of fiber	Mold hardness	Mold cavity	Mold design	Mold surface requirement
BÖHLER M303 EXTRA HIGH HARD	PP, PE, ABS, PS, PC, PA, PVC, POM	0 – 10 %	≤ 40 HRC	****	****	****
BÖHLER M310		0 – 15 %	≤ 50 HRC	**	***	**
BÖHLER M333		0 – 15 %	≤ 50 HRC	***	****	****
BÖHLER M340		0 – 55 %	≤ 56 HRC	**	*	**
BÖHLER M368 MICROCLEAN			0 - 60 %	≤ 56 HRC	**	****
BÖHLER M390 MICROCLEFIN		0 – 65 %	≤ 62 HRC	**	****	****

*) Please note that this table has to be understood as general guideline only. Any deviating individual case has to be discussed separately.



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Complex

Medium

Simple

Advanced

Mold cavity Very deep Deep Medium Low-Medium Low

Highest High Good Advanced Standard

3 QUALITY LEVELS – 3 TECHNOLOGIES

PESR Manufacture

Improved service life due to:

- The least possible inclusion content
- Lower micro and macro segregation
- Good homogeneity and a higher degree of purity
- A homogenic structure throughout the entire cross-section and bar length
- Producing larger bar dimensions at a constant carbide distribution
- Uniform size change
- A broad range of application owing to a high degree of toughness



Microstructure of 8% chromium steel in ESR grade



VAR Manufacture

Material properties:

- Minimum gas contents
- Reduction of trace elements such as Pb, Bi, Te, As, Sn, Sb
- Minimum microsegregations in the ingot centre
- Low susceptibility to the formation of freckles (segregations)
- Highly precise chemical analysis
- High cleanliness



K455 VMR technology



Powder metallurgical production

Materials produced using powder metallurgy are increasingly being used to meet the most stringent requirements with various processing methods. These materials offer properties that meet demanding requirements:

- No segregation
- Extremely fine carbide distribution
- Homogeneous properties
- High wear resistance
- Very good dimensional stability
- High compressive strength
- High toughness with high hardness



Microstructure of PM materials





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