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Enhancing the Tool Life of Aluminium Oxide (Al₂O₃) Inserts Using Hybrid Microwave Energy in Dry Machining of High Strength Steel (KRUPP 6582)

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Abstract

Alumina (Al_2O_3) is a high-performance ceramic material with outstanding physical properties. Alumina is regarded as an extremely hard material with excellent wear resistance. However, tool wear remains a severe issue of dry machining resulting in a reduction in tool life, increased tool cost and a higher frequency of tool changing. Therefore, in this study, Hybrid Microwave (HMW) energy is employed to improve mechanical properties and extend tool life. Three different types of Alumina inserts were used. Al_2O_3 (HMW) was post-sintered with silicon carbide (SiC) as the susceptor, whereas Al_2O_3 (MW) was post-sintered with no susceptor. These two inserts were compared to the original sample Al_2O_3 (Untreated). The post-sintering processes lasted 20min at 220°C. Mechanical testing, such as density and hardness, was carried out. Dry machining was used to test the tool life and wear resistance of these Alumina inserts at three different cutting speeds (198, 250, and 310m/min) at a feed rate of 0.2mm/rev and a depth of cut of 0.2mm. This study employed a high-strength steel workpiece (KRUPP 6582). When compared to Al_2O_3 (MW) and Al_2O_3 (untreated) inserts, the results showed that the density and hardness of Alumina inserts were increased using the HMW post-sintering procedure by 3.6% and 6.3% respectively. The tool life of Al_2O_3 (HMW) has increased by 28%, while for Al_2O_3 (MW), only 8.8%. HMW has demonstrated good performance in enhancing the mechanical properties and tool life of Al_2O_3 in dry machining of high strength steel (KRUPP 6582). © 2023, The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd.

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Al_2O_3 ; Hybrid microwave; SiC; Tool life

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