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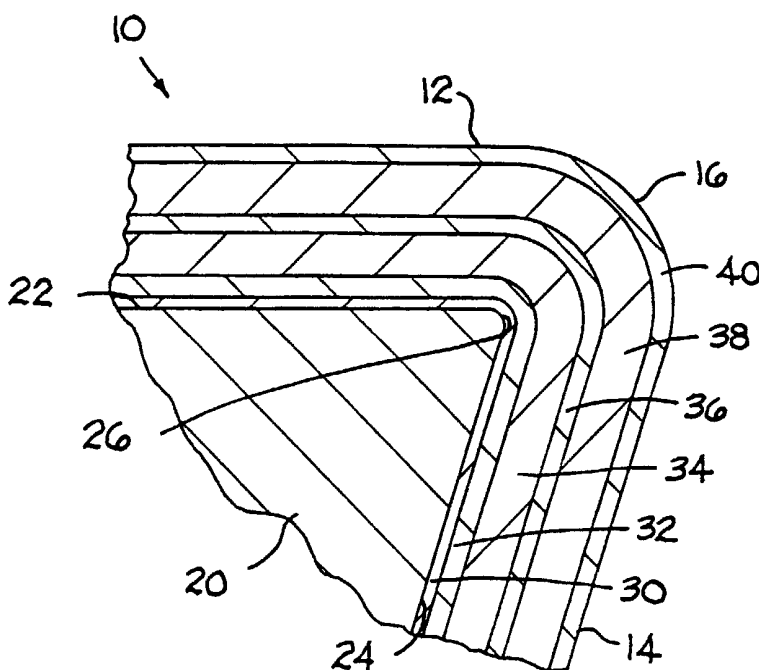
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(54) Title: COATED TOOL AND METHOD OF MAKING



(57) Abstract: A tool (10) which includes a substrate (20) which has a first surface and a second surface wherein the first (22) surface and the second surface (24) intersect to form an edge (26). An adhesion coating scheme is on the substrate. The adhesion coating scheme comprises an innermost layer (30) which contains titanium, and is on the surface of the substrate. The adhesion coating scheme includes an outermost adhesion layer (34). A wear coating scheme is on the adhesion coating scheme. The wear coating scheme includes one or more wear coating sequences wherein each wear coating sequence comprises an inner layer (36) including aluminum and nitrogen and an outer layer (38) including boron and nitrogen.



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**COATED TOOL AND METHOD OF MAKING**FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention pertains to tools with a hard coating. More specifically, the invention pertains to  
5 tools (e.g., round tools and cutting inserts) with a hard coating which includes a compound containing aluminum and nitrogen and a compound containing boron and nitrogen.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 As materials technology advances many new materials, including new hard materials, become commercially useful. Such new hard materials include without limitation sintered ultra-fine powdered metals, metal-matrix composites, heat treated hardened steels  
15 (hardnesses of between 50 to 65 Rockwell C), and high temperature alloys. These new materials have extraordinary combinations of properties, such as, for example, hardness, toughness and wear resistance, that make them very suitable for uses in heavy industries,  
20 aerospace, transportation, and consumer products.

For these new hard materials to realize their optimum commercial potential, one must overcome the challenges these materials present to existing manufacturing and finishing processes. One of the  
25 reasons these challenges exist is that these materials are very difficult and expensive to drill, cut, form, and otherwise perform work on as workpiece materials. One can best address these challenges by the use of strong tools such as, for example, round tools (which  
30 include without limitation drills, end mills, reamers), as well as cutting inserts, that use a hard coating. This invention pertains to just such strong tools with a hard coating.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one form thereof, the invention is a tool comprising a substrate which has a first surface and a second surface wherein the first surface and the second surface intersect to form an edge. There is an  
5       adhesion coating scheme on the substrate wherein the adhesion coating scheme comprises an innermost layer including titanium on the surface of the substrate and an outermost adhesion layer. There is a wear coating  
10       scheme on the adhesion coating scheme wherein the wear coating scheme includes one or more wear coating sequences wherein each wear coating sequence comprises an inner layer including aluminum and nitrogen and an outer layer including boron and nitrogen.

15       In another form thereof, the invention is a tool comprising a substrate which has a first surface and a second surface wherein the first surface and the second surface intersect to form an edge. There is an innermost layer containing titanium on the surface of  
20       the substrate. There is a wear coating scheme on the innermost layer wherein the wear coating scheme includes one or more wear coating sequences. Each wear coating sequence comprises an inner layer including aluminum and nitrogen and an outer layer including  
25       boron and nitrogen wherein the outer layer is on the inner layer.

In still another form, the invention is a process of making a coated tool comprising the steps of: providing a substrate; applying an adhesion coating  
30       scheme to the substrate wherein the adhesion coating scheme comprising an innermost layer containing titanium being on the surface of the substrate and an outermost adhesion layer; and applying a wear coating scheme on the adhesion coating scheme wherein the wear  
35       coating scheme including one or more wear coating sequences wherein each wear coating sequence comprises

an inner layer including aluminum and nitrogen and an outer layer including boron and nitrogen.

In another form thereof, the invention is a process of making a coated tool comprising the steps of: providing a substrate having a first surface and a second surface, the first surface and the second surface intersect to form an edge; applying an innermost layer containing titanium on the surface of the substrate; and applying a wear coating scheme on the innermost layer wherein the wear coating scheme includes one or more wear coating sequences with each wear coating sequence comprising an inner layer including aluminum and nitrogen and an outer layer including boron and nitrogen on the inner layer.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will be better understood with reference to the following description, appended claims, and accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is an isometric view of a specific embodiment of a cutting insert of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a corner of the cutting insert depicted in FIG. 1 illustrating the coating scheme thereof;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of a corner of a second specific cutting insert illustrating the coating scheme thereof;

FIG. 4 depicts in schematic an arrangement of a substrate, an electron beam vapor source, and an ion source; and

FIG. 5 is a side view of a specific embodiment of a drill (i.e., a round tool) of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to the drawings, FIG. 1 depicts a specific embodiment of a cutting insert, generally designated as 10. Cutting insert 10 presents a first surface (e.g., a rake face 12) and a second surface (e.g., a flank face 14). The rake face 12 and the flank face 14 intersect to form a cutting edge 16. The cutting insert 10 further includes a bottom surface 18.

Referring to FIG. 2, cutting insert 10 includes a substrate 20. Substrate 20 has a first surface (e.g., a rake surface 22) and a second surface (e.g., a flank surface 24). The rake surface 22 intersects the flank surface 24 to form a substrate cutting edge 26.

A thin layer 30 of a titanium-containing compound is directly on the surface of the substrate 20. A preferred example of a titanium-containing compound is titanium metal alone. However, it should be appreciated that applicant does not intend to restrict the scope of the thin layer 30 to comprise titanium metal alone, but such thin layer 30 may comprise other titanium-containing compounds such as, for example, titanium nitride, titanium carbide, or titanium carbonitride.

A layer 32 of a compound containing boron, carbon and nitrogen, i.e., a B-C-N compound, is on the surface of the thin titanium-containing layer 30. A preferred example of such a B-C-N compound is boron carbonitride; however, applicant does not intend to restrict the scope of the layer 32 to comprise only boron carbonitride, but such layer 32 may comprise any compound that includes boron, carbon and nitrogen.

A thicker layer 34 of a compound containing boron and nitrogen, i.e., a B-N compound, is on the surface of the B-C-N compound layer 32. An example of a compound containing boron and nitrogen is boron nitride which includes amorphous boron nitride and/or

hexagonal boron nitride as well as at least a portion of cubic boron nitride. It should be appreciated that applicant does not intend to limit the scope of the thicker layer 34 to only boron nitride, but the thicker  
5 layer 34 may comprise any compound that contains boron and nitrogen.

The combination of the Ti-containing layer 30, the B-C-N compound layer 32 and the B-N compound layer 34 forms an adhesion coating scheme. It should  
10 be appreciated that applicant does not intend for layer 30, layer 32 or layer 34 to wholly comprise the same compound. In other words, layer 30 is not similar in composition to layer 32 or layer 34, and layer 32 is not similar in composition to layer 34.

15 It should be appreciated that the boundary between adjacent layers is generally not distinct. More specifically, there generally is some degree of intermixing of the compounds (or components) of the layers at the interface between adjacent layers. This  
20 intermixing is due to ion bombardment so as to form what may be called an intermixed layer at this interface.

This intermixed layer generally presents a concentration gradient of the elements wherein the  
25 composition is a mixture of the elements of the adjacent layers with the composition at any one location being more heavily weighted toward the closest layer. What this means for the above-described adhesion coating scheme, assuming that the layers (30,  
30 32, and 34) comprise the preferred compounds, is that there is an intermixed layer (not illustrated) between the thin layer 30 of titanium and the adjacent layer 32 of boron carbonitride. This intermixed layer has a higher concentration of titanium the closer it is to  
35 the titanium layer and a higher concentration of boron and carbon and nitrogen the closer it is to the boron carbonitride layer.

There is an intermixed layer (not illustrated) between the layer 32 of boron carbonitride and the adjacent layer 34 of boron nitride. This intermixed layer has a higher concentration of carbon the closer it is to the layer 32 of boron carbonitride. The concentration of boron and nitrogen remains substantially constant throughout this intermixed layer since both the layer 32 (of boron carbonitride) and the layer 34 (of boron nitride) contain boron and nitrogen.

10 A wear coating scheme is on the surface of the outermost layer of the adhesion coating scheme. In this specific embodiment, the outermost layer of the adhesion coating scheme comprises the B-N compound layer 34.

15 In regard to the wear coating scheme, a thin layer 36 of a compound containing aluminum and nitrogen, i.e., an Al-N compound, is on the surface of the B-N compound outermost layer 34. One preferred example of the thin layer 36 is aluminum nitride; however, it should be appreciated that other compounds containing aluminum and nitrogen are contemplated to be within the scope of thin layer 36. Generally there is an intermixed layer (not illustrated) between the outermost layer 34 of the adhesion coating scheme and the thin layer 36. Assuming that layers 34 and 36 comprise the preferred compositions, the intermixed layer comprises boron and aluminum and nitrogen wherein the concentration of boron decreases (and the concentration of aluminum increases) as the intermixed layer moves away from the boron nitride layer to the aluminum nitride layer. The nitrogen concentration remains substantially constant throughout this intermixed layer since both layer 34 and layer 36 contain nitrogen.

35 A thicker layer 38 of a compound containing boron and nitrogen, i.e., a B-N compound, is on the surface of the Al-N compound layer 36. One preferred

example of the thicker layer 38 comprises boron nitride, which includes amorphous boron nitride and/or hexagonal boron nitride and cubic boron nitride.

However, applicant does not intend to restrict the

5 scope of the thicker layer 38 only boron nitride, but such a layer may comprise other compounds containing boron and nitrogen. There is an intermixed layer (not illustrated) between the thin layer 36 and the layer 38. Assuming that layers 36 and 38 comprise the  
10 preferred compositions, the intermixed layer comprises boron and aluminum and nitrogen wherein the concentration of boron decreases (and the concentration of aluminum increases) as this intermixed layer moves away from the boron nitride layer to the aluminum  
15 nitride layer. The concentration of nitrogen remains substantially constant throughout this intermixed layer since layer 36 and layer 38 each contain nitrogen.

The combination of the Al-N compound layer 36 and the B-N compound layer 38 comprises a repeatable  
20 sequence of the wear coating scheme.

Although not mandatory for all cutting inserts, cutting insert 10 includes as a part of the wear coating scheme an outermost layer 40 of a compound containing titanium and nitrogen, i.e., a Ti-N  
25 compound. In the alternative, the outermost layer 40 may comprise a compound containing titanium and aluminum and nitrogen, i.e., a Ti-Al-N compound. One preferred example of the Ti-N compound is titanium nitride. One preferred example of the Ti-Al-N compound  
30 is titanium aluminum nitride.

There is an intermixed layer (not illustrated) between the layer 40 and the layer 38. Assuming that layer 38 comprises boron nitride and that layer 40 comprises titanium nitride, the intermixed  
35 layer comprises boron and titanium and aluminum and nitrogen wherein the concentration of the boron increases (and the concentration of the titanium



decreases) as the intermixed layer moves away from the titanium nitride layer to the boron nitride layer. The concentration of nitrogen remains substantially constant throughout the intermixed layer since layer 38 and layer 40 each contain nitrogen.

Referring to FIG. 3, there is depicted a second specific embodiment of the cutting insert, generally designated as 50. Cutting insert 50 has a first surface (e.g., a rake face 52) and a second surface (e.g., a flank face 54) which intersect to form a cutting edge 56. Cutting insert 50 includes a substrate 60. The substrate 60 has a rake surface 62 and a flank surface 64 which intersect to form a substrate cutting edge 66. The cutting insert 50 also includes a coating scheme thereon. The coating scheme includes an adhesion coating scheme and a wear coating scheme.

The adhesion coating scheme includes a thin layer 68 including titanium, either alone or in a compound, on the surface of the substrate 60. Although not intended to be restrictive on the scope of thin layer 68, such a layer (68) may comprise titanium nitride, titanium carbide, or titanium carbonitride.

A layer 70 of a compound containing boron and carbon, i.e., a B-C compound, is on the surface of the titanium-containing layer 68. A preferred example of layer 70 comprises boron carbide. It should be appreciated that other compounds containing boron and carbon are contemplated to be within the scope of the layer 70.

A layer 72 of a compound containing boron, carbon and nitrogen, i.e., a B-C-N compound, is on the surface of the B-C compound layer 70. A preferred example of layer 72 comprises boron carbonitride. It should be appreciated that other compounds containing boron, carbon and nitrogen are contemplated to be within the scope of layer 72.

A layer 74 of a compound containing boron and nitrogen, i.e., a B-N compound, is on the B-C-N compound layer 72. A preferred example of layer 74 comprises boron nitride which includes amorphous boron nitride and/or hexagonal boron nitride and at least a portion of cubic boron nitride. It should be appreciated that other compounds containing boron and nitrogen are contemplated to be within the scope of layer 74.

It can thus be seen that the titanium-containing layer 68, the B-C compound layer 70, the B-C-N compound layer 72, and the B-N compound layer 76 comprise the adhesion coating scheme of cutting insert 50. Like for the embodiment of FIGS. 1 and 2, the boundaries between adjacent ones of the above layers are not distinct in that intermixed layers generally exist between these adjacent layers due to ion bombardment and the resultant intermixing of the elements. Thus, while these intermixed layers will not be described in detail, it should be appreciated that they generally exist and the above description of these layers with respect to the embodiment of FIGS. 1 and 2 provides guidance as to the nature of these intermixed layers for the embodiment of FIG. 3.

The wear coating scheme includes a thin layer 76 of a compound containing aluminum and nitrogen, i.e., an Al-N compound, on the surface of the B-N compound layer 76 (the outermost layer of the adhesion coating scheme). A preferred example of the thin layer 76 is aluminum nitride; however, other compounds containing aluminum and nitrogen are contemplated to be within the scope of the thin layer 76.

A layer 78 of a compound containing boron and nitrogen, i.e., a B-N compound, is on the surface of the Al-N compound layer 76. A preferred example of layer 78 comprises boron nitride which includes amorphous boron nitride and/or hexagonal boron nitride

and at least a portion of cubic boron nitride. Other compounds containing boron and nitrogen are contemplated to be within the scope of layer 76.

5 A thin layer 80 of a compound containing aluminum and nitrogen, i.e., an Al-N compound, is on the surface of the B-N compound layer 78. A preferred compound for layer 80 comprises aluminum nitride. Other compounds containing aluminum and nitrogen are contemplated to be within the scope of the layer 80.

10 A layer 82 of a compound containing boron and nitrogen, i.e., a B-N compound, is on the surface of the Al-N compound layer 80. A preferred compound for layer 82 comprises boron nitride including amorphous boron nitride and/or hexagonal boron nitride and at  
15 least a portion of cubic boron nitride. Other compounds comprising boron and nitrogen are contemplated to be within the scope of the layer 82.

It can thus be seen that the Al-N compound layer 76, the B-N compound layer 78, the Al-N compound  
20 layer 80, and the B-N compound layer 82 comprise the wear coating scheme. In this regard, the combination of the Al-N compound layer (76 or 80) and its adjacent B-N compound layer (78 or 82) form a repeatable sequence. While the specific embodiment of FIG. 3  
25 depicts two sequences of an Al-N compound/B-N compound, it should be appreciated that a tool (e.g., a cutting insert) may include a plurality of sequences.

Like for the embodiment of FIGS. 1 and 2, intermixed layers generally exist between adjacent  
30 layers due to ion bombardment and the resultant intermixing of the elements. Thus, while these intermixed layers will not be described in detail, it should be appreciated that they generally exist and the above description of these layers with respect to the  
35 embodiment of FIGS. 1 and 2 provides guidance as to the nature of these intermixed layers for the embodiment of FIG. 3.

Referring to FIG. 5, there is illustrated a drill generally designated as 120. Drill 120 has an axially rearward end 122 and an axially forward end 124. There is a forward surface 126 which intersects  
5 with a surface 128 defined by the flute to form a forward cutting edge 130. The surface 128 defined by the flute also intersects the cylindrical side surface 132 to form a side cutting edge 134. It can thus be appreciated that the drill presents one pair of  
10 surfaces (surface 126 and surface 128) which define one edge (edge 130), and another pair of surfaces (surface 128 and surface 132) which define another edge (edge 134). Although not shown, drill 120 has a multi-layer coating scheme of the invention deposited thereon.

15 The present invention is illustrated by the following examples of cutting inserts, which are provided to demonstrate and clarify various aspects of the present invention. The following should not be construed as limiting the scope of the claimed  
20 invention. In addition to cutting inserts, applicant contemplates that the invention applies to other tools which include without limitation round tools (e.g., drills, end mills, and reamers).

Referring now to the examples, an AIRCO  
25 TEMESCAL FC 1800 fast cycle electron beam (e-beam) evaporator unit with a water cooled (e.g., at a standard temperature of about 20°C) high vacuum chamber equipped with a four-pocket Super Source e-beam gun was used to coat the substrates. The unit also included a  
30 residual gas analyzer (IQ 200 from Inficon), a quartz lamp for chamber heating, an ion source (Mark I gridless end-Hall type from Commonwealth Scientific Corp., Alexandria, VA), an evaporation rate sensor (or monitor) (interfaced to an IQ 6000 controller from  
35 Inficon), and hot filaments (i.e., electrically resistively heated filaments) or an additional quartz lamp for supplemental substrate heating.

Figure 4 depicts a substrate holder 90, an evaporant compound 94, an electron beam 92 for creating a vapor 104 from the evaporant compound 94, an evaporation rate sensor 96 (located on the periphery of the vapor 104 about 254 millimeters (10 inches) above the plane of the surface of the evaporant compound 94 and about 165 millimeters (6.5 inches) from the center of the evaporant compound 94 for measuring the evaporation rate of the evaporant compound 94, and an ion source 98. Angle  $\alpha$  was measured between the plane of the substrate holder 90 and a line perpendicular to the surface of the evaporant compound 94 and substantially parallel to the line of sight from the evaporant compound 94. Angle  $\beta$  was measured between the plane of the substrate holder and the line of sight of the ion source.

The compounds used as the evaporant compound 94 included titanium, boron carbide, boron, and aluminum. The titanium and boron carbide each comprised 99.9 weight percent (wt%) commercially available compounds, while the boron comprised 99.5 wt% commercially available material. The aluminum comprised a high purity grade of commercially available aluminum.

Each run comprised the deposition of a coating scheme on a number of different SNMA432 style cutting insert substrates. These substrates included: (1) a silicon nitride based material having a coating of alumina on the surface of the substrate and a coating of titanium nitride on the alumina coating wherein the substrate comprises about 98.0 weight percent silicon nitride, about 1.0 weight percent magnesia, and about 1.0 weight percent yttria; (2) a silicon nitride based material which comprises about 98.0 weight percent silicon nitride, about 1.0 weight percent magnesia, and about 1.0 weight percent yttria; (3) a P-type doped silicon wafer; (4) a cemented

tungsten carbide material comprising about 6.0 weight percent cobalt, about 0.5 weight percent chromium carbide, and the balance tungsten carbide wherein the material has a hardness of 93.0 Rockwell A; and (5) a cemented tungsten carbide material comprising about 6.0 weight percent cobalt, about 2.0 weight percent tantalum niobium carbide, and the balance tungsten carbide wherein the material has a hardness of 92.7 Rockwell A.

10                Tables I through VIII set forth the parameters for the deposition of the coating layers. The row identified as "Description of the Composition of the Layer & Thickness" sets forth the composition of the layer and the thickness in Kiloangstroms (KÅ) of the coating layer. Referring to the description of the composition of the layers found in Tables I through VIII, the use of the expression "containing titanium" means that the layer contains titanium and is predominantly titanium metal. The use of the expression "containing boron and carbon" means that the layer contains boron and carbon and is predominantly boron carbide. The use of the expression "containing boron, carbon and nitrogen" means that the layer contains boron, carbon and nitrogen and is predominantly boron carbonitride. The use of the expression "containing boron and nitrogen" means that the layer contains boron and nitrogen and is predominantly boron nitride including amorphous boron nitride and/or hexagonal boron nitride and cubic boron nitride. The use of the expression "containing aluminum and nitrogen" means that the layer contains aluminum and nitrogen and is predominantly aluminum nitride.

35                The electron beam setting is set forth in a percentage of the input power as supplied by the power supply (i.e., the CV14 e-beam power supply). The chamber pressure is presented in torr. The evaporation

rate is presented in angstroms per second as measured on the evaporation rate monitor located (at a position about 254 millimeters away from the surface of the vaporizing source and about 165 millimeters away from the center of the vaporizing source). The substrate temperature is in degrees centigrade ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). The duration of the deposition is in minutes. The ion beam energy is in electron volts (eV). The nitrogen flow rate is standard cubic centimeters per minute (sccm).

10 Generally speaking, all of the Runs Nos. 1-8 started with the deposition of a thin (1.00 Kiloangstroms) layer of a titanium-containing compound that was predominantly titanium metal. Except for Runs Nos. 7 and 8, all of the runs (Runs Nos. 1-6) next included the deposition of a layer of a boron and carbon containing compound that was predominantly boron carbide on the surface of the titanium-containing layer.

15 Runs Nos. 1-6 next had a layer of a compound containing boron, carbon and nitrogen deposited on the surface of the boron carbide layer according to the parameters. This layer was predominantly boron carbonitride which was a result of the nitrification of boron carbide.

20 Runs Nos. 1-6 next had a layer of boron and nitrogen containing compound applied on the surface of the boron, carbon and nitrogen containing layer. The layer of boron and nitrogen was predominantly boron nitride and included amorphous boron nitride and/or hexagonal boron nitride and at least some portion of cubic boron nitride.

25 Runs Nos. 1-6 next had a layer of a compound containing aluminum and nitrogen deposited on the surface of the boron nitride layer. This layer was predominantly aluminum nitride.

30 Runs Nos. 1-6 next had a layer of compound containing boron and nitrogen applied on the surface of the aluminum nitride layer. This layer was

predominantly boron nitride and included amorphous boron nitride and/or hexagonal boron nitride and at least some portion of cubic nitride.

Runs Nos. 2, 3 and 5 next had a layer of compound containing aluminum and nitrogen deposited on the surface of the boron nitride layer. This later was predominantly aluminum nitride.

Runs Nos. 3 and 5 next had a layer of compound containing boron and nitrogen applied on the surface of the aluminum nitride. This layer was predominantly boron nitride includes amorphous boron nitride and/or hexagonal boron nitride and at least some portion of cubic boron nitride.

Referring to the deposition parameters for Run No. 7, a layer of a boron, carbon and nitrogen containing compound, which was predominantly boron carbonitride, was deposited on the titanium-containing layer previously mentioned. A layer of compound containing boron and nitrogen, which was predominantly boron nitride (including amorphous boron nitride and/or hexagonal boron nitride and at least some portion of cubic boron nitride), was deposited on the layer which was predominantly boron carbonitride. A layer of compound containing aluminum and nitrogen, which was predominantly aluminum nitride, was deposited on the layer containing boron and nitrogen. A layer of compound containing boron and nitrogen, which was predominantly boron nitride (including amorphous boron nitride and/or hexagonal boron nitride and at least some portion of cubic boron nitride), was deposited on the layer which was predominantly aluminum nitride.

In reference to Run No. 8, three sequences of the predominantly aluminum nitride layer-predominantly boron nitride layer were applied to the initial layer which was predominantly titanium.

Runs Nos. 3 through 8 had an outermost layer comprising titanium and nitrogen, which was



predominantly titanium nitride, applied to the surface of the outermost layer which was predominantly boron nitride.

Referring to the set up of the equipment as depicted in FIG. 4 for the runs, the operating parameters comprised the angle  $\alpha$  being between about forty-five degrees and about seventy-five degrees, angle  $\beta$  being between about sixty-five degrees and about eighty degrees, the distance  $d_1$  being equal to about 444 millimeters, and the distance  $d_2$  being equal to between about 90 millimeters and about 165 millimeters.

Table I  
Parameters for the Deposition  
of Coatings During Run No. 1

Layer/ Parameter	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth
Description of the Composition of the Layer & Thickness (kÅ)	Containing titanium 1.00	Containing boron and carbon 2.00	Containing boron, carbon and nitrogen 2.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 5.00	Containing aluminum and nitrogen 1.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 5.00
Electron Beam Setting (% of Power)	12	11-12	11	11-12	15	11
Chamber Pressure (torr)	$1.0 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.9-4.8 \times 10^{-6}$	$2.1 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.5-6.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.6 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.4 \times 10^{-4}$
Evaporation Rate (angstroms/second)	4.8-5.3	1.6-2.1	1.3-2.2	1.6-2.4	1.5-1.6	1.4-2.0
Substrate Temperature (°C)	364-457	373-466	377-450	376-464	369-475	380-469
Duration of Deposition (minutes)	4	18	18	37	14	43
ion beam energy (eV)	N/A	N/A	Not Rec'd	170.5	Not Rec'd	170
nitrogen flow rate (sccm)	N/A	N/A	Not Rec'd	9.7	Not Rec'd	Not Rec'd

Table II  
Parameters for the Deposition  
of Coatings During Run No. 2

Layer/ Parameter	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth
Description of the Composition of the Layer & Thickness (kÅ)	Containing titanium 1.00	Containing boron and carbon 2.00	Containing boron, carbon and nitrogen 2.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 10.00	Containing aluminum and nitrogen 1.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 10.00	Containing aluminum and nitrogen 1.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 9.450
Electron Beam Setting (% of Power)	11	11	11	9-11	13-14	9-10	14	
Chamber Pressure (torr)	$8 \times 10^{-6}$	$7.0-7.2 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.8-2.2 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.7-5.2 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.5 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.1-5.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.0 \times 10^{-4}$	
Evaporation Rate (angstroms/second)	4.9-5.0	1.3-2.3	2.1-2.5	1.4-2.7	1.2-2.1	1.4-2.4	1.8-2.4	
Substrate Temperature (°C)	359-466	364-463	371-452	380-450	368-450	374-450	369-460	
Duration of Deposition (minutes)	4	18	21	25	12	94	10	
ion beam energy (eV)	N/A	N/A	170.9	170.5	170	170	170	
nitrogen flow rate (sccm)	N/A	N/A	10	5.3	Not Rec'd	Not Rec'd	Not Rec'd	

Table III  
Parameters for the Deposition  
of Coatings During Run No. 3

Layer/ Parameter	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth
Description of the Composition of the Layer & Thickness (kÅ)	Containing titanium 1.00	Containing boron and carbon 2.00	Containing boron, carbon and nitrogen 2.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 7.00	Containing aluminum and nitrogen 1.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 7.00	Containing aluminum and nitrogen 1.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 7.00	Containing titanium and nitrogen 1.00
Electron Beam Setting (% of Power)	9	8	8	7-8	10	7	11	7	7
Chamber Pressure (torr)	$5.3 \times 10^{-6}$	$7.0-8.5 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.6-2.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.2-5.6 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.4 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.4 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.8 \times 10^{-4}$
Evaporation Rate (angstroms/second)	5.1-5.2	1.5-2.4	1.3-2.0	1.6-2.4	2.0-2.2	1.9-2.1	2.0-2.2	1.6-2.2	5.0-5.1
Substrate Temperature (°C)	361-499	356-499	366-496	374-482	374-500	Not Rec'd	377-500	376-487	381-501
Duration of Deposition (minutes)	4	21	20	125	10	57	10	56	5
ion beam energy (eV)	N/A	N/A	170.5	170.2	170.9	170.2	170.5	170	170.5
nitrogen flow rate (sccm)	N/A	N/A	10.0	9.5	8.7	6.3	8.6	6.2	9.4

Table IV  
Parameters for the Deposition  
of Coatings During Run No. 4

Layer/ Parameter	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh
Description of the Composition of the Layer & Thickness (kÅ)	Containing titanium 1.00	Containing boron and carbon 2.00	Containing boron, carbon and nitrogen 2.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 10.00	Containing aluminum and nitrogen 1.00	Containing boron and nitrogen	Containing titanium and nitrogen
Electron Beam Setting (% of Power)	9	8	8	7-8	11	7	7
Chamber Pressure (torr)	$4.6 \times 10^{-6}$	$3.3-3.5 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.7-2.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.2-5.5 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.2 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.2 \times 10^{-4}$	Not Rec'd
Evaporation Rate (angstroms/second)	5.0-5.2	1.4-2.2	1.5-2.4	1.7-2.7	1.8-2.2	1.9-2.0	Not Rec'd
Substrate Temperature (°C)	364-475	364-470	370-462	343-400	347-408	338-400	Not Rec'd
Duration of Deposition (minutes)	5	20	22	82	10	9	5
ion beam energy (eV)	N/A	N/A	170.5	170.2	170	Not Rec'd	150
nitrogen flow rate (sccm)	N/A	N/A	10.0	8.1	Not Rec'd	Not Rec'd	Not Rec'd

Table V  
Parameters for the Deposition  
of Coatings During Run No. 5

Layer/ Parameter	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth
Description of the Composition of the Layer & Thickness (kÅ)	Containing titanium 1.00	Containing boron and carbon 2.00	Containing boron, carbon and nitrogen 2.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 10.00	Containing aluminum and nitrogen 1.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 10.00	Containing aluminum and nitrogen 1.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 10.00	Containing titanium and nitrogen 1.00
Electron Beam Setting (% of Power)	10	9	9	8	11	7	11	7-8	7
Chamber Pressure (torr)	$5.7 \times 10^{-6}$	$6.0-7.5 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.7-1.9 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.0-5.8 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.1-5.2 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.2 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.1 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.8 \times 10^{-4}$
Evaporation Rate (angstroms/second)	5.1-5.2	1.3-2.0	1.5-2.5	1.5-2.4	2.0-2.2	1.5-2.4	2.1-2.2	1.3-2.4	4.8-5.1
Substrate Temperature (°C)	369-499	373-503	382-516	379-450	373-458	376-450	374-454	377-450	381-452
Duration of Deposition (minutes)	3	21	19	82	11	180	8	84	4
ion beam energy (eV)	N/A	N/A	170.5	170.4	170	170	170	170.4	150.3
nitrogen flow rate (sccm)	N/A	N/A	10.0	8.2	8.5	6.2	Not Rec'd	6.1	9.4

Table VI  
Parameters for the Deposition  
of Coatings During Run No. 6

Layer/ Parameter	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh
Description of the Composition of the Layer & Thickness (Å)	Containing titanium and 1.00	Containing boron and carbon 2.00	Containing boron, carbon and nitrogen 2.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 10.00	Containing aluminum and nitrogen 1.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 10.00	Containing titanium and nitrogen 1.00
Electron Beam Setting (% of Power)	8	8	8	7	11	7	7
Chamber Pressure (torr)	$7.5 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.2 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.1-1.6 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.0-5.2 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.9-5.1 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.8 \times 10^{-4}$
Evaporation Rate (angstroms/second)	4.0-5.1	1.8-2.4	.5-4.8	1.5-2.6	1.8-2.4	1.0-4.2	4.5-5.6
Substrate Temperature (°C)	365-491	368-492	379-487	Not Rec'd	373-495	Not Rec'd	400-556
Duration of Deposition (minutes)	4	14	12	85	12	66	3
ion beam energy (eV)	N/A	N/A	170.3	170.1	170	170.2	Not Rec'd
nitrogen flow rate (sccm)	N/A	N/A	10.1	6.3	Not Rec'd	6.2	Not Rec'd

Table VII  
Parameters for the Deposition  
of Coatings During Run No. 7

Layer/ Parameter	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth
Description of the Composition of the Layer & Thickness (kÅ)	Containing titanium 1.00	Containing boron, carbon and nitrogen 2.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 2.00	Containing aluminum and nitrogen 1.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 10.00	Containing titanium and nitrogen 1.00
Electron Beam Setting (% of Power)	10	8-9	7-8	11	7	7
Chamber Pressure (torr)	$3.6 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.7-2.5 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.0-5.2 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.9 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.8-4.9 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.5 \times 10^{-4}$
Evaporation Rate (angstroms/second)	5.1-5.3	1.6-2.4	1.8-2.3	1.8-2.3	1.8-2.3	5.0-5.2
Substrate Temperature (°C)	370-513	384-499	379-480	378-501	378-478	384-495
Duration of Deposition (minutes)	4	18	82	4	80	9
ion beam energy (eV)	N/A	N/A	170.0	170	170.1	150
nitrogen flow rate (sccm)	N/A	N/A	6.2	8.7	6.1	Not Rec'd



Table VIII  
Parameters for the Deposition  
of Coatings During Run No. 8

Layer/ Parameter	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth
Description of the Composition of the Layer & Thickness (KÅ)	Containing titanium 1.00	Containing aluminum and nitrogen 1.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 10.00	Containing aluminum and nitrogen 1.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 10.00	Containing aluminum and nitrogen 1.00	Containing boron and nitrogen 10.00	Containing titanium and nitrogen 1.00
Electron Beam Setting (% of Power)	10	10	7-8	11-12	7	10	7	7
Chamber Pressure (torr)	$3.2 \times 10^{-6}$	$4.6 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.4-4.5 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.4-4.5 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.3-4.4 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.2 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.6 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.2 \times 10^{-4}$
Evaporation Rate (angstroms/second)	5.1-5.2	2.1	1.2-3.3	1.8-2.2	1.6-2.8	1.3-1.4	1.9-2.4	5.0-5.1
Substrate Temperature (°C)	372-501	369-500	379-480	374-496	379-476	373-496	379-475	378-495
Duration of Deposition (minutes)	4	23	83	7	84	11	80	3
ion beam energy (eV)	N/A	170.3	170.4	170	170.6	170	170.6	170
nitrogen flow rate (sccm)	N/A	10	5.6	Not Rec'd	5.5	Not Rec'd	5.4	Not Rec'd

In regard to the coating scheme for each one of the runs, Table IX sets forth the coating layers and the thickness of each coating layer in Kiloangstroms (KA). In Table IX the designation "Ti" means that the layer contains titanium and is predominantly titanium metal; the designation "BC" means that the layer contains boron and carbon and is predominantly boron carbide; the designation "BCN" means that the layer contains boron, carbon and nitrogen and is predominantly boron carbonitride; the designation "BN" means that the layer contains boron and nitrogen and includes boron nitride including amorphous boron nitride and/or hexagonal boron nitride and at least a portion of cubic boron nitride; and the designation "TiN" means that the layer contains titanium and nitrogen and is predominantly titanium nitride.

**Table IX**  
**Coating Scheme (Compound and Thickness) for Runs Nos. 1 through 8**

Run No./ Layer	Run No. 1	Run No. 2	Run No. 3	Run No. 4	Run No. 5	Run No. 6	Run No. 7	Run No. 8
1st	Ti/1.00	Ti/1.00	Ti/1.00	Ti/1.00	Ti/1.00	Ti/1.00	Ti/1.00	Ti/1.00
2nd	BC/2.00	BC/2.00	BC/2.00	BC/2.00	BC/2.00	BC/2.00	BC/2.00	AlN/1.00
3rd	BCN/2.00	BCN/2.00	BCN/2.00	BCN/2.00	BCN/2.00	BCN/2.00	BN/2.00	BN/10.00
4th	BN/5.00	BN/10.00	BN/7.00	BN/10.00	BN/10.00	BN/10.00	AlN/1.00	AlN/1.00
5th	AlN/1.00	AlN/1.00	AlN/1.00	AlN/1.00	AlN/1.00	AlN/1.00	BN/10.00	BN/10.00
6th	BN/5.00	BN/10.00	BN/7.00	BN/	BN/10.00	BN/10.00	TiN/1.00	AlN/1.00
7th	-	AlN/1.00	AlN/1.00	TiN	AlN/1.00	TiN/1.00	-	BN/10.00
8th	-	BN/9.45	BN/7.00	-	BN/10.00	-	-	TiN/1.00
9th	-	-	TiN/1.00	-	TiN/1.00	-	-	-

In regard to the component layers of the adhesion coating scheme and the wear coating scheme of the Runs Nos. 1 through 8, for Run No. 1, the first through the fourth layers comprised the adhesion coating scheme while the fifth and sixth layers

comprised the wear coating scheme. For Run No. 2, the first through the fourth layers comprