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Global Steel Grade Encyclopedia



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UNS

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# FOR HIGHLY WEAR-STRESSED TOOLS

## IN RESPECT OF VERSATILITY AND PERFORMANCE

**BÖHLER M398 MICROCLEAN** is a martensitic chromium steel produced with powder metallurgy. Due to its alloying concept this steel offers **extremely high wear resistance** and **high corrosion resistance** – the perfect combination for highly wear-resistant tools.

## MARKET REQUIREMENTS

### Trends

- » Processing of reinforced plastics (glass fibres, ...)
- » Increasing screw speeds to increase capacity



### Consequences

- » Clear reduction of tool lifetime
- » Higher costs for spare parts and maintenance
- » Diminished quality of the injection molded parts



### Aim

#### **New PM plastic mold steel obtaining:**

- » Extremely high wear resistance
- » Achievable hardness > 60 HRc in vacuum heat treatment
- » Good corrosion resistance







# IMPROVED PROPERTIES

## ALLOYING CONCEPT

Increasing macro-hardness by increasing the primary carbide volume consisting of:

- » Vanadium-rich MC-carbides (VC ~3,000 HV)
- » Chromium-rich  $M_7C_3$ -carbides ( $Cr_7C_3$  ~2,200 HV)

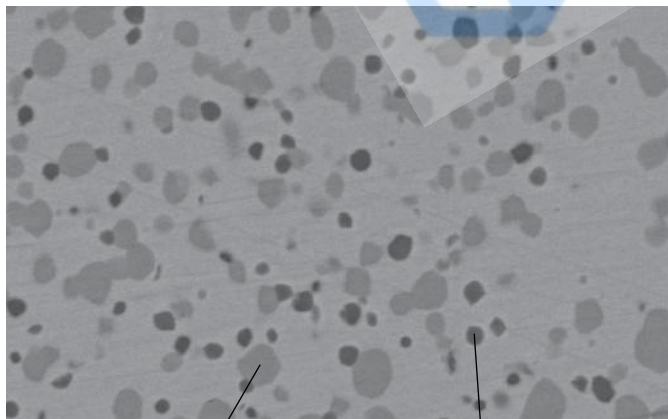
### Comparison of the chemical composition (%)

|   | <b>C</b> | <b>Si</b> | <b>Mn</b> | <b>Cr</b> | <b>Mo</b> | <b>V</b> | <b>W</b> |
|---|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| <b>BÖHLER M390</b><br><b>MICROCLEAN</b> | 1.90     | 0.70      | 0.30      | 20.00     | 1.00      | 4.00     | 0.60     |
| <b>BÖHLER M398</b><br><b>MICROCLEAN</b> | 2.70     | 0.50      | 0.50      | 20.00     | 1.00      | 7.20     | 0.70     |



