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SUPER ALLOYS & STAINLESS STEELS

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Cutting tools in industries such as aerospace, medical, oil & gas, are being used on materials such as titanium's, nickel alloys and stainless steels, which are known as difficult-to-machine materials. The properties that make these materials so sought after, is the high toughness, high strength to weight ratio and low thermal conductivity, which is exactly why they are difficult-to-machine and form into complex shapes. These super alloys inherit very poor machinability (refer table below), since most of the heat is absorbed by the cutting edge.

This creates quite a challenge for the cutting tool producers. Sutton Tools provides the solution through extra attention to the tools attributes to withstand the heat build-up, such as specially selected carbide grades, optimised geometries and the ideal PVD coatings.

ISO	Material group	Material Type	Machinability
		Free Cutting	100%
Р	Steels	Low Carbon	70-80%
P	SLEEPS	Medium Carbon 55-65% High Carbon 50-60% Austenitic 40-50%	
		High Carbon	50-60%
		Austenitic	40-50%
М	Stainless Steels	Duplex	40-55%
		Precipitation Hardening	50-65%
		Titanium Alloy	30%
s	Titaniuma & Sunar Allous	Fe Based	25%
2	Titaniums & Super Alloys	Nickel Based	10%
		Cobalt Based 5-10%	5-10%

TOOL FINDER

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						S Ti	5 Ni	M VA
	Page	ΤοοΙ	Application	Tool Material	Recommendation	Ti based alloys	Ni based alloys	Stainless Steels (precipitating)
	4			VHM 5 Flute	R40/42 Ti	•	0	0
	4		Universal	VHM 6 Flute	R40/42 Ti	•	0	0
	4			VHM 5 Flute	R40/42 Ni	0	•	•
DNILLING	6		Roughing	HSSE-PM	R30-VA HR	•	0	•
	10		Universal	Harmony VHM	R40/42 VA	0	0	•
	10		Roughing	VHM	R35/36/36 HR	0	0	•
	10		Slotting	VIIM	R55/54/56 VA	0	0	•
(7	12		Зхd			•	0	•
DRILLING	12		5xd	VHM	R30 VA-IK	•	0	•
	13		3 & 5xd HSS-Co		R40 VA	0		•
	7	Processor -	Blind		R15 Ti	•		0
	7		Through	PM-HSSE	L12 Ti	•		0
DNIC	9		Blind/ Through		R10 Ni		•	0
TAPPING	14		Blind	HSSE/PM	R40 VA R45 VA R50 VA	0		0
	14		Through		VA GUN	0		0
	14		Blind/ Through	PM-HSSE	Former			•

Common Grade - Titanium Alloy, TiAl6V4 (T-A6V), Grade 5

Applications - compressor blades, discs, and rings for jet engines; airframe and space capsule components, pressure vessels, rocket engine cases, helicopter rotor hubs, fasteners, critical forgings requiring high strength-to-weight ratios.

Machining - often a similar practice to austenitic stainless steels. Best results are usually achieved with slower speeds, heavy feeds, rigid tooling, and large amounts of non-chlorinated cutting fluid. The chip thickness is paramount when machining titanium, getting this right, will have the biggest effect on your productivity. A relatively increased fz (mm/tooth) and moderately slower Vc (m/min) when compared to machining general steels, provides the best MRR.

Sutton Tools Ti Series provides the following ranges with the above in mind, to ensure the highest productivity and process reliability is achieved.





Comparison

Cutti

R40/42 5-Flute Ti Carbide Endmill **E466** Series Test Data

Material	TiAl6V4
Tool	E466 1640
Tool Holder	Collet Chuck (Big Dashowa)
Size	ø16 x 4 Corner Radius
utting Speed Vc (m/min)	90
RPM	1430
Feed Rate Vf (mm/min)	572
Feed fz (mm/tooth)	0.08
ae (mm)	4
ap (mm)	30

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Competitor



MILLING TITANIUM

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R40/42 6-Flute Ti Carbide Endmill E470 Series

Test Data

100	Material	TiAl6V4		
11	Tool Holder	HSK63 Shrink Fit (HAIMER)		
	Size	ø20 x R1		
	ae (mm)	6		
	ap (mm)	26		
		Sutton Tools	Competitor A	
	ТооІ	E470 2010	6 Flute, Variable Helix	
	Cutting Speed Vc (m/min)	80	80	
	Cutting Speed Vc (m/min) RPM	80 1272	80 1272	

Comparison



Edge Condition after 400 mins.



MILLING TITANIUM

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R30VA-R 5 Flute SPM Roughing Endmill E255 Series



Comparison 1 Test Data

Material	TiAl6V4
Tool	E255 1640
Tool Holder	Collet Chuck (Big Dashowa)
Size	ø16 x R4
Cutting Speed Vc (m/min)	20
RPM	398
Feed Rate Vf (mm/min)	119
Feed fz (mm/tooth)	0.06
ae (mm)	10
ap (mm)	20

Comparison 2

Test	Data

Material	TiAl6V4	
Tool	Special Custom Make	
Tool Holder	Collet Chuck	
Size	31.75mm (1-1/4")	
Cutting Speed Vc (m/min)	23	
RPM	230	
Feed Rate Vf (mm/min)	79	
Feed fz (mm/tooth)	0.057	
ae (mm)	16	
ap (mm)	48	







TAPPING TITANIUM

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R15 Ti HSSE-PM Tap - T215 Series

Designed for optimal performance in titanium alloys, which are generally difficult to cut due to the work hardening, low heat conductivity and strong alloying characteristics. Sutton Tools' Ti range of taps offers high process reliability due to the optimised micro-finish coating, its specific grade of powder metal HSS tool material, and the unique cutting geometry that enables highly efficient swarf ejection that provides consistent thread quality.





Common Grade - Inconels, such as 625 & 718 are heat resistant/high temperature alloys, which has the highest resistance to temperature, corrosion, oxidation and creep than any other alloy system.

Applications - aircraft engine/exhaust systems, gas turbine & biomedical components.

- **Machining** It is extremely heat resistant, higher than titanium. It is not only the high temperature resistance that makes them difficult-to-machine, but the high strength causes high cutting forces, generating greater heat, limiting the speeds, hence limiting the productivity available.
 - In addition to this, reduced tool life can result from the excessive tool wear caused from the low thermal conductivity characteristics on Inconels. The challenge to control the swarf/chips is vital since they are generally tough/work harden chips and can lead to burr formation or poor surface finish on the workpiece. For best results, much slower cutting parameters are preferred when compare to machining titaniums.

Sutton Tools' Ni range encompasses a geometry set, that looks to offer reinforced cutting edges and carefully selected coatings to resist the high cutting forces encountered.





R40/42 5-Flute Ni Carbide Endmill E474 Series

Excellent solution for shoulder and finish milling application, particularly for fine surface finish requirements, due to the multi-flute design the cutting forces and loads are distributed over more cutting edges than the conventional 4 flute endmills, resulting longer tool life.



Test Data

Inconel 718 (45 H	RC)
ER Collet Chuck	
ø16 x R1	
3	
28	
Sutton Tools	Competitor
E474 1610	VA Tool 4 Flute
28	25
557	557
195	156
0.07	0.07
	ER Collet Chuck Ø16 x R1 3 28 Sutton Tools E474 1610 28 557 195

Wear Comparison

Sutton Tools 5 Flute Ni



Competitor 4 Flute VA Tool



TAPPING NI BASED ALLOYS

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R10 Ni HSSE-PM Tap T794 Series

For nickel base alloys such as Inconel 718 & 725, rapid tool wear has always been the problem, due to the materials extremely difficult machinability characteristics. Sutton Tools now offers a Ni range that overcomes these issues, due to its reinforced cutting geometry that efficiently deals with the short chips produced when tapping this material group, providing longer tap life and process reliability in nickel based alloys.

Competitor edge condition after 10 holes - Edge Worn



Test Data



Sutton Tools Ni edge condition after 10 holes - protected design



Comparison



Applications - Stainless steel is notable for its corrosion resistance, and it is widely used in aerospace, medical, automotive and the food processing industries, among many other applications.

Stainless steel can be used for almost any part of an aircraft, however, its use in mainstream aircraft is hindered by its excessive weight compared to other materials, such as aluminium. Some of its common applications are in the fabrication of exhaust collectors, stacks and manifolds, structural and machined parts, springs, castings, tie rods and control cables.

Machining - The machining of this material has been somewhat difficult due to its toughness and high work hardening properties. Specific geometry and cutting parameters optimised for stainless steels are essential & will make light work for machining processes.

Sutton Tools has developed a large range of solutions for stainless steels over many years, with its product offer summarised in the following.



MILLING STAINLESS STEEL

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R40/42 VA Carbide Endmill E462 Series

(with multiple corner radius sizes available per diameter!)

These high performance range of endmills are designed with variable helix geometry that suppresses chatter. With built in corner protection feature as standard, allows outstanding performance in trochoidal and universal milling of difficult to machine applications. If helical plunging/ramping and side milling is required with one tool, then this is the ideal design. The endteeth geometry has high relief and chip space to enable an efficient process, without the need to drill a hole when milling cavities.

Test Data

Material	AISI 304 / 1.4301 / AS 304
Tool	E462 1640
Tool Holder	Collet Chuck
Size	ø16 x 4 Corner Radius
Cutting Speed Vc (m/min)	120
RPM	3185
Feed Rate Vf (mm/min)	828
Feed fz (mm/tooth)	0.065
ae (mm)	2.4
ap (mm)	18

Comparison Sutton Tools



Competitor

DRILLING **STAINLESS STEEL**

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R30 VA-IK 'Black Magic' Carbide Drill **D356 Series**

The ideal solution for high-quality/high-volume drilling of the latest materials found in the aerospace and oil & gas industries. Aimed specifically at stainless steels and titaniums, the Black Magic range features a Balzers Oerlikon Helica multi-layer AICr-based PVD coating, optimised for high temperature materials. This performance study compares the tool wear between the Sutton Tools Carbide VA Black Magic Drills and three leading European brand drills. The results clearly indicate the longer tool life of the Sutton Tools drill.



Machine	Haas VF2-SS Vertical Machining Centre
Holder	Hydraulic Chuck
Size (mm)	6.8
Material	AISI 55304/1.4301/V2A/ x5CrNi17-I0
Cutting Speed Vc (m/min)	70
Feed f (mm/rev)	0.18
ap (mm)	34



Sutton Tools Hole 600 Wear = 0.015mm



Competitor B Hole 300 Wear = 0.03mm



Competitor A Hole 600 Wear = 0.03mm



Competitor C Hole 200 Wear = 0.015mm









DRILLING STAINLESS STEEL

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R40 VA HSS-Co Drill D153 Series

With its excellent resistance to corrosion, stainless steels are a popular material used in various industries namely aerospace, medical, automotive and food processing industries. Drilling stainless steels has been somewhat difficult due to its toughness and high work hardening properties. Specific geometry and cutting parameters optimised for stainless steels will make light work for producing holes, however, often carbide drill options are not ideal if relatively low batch size of components are required and perhaps the clamping or machine rigidity is less than ideal. This is where the R40 VA drills have been specifically designed to meet the requirements and demands in this area of application, the R40 VA offers precise hole quality at a much lower cost than carbide drills.

High Helix & Unique Flute Form

40° flute helix with unique radius flute form. Produces short chips, even in stainless steel and copper alloys, allowing for non-step drilling of 3 to 4xd hole depths possible. Resulting in superior drill life and hole condition.



Material: SS304 Ø8mm / depth 16mm Vc = 20m/min f = 0.15mm/rev



Material: Cu Ø8mm / depth 5mm Vc = 40m/min f = 0.15mm/rev

Test Data

Material	SS304	SS430F
Cutting Speed Vc (m/min)	20	30
Feed f (mm/rev)	0.11	0.135
Lubrication	7% water soluble	7% water soluble





TAPPING STAINLESS STEEL

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TAPPING STAINLESS STEEL

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R50 VA PM-HSS Spiral Flute Tap T205 Series



Results

*Other sizes available to order on request



Special Taps Service

Sutton Tools understands the difficulty of manufacturing super alloys.

Our Special Tool Service enables us to meet your requirements and deliver superior performance in Titanium & high temperature alloys.

With our state of the art CNC grinding equipment almost any profile can be achieved. Feel free to discuss these with our Tech team.

All Thread Forms M, MJ, UNJC, UNJF, Screw Thread Insert (STI)

Sizes M2-M30, #2-1"

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