

Uddeholm Rigor®

Welding recommendations

GENERAL

Uddeholm Rigor is a universal medium alloyed cold work tool steel placed between 12 % Cr-steels and carbon tool steel like AISI O1. The property profile of Uddeholm Rigor combine to give a steel suitable for the manufacture of medium run tooling for applications where a combination of resistance to abrasive wear and chipping is needed. This makes Uddeholm Rigor a good general purpose cold work tool steel.

Good results when welding can be achieved if proper precautions are taken (joint preparation, choice of consumables and welding procedure).

RECOMMENDED FILLER MATERIAL

Welding Method	Gas Tungsten Arc Welding GTAW (TIG)	Gas Metal Arc Welding GMAW (MIG/MAG)	Shielded Metal Arc Welding SMAW (MMA)	Laser	Comments
Filler material	Caldie TIG Weld Unimax TIG WELD UTP A696	Dievar MIG Weld QRO 90 MIG Weld	UTP 690 UTP 67S UTP 73 G2	Tyrax Laser Weld	
	Type AWS ER 312 AWS ER NiCrMo-3		E 29 9 R		Use soft filler material for buffering layer
Hardness as welded	58 - 62 HRC Caldie 56 - 58 HRC Unimax 60 - 64 HRC A696	48 – 52 HRC	60-64 HRC UTP 690 56-58 HRC UTP 67S 55-58 HRC UTP 73 G2	55 – 60 HRC	

DIMENSIONS FILLER MATERIAL

Type	TIG			MIG	MMA			Laser
Dia. Ø mm Dia. Ø Inch	1.0 0.040	1.6 1/16	2.4 3/32	1.2 3/64	2.5 3/32	3.25 1/8	4.0 5/32	0.2 – 0.6 0.008 – 0.024
Caldie TIG Weld	X	X	X					
Unimax TIG Weld UTP A 696		X						
Dievar MIG Weld QRO 90 MIG Weld				X				
UTP 690					X	X	X	
UTP 67S					X	X	X	
UTP 73 G2					X	X	X	
Tyrax Laser Weld								X

PARAMETERS

Condition	Soft Annealed 215 HB	Hardened 58 - 60 HRC	Comment
Preheating Temperature	250°C ± 25°C 480°F ± 50°F	250°C ± 25°C 480°F ± 50°F	The temperature should be kept constant during the welding operation. Start with buffering layers if not all cracks are removed
Interpass temperature	Max 150°C, 270°F above preheating temperature	Max 150°C, 270°F above preheating temperature	The temperature of the tool in the vicinity of the weld. When passed, the tool will have a risk for distortion, soft zones or cracking in and around the weld (the HAZ).
Cooling rate	20 - 40°, 35 - 70°F C/h The first 2 hours then freely in air <70°C, 160°F		
Post treatment	Soft anneal Harden Temper	Temper 25°C, 50°F below previous tempering temperature	Holding time when tempering, 2h. The temperature depends on the last used tempering temperature. When soft annealing and hardening, see heat treatment specification in Uddeholm Rigor product brochure.*

* Note. We have seen that in many cases a high temperature tempering, 2h, of ~750°C (1380°F) functions instead of a complete soft annealing when welding in soft annealed material.

FLAME-/INDUCTION HARDENING

Temperature	Post treatment	Surface hardness	Comment
950 - 980°C 1740 - 1800°F	Cool freely in air	58-62 HRC	41 HRC at a depth of 3-3,5 mm when flame hardening and 10 mm when induction hardening on soft annealed material.

PROCEDURES

- Clean weld area.
- Preheat material to 250°C ± 25°C / 480°F ± 50°F and maintain temperature during welding.
- Do not let the temperature in the vicinity of the weld (the HAZ) increase more than 150°C / 270°F above the preheating temperature. There is a risk of lowering (softening) the hardness of the base material or/and cracking in the HAZ. Use temple sticks or other temperature-measuring devices.
- For finishing layers use consumables which give suitable hardness.
- Wait a few minutes between each layer of strings, both for soft and hard filler, in order to let the layer equalize and minimize stresses, if possible use pre-heating furnace. Peen to minimize stresses.
- If possible, change welding direction 180° between each layer.
- Cool slowly after welding, 20 - 40°C/h, 35 - 70 °F/h for the first two hours and then freely in air < 70°C / 160°F.
- Temper 25°C / 50°F below previous tempering temperature for two hours.
- Tools welded in the annealed condition must undergo a full soft annealing immediately after welding. Allow tool to cool to room temperature before soft annealing. If a complete soft annealing cannot be done, which we recommend, a high temperature tempering at 750°C / 1380°F could be used. Be aware of that the working properties of the material will be somewhat reduced, if the high temperature tempering is used instead of the soft annealing.

Use these guideline recommendations along with
“Welding of Uddeholm Tool Steel” for complete instructions.