

METKON Application Note

Metallographic Preparation of Copper wire with an enamel coating



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Magnet wire or enameled wire is a copper or aluminium wire coated with a very thin layer of insulation.

It is used in the construction of transformers, inductors, motors, speakers, harddisk head actuators, electromagnets, and other applications that require tight coils of insulated wire.



The wire itself is most often fully annealed, electrolytically refined copper. Aluminium magnet wire is sometimes used for large transformers and motors. Contrary to its name, the insulator is hardly ever enamel.

Smaller diameter magnet wire usually has a round cross section. This kind of wire is used for things such as electric guitar pickups. Thicker magnet wire is often square, rectangular or hexagonal (with rounded corners) in cross section, packing more efficiently and having greater structural stability and thermal conductivity across adjacent turns.

The samples for this application:



Application Requirements





	Order Code	Description			
Equipment Used	16 04	MICRACUT 151			
Clamping Device	GR 0401	Universal Specimen vise			
Cooling Fluid	19 905	METCOOL II Cooling Fluid, 1 It.			
Cutting Disc	18-150	TRENO HP Ø150 mm			

	Order Code	Description		
Hardener	29 511	DMT 20 Powder		
Resin	29 512	DMT 20 Fluid		
Accessories	29-555	Embedding form Ø40 mm		
	29-601	Stainless steel clips		



	Order Code	Description
Equipment Used	36 09-250 / 30 09	FORCIPOL 2V / FORCIMAT
Accessories	31 22	Aluminum Disc, 250 mm
	31 63	Splash Guard, 250 mm
	39-003-250	Ø 250 mm, Special Magnetic Foil
	39-093-250	Ø 250 mm, Thin Metal Plate(5 pcs)
Sample Holder	33 01	Sample holder, 6 x Ø40 mm

Sample Preparation Proceses

With the help of the GR 401 sample cut into pieces.









Cutting Parameters are: RPM: 950 r/min. Total cutting time of all pieces: 5 min.

Cutted pieces were mounted with cold mounting method.



Cold Mounting Parameters are:

Resin: 2 parts. Hardener: 1 part. Mixing time: 20 sec. Preparation of mixture and curing time: 10 min.



After molding operation samples prepared with FORCIPOL 2V & FORCIMAT Grinding and polishing system.

	Surface	Abrasive	Lubricant	Force per Sample, (N)	Time (min.)	Disc speed (rpm) Rotation	Head Speed (rpm) Rotation
Grinding Step 1	<i>DEMPAX</i> [38-040-240]	240 grit SiC	Water	15 N	1 min.	250 CW	100 CW
Final Grinding	<i>DEMPAX</i> [38-040-2500]	2500 grit SiC	Water	20 N	2 min.	250 CW	100 CW
	MFTAPO-R	DIAPAT-M 3u	DIAPAT			150	75
Polishing Step 1	[39-033-250]	[39-420-M]	[39-502]	20 N	3 min.	CW	CCW
Final polishing	FEDO-1	DIAPAT-M 1µ	DIAPAT	10 N	2 min.	150	50
	[39-065-250]	[39-410-M]	[39-502]			CW	CCW

Grinding and polishing steps can be seen below:

Result

After the 2500 grit SiC paper:

NO 1:





NO 2:





Coating measurement of NO 1:



100x

After the Metapo-B: NO 1:













Coating measurement of NO 1:

100x

Coating measurement of NO 1:

100x

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