## MICROSTRUCTURE

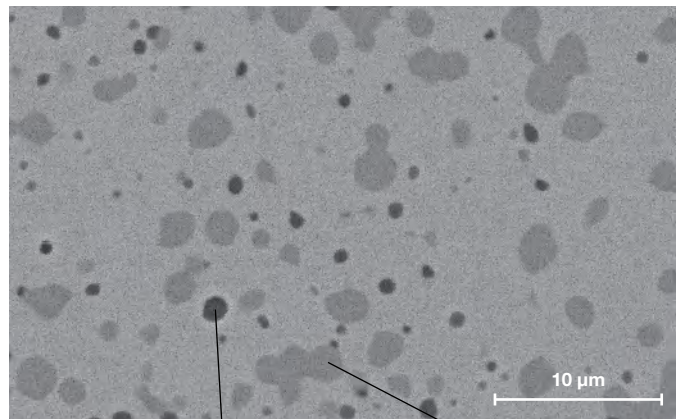
BÖHLER M398  
MICROCLEAN



~25.0%  $M_7C_3$

~5.0% MC

BÖHLER M390  
MICROCLEAN



~2.5% MC

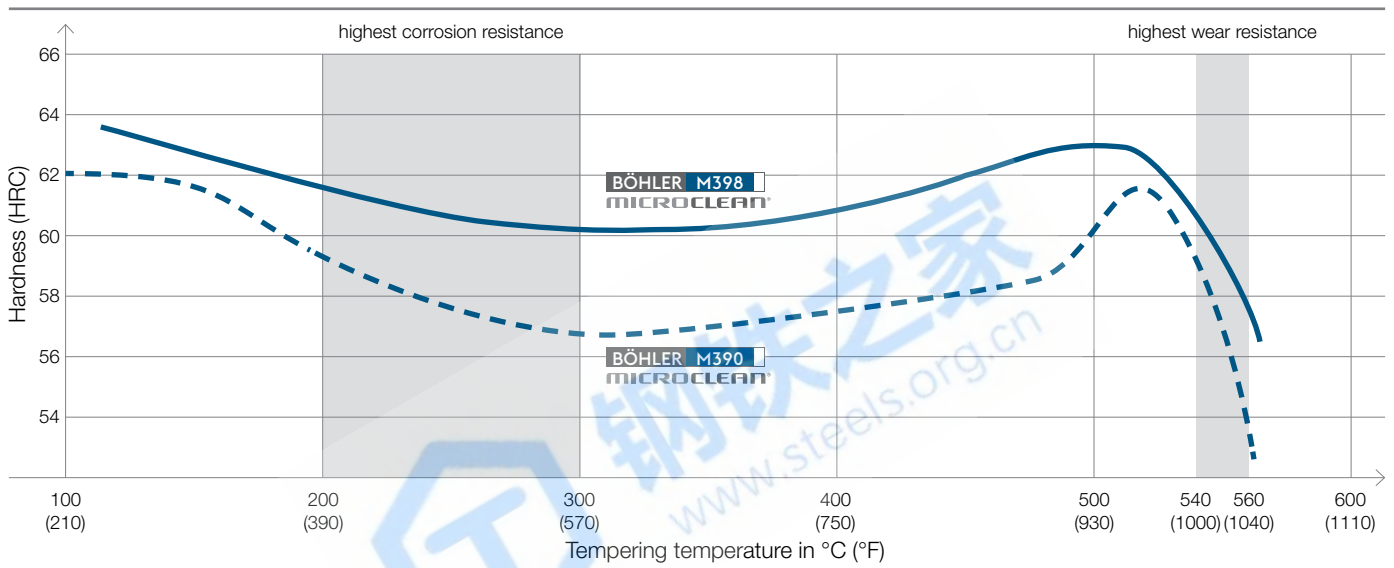
~18%  $M_7C_3$

→ Primary carbide content increased to about 30 vol.%



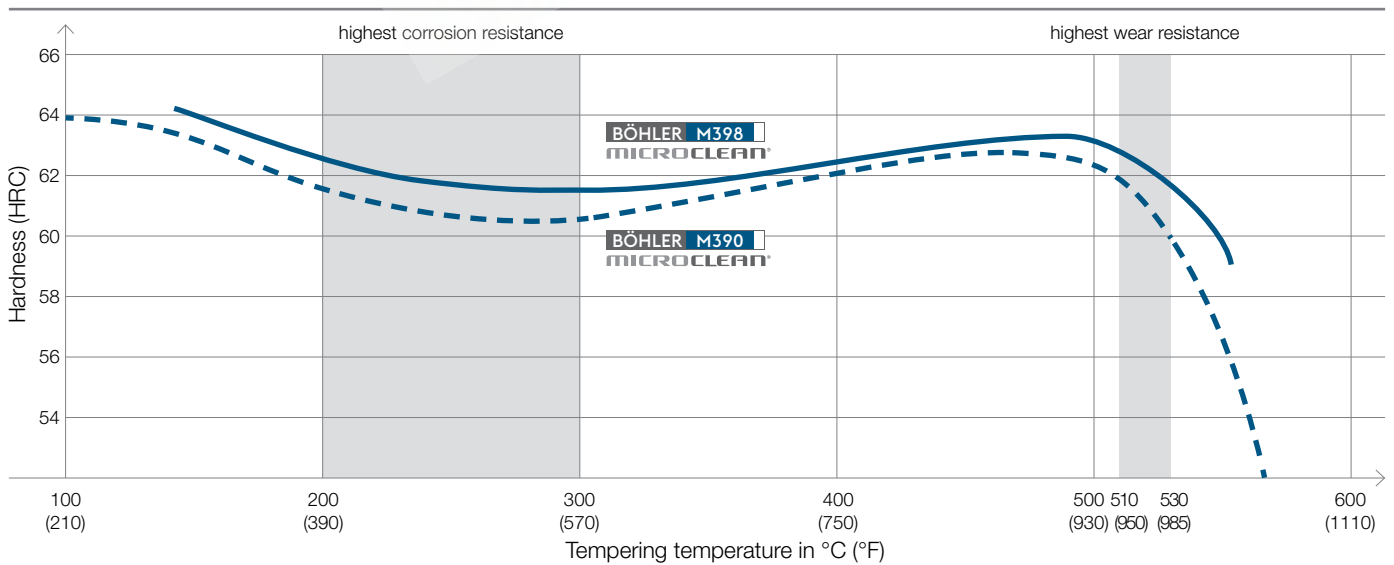
# MATERIAL PROPERTIES

**Tempering chart (without subzero treatment)**



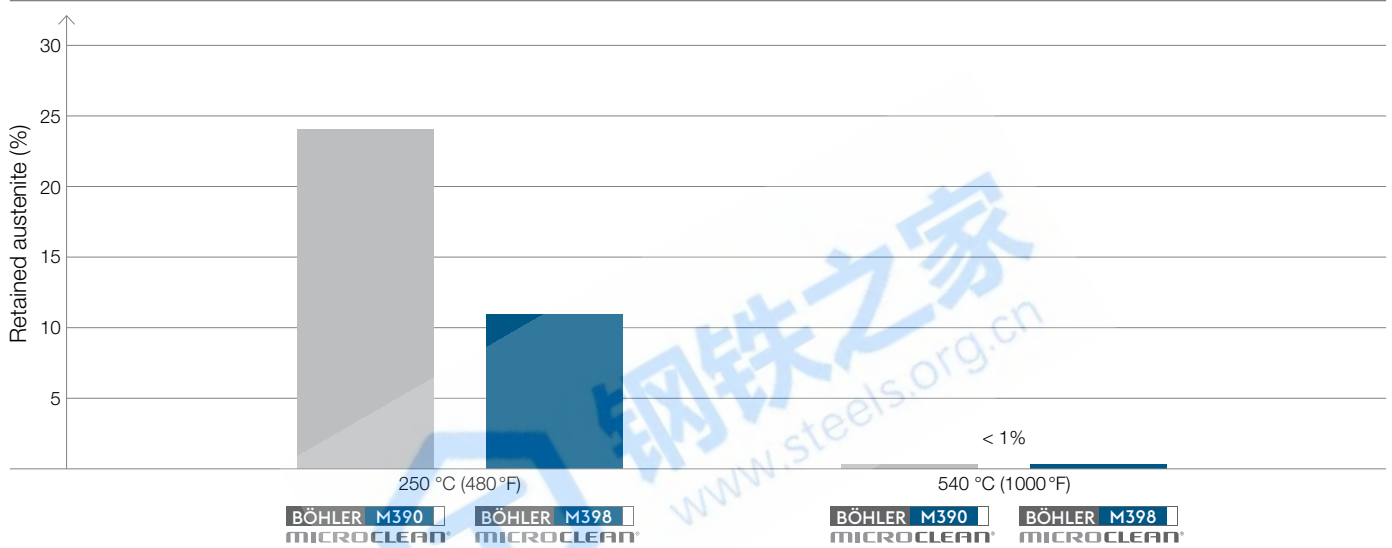
Heat treatment: Austenitizing at 1150 °C (2100 °F)/20 min./5 bar; Tempering 2x2 h

**Tempering chart (with subzero treatment)**



Heat treatment: Austenitizing at 1150 °C (2100 °F)/20 min./5 bar; Subzero cooling: -70 °C, 1x2h; Tempering 2x2h

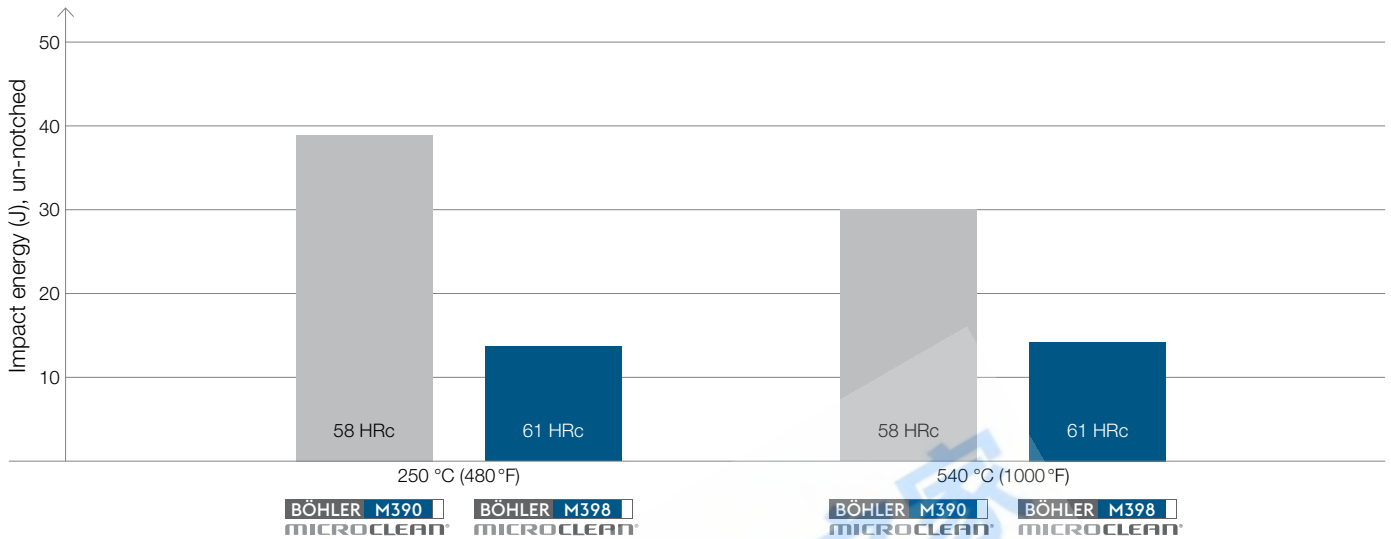
## Retained austenite



Heat treatment: Austenitizing at 1150 °C (2100 °F)/20 min./5 bar; without subzero cooling ; Tempering 2x2h

→ Low amounts of retained austenite after hardening and low tempering improve hardenability of BÖHLER M398 MICROCLEAN, especially when deep-freezing is not performed or possible.

## Impact energy



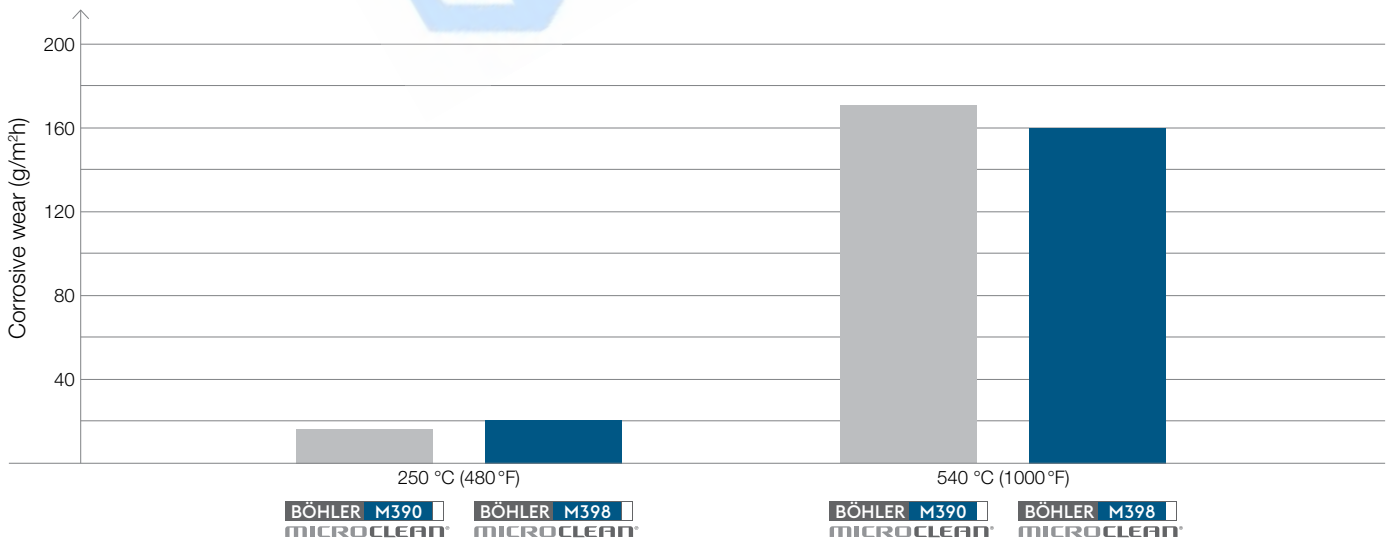
Heat treatment: Austenitizing at 1150 °C (2100 °F)/20 min./5 bar; without subzero cooling; Tempering 2x2 h

Tested sizes:

BÖHLER M390 MICROCLEAN: Round bar, longitudinal, approx. 80 mm (3.15 inches)

BÖHLER M398 MICROCLEAN: Mother block, longitudinal, approx. 373 x 343 mm (14.7 x 13.5 inches)

## Corrosion resistance



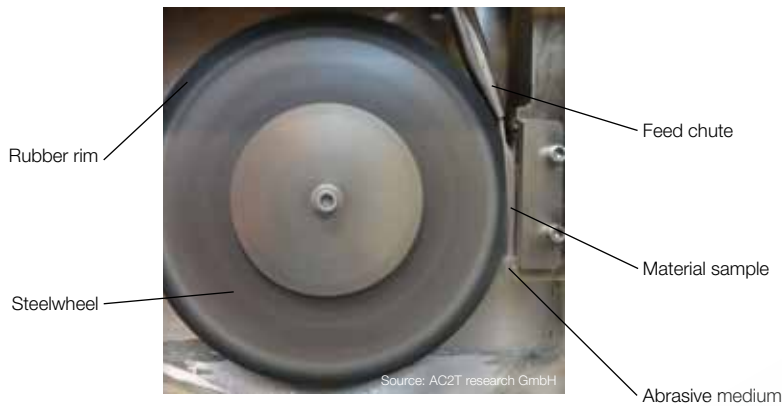
Heat treatment: Austenitizing at 1150 °C (2100 °F)/20 min./5 bar; without subzero cooling; Tempering 2x2 h

Weight loss test: Measured after 24h in 20% boiling acidic acid



## WEAR RESISTANCE

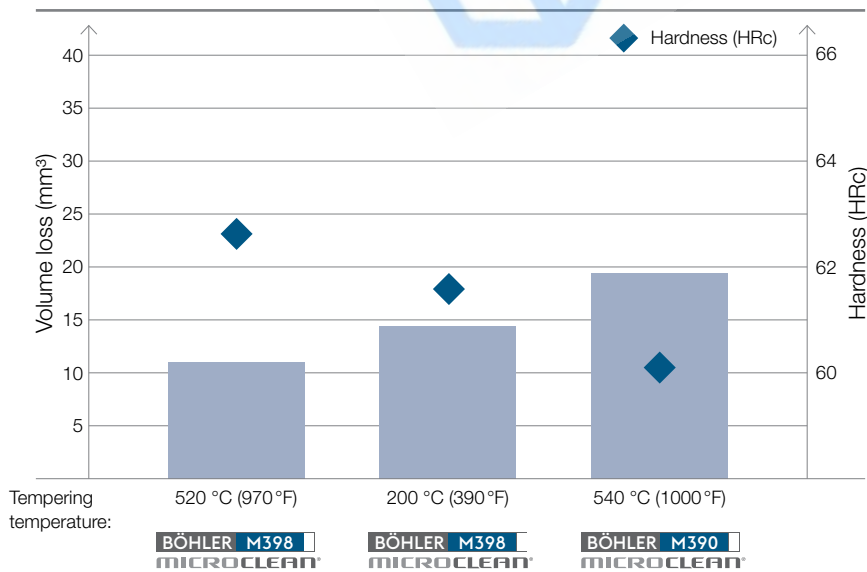
### ASTM G65 rubber wheel dry sand test



#### Test method A

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Test load        | 130 N      |
| Sand grain size  | 100–400 μm |
| Feed rate        | 340 g/min. |
| Testing time     | 30 min.    |
| Sliding distance | 4309 m     |

→ Wear volume caused by abrasion is calculated from mass loss and density of the sample.



BOHLER M398 MICROCLEAN



BOHLER M390 MICROCLEAN



→ BOHLER M398 MICROCLEAN shows highest abrasive wear resistance

# ECONOMICAL ADVANTAGES

## PROPERTIES

- » Extremely high wear resistance
- » High and isotropic dimensional stability during heat treatment
- » High hardenability and compressive strength with >60 HRc
- » Good toughness
- » Good corrosion resistance
- » Good grindability
- » High gloss polishability

### enable

- » Long tool life, therefore reduced downtimes and maintenance costs
- » High precision components
- » Consistant tool life

### Advantages

- » **Increased productivity**
- » **Reduced unit costs**

## APPLICATIONS

Due to its property-profile BÖHLER M398 MICROCLEAN can be used for following applications:

- » Non return valves
- » Screws for injection moulding machines
- » Tool inserts for injection moulding
- » Extrem wear resistant components
- » Cutting type instruments and knives





**BÖHLER M398** VS. **BÖHLER M390**  
**MICROCLEAN®** **MICROCLEAN®**

- » Due to higher amount of primary carbides in M398MICROCLEAN (ca. 30 Vol.%) hardness, wear resistance and compressive strength is significantly increased.
- » In contrast impact energy is slightly lower in comparison to M390MICROCLEAN.
- » Similar corrosion resistance.

| BÖHLER grade   | Wear resistance | Toughness | Corrosion resistance |
|--|-----------------|-----------|----------------------|
| <b>BÖHLER M390</b> vs. <b>BÖHLER M398</b><br><b>MICROCLEAN®</b> <b>MICROCLEAN®</b> | +               | -         | =                    |

# HEAT TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

## Supplied condition

- » Soft annealed with max. 330 HB

## Hardening

- » Austenitizing temperature: 1,120 to 1,180 °C (2,050 to 2,155 °F)
- » Holding time after through-heating:
  - 20 – 30 minutes for a hardening temperature of 1,120 to 1,150 °C (2,050 to 2,100 °F)
  - 5 – 10 minutes for a hardening temperature of 1,180 °C (2,155 °F)
- » Quenching media: Oil, N<sub>2</sub>

## Achievable hardness

- » 60 to 63 HRc

## Tempering for highest corrosion resistance

- » Deep freezing for transformation of retained austenite
- » Slow heating to tempering temperature
- » Time in furnace 1 hour for each 20 mm (0.79 inch) of workpiece thickness, but at least 2 hours
- » For information on the achievable hardness after tempering please refer to the tempering chart.
- » Tempering: 200 to 300 °C (390–570 °F)

## Tempering for highest wear resistance

- » Deep freezing recommended
- » A deep freezing treatment immediately following hardening leads to increased tempering hardness values at austenitising temperatures  $\geq 1,150$  °C ( $\geq 2,100$  °F), [Risk of stress cracking]
- » Slow heating to tempering temperature
- » Time in furnace 1 hour for each 20 mm (0.79 inch) of workpiece thickness, but at least 2 hours
- » For information on the achievable hardness after tempering please refer to the tempering chart.
- » Triple tempering 20 °C (68 °F) above the secondary hardening maximum is necessary in order to achieve a complete transformation of retained austenite.







# NUMBERS, FACTS AND DATES

## Physical properties

|                                  |               |  |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--|
| <b>Modulus of elasticity at</b>  | 20 °C (68 °F) | 231 x 10 <sup>3</sup> N/mm <sup>2</sup>              |
| <b>Density at</b>                | 20 °C (68 °F) | 7,46 kg/dm <sup>3</sup> (0.268 lbs/in <sup>3</sup> ) |
| <b>Specific heat capacity at</b> | 20 °C (68 °F) | 490 J/(kg.K)   |
| <b>Thermal conductivity at</b>   | 20 °C (68 °F) | 15,2 W/(m.K) (105 Btu in/ft <sup>2</sup> h°F)        |

## Thermal expansion between 20 °C and ... °C (68–... °F)

| 100 °C | 200 °C | 300 °C | 400 °C | 500 °C |                          |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------------|
| 10.4   | 10.6   | 10.9   | 11.2   | 11.5   | 10 <sup>-6</sup> m/(m.K) |
| 210 °F | 390 °F | 570 °F | 750 °F | 930 °F |                          |
| 5.78   | 5.89   | 6.06   | 6.22   | 6.38   | 10 <sup>-6</sup> in/in°F |

Regarding applications and processing steps that are not expressly mentioned in this product description/data sheet, the customer shall in each individual case be required to **consult us**.

# MACHINING RECOMMENDATIONS

## Turning with sintered carbide

|   |                         |                         |                         |                         |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Depth of cut mm (inch)</b>           | 0.5 – 2 (.02 – .04)     | 1 – 4 (.04 – .16)       | 4 – 8 (.16 – .31)       | over 8 (over .31)       |
| <b>Feed mm / rev. (inch/rev.)</b>       | 0.1 – 0.3 (.004 – .012) | 0.2 – 0.4 (.008 – .016) | 0.3 – 0.8 (.012 – .031) | 0.5 – 1.5 (.020 – .060) |
| <b>Cutting speed vc (m/min) (f.p.m)</b> | 130 – 200 (425 – 655)   | 100 – 170 (330 – 560)   | 70 – 120 (230 – 395)    | 30 – 70 (100 – 230)     |
| <b>Recommended BOEHLERIT-geometry</b>   | FP, FMP, MM             | MP, MRP, MM             | MRP, BMRS               | RP, BR, BRP             |
| <b>BOEHLERIT grade</b>                  | LCP15T, BCM25T          | LCP15T, LCP25T, BCM25T  | LCP25T, LC240F, BCM40T  | LC240F                  |
| <b>ISO grade</b>                        | P15, M25                | P15, P20, M25           | P20, P30, M40           | P30, P40                |

Condition: soft annealed. Figures given are guidelines only.

## Turning with high speed steel

|   |                       |                   |                   |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Depth of cut mm (inch)</b>           | 0.5 (.02)             | 3 (.12)           | 6 (.24)           |
| <b>Feed mm / rev. (inch/rev.)</b>       | 0.1 (.004)            | 0.4 (.016)        | 0.8 (.031)        |
| <b>BÖHLER-/DIN-grade</b>                | S700 / DIN S10-4-3-10 |                   |                   |
| <b>Cutting speed vc (m/min) (f.p.m)</b> |                       |                   |                   |
| <b>Tool life 60 min.</b>                | 30 – 20 (100 – 65)    | 20 – 15 (65 – 50) | 18 – 10 (60 – 35) |
| <b>Rake angle</b>                       | 14°                   | 14°               | 14°               |
| <b>Clearance angle</b>                  | 8°                    | 8°                | 8°                |
| <b>Inclination angle</b>                | -4°                   | -4°               | -4°               |



### Milling with sintered carbide

|  |                          |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Cutting speed vc (m/min) (f.p.m)</b>          | 150 – 180 (490 – 590)    | 130 – 160 (425 – 525)    | 80 – 140 (260 – 460)     |
| <b>BOEHLERIT grade</b>                           | BCH10M, BCM35M           | BCH30M, BCM40M           | BCM40M, BCP40M           |
| <b>ISO grade</b>                                 | H10, M35                 | H30, M40                 | M40, P40                 |
| <b>F<sub>z</sub> Milling 90° mm (inch)</b>       | 0.1 – 0.25 (.004 – .010) | 0.1 – 0.25 (.004 – .010) | 0.1 – 0.3 (.004 – .012)  |
| <b>F<sub>z</sub> Milling 45° mm (inch)</b>       | 0.15 – 0.6 (.006 – .024) | 0.15 – 0.6 (.006 – .024) | 0.15 – 0.6 (.006 – .024) |
| <b>F<sub>z</sub> High feed cutting mm (inch)</b> | 0.6 – 1.8 (.024 – 0.071) | 0.6 – 2.0 (.024 – 0.08)  | 0.6 – 2.0 (.024 – 0.08)  |

### Drilling with sintered carbide

|   |                           |                           |                           |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Drill diameter mm (inch)</b>         | 3 – 8 (.12 – .31)         | 8 – 20 (.31 – .80)        | 20 – 40 (.80 – 1.6)       |
| <b>Feed mm/rev. (inch/rev.)</b>         | 0.02 – 0.05 (.001 – .002) | 0.05 – 0.12 (.002 – .005) | 0.12 – 0.18 (.005 – .007) |
| <b>BOEHLERIT/ISO-grade</b>              | HB10 / K10                |                           |                           |
| <b>Cutting speed vc (m/min) (f.p.m)</b> | 50 – 35 (165 – 115)       | 50 – 35 (165 – 115)       | 50 – 35 (165 – 115)       |
| <b>Point angle</b>                      | 115° – 120°               | 115° – 120°               | 115° – 120°               |
| <b>Clearance angle</b>                  | 5°                        | 5°                        | 5°                        |

Condition: soft annealed. Figures given are guidelines only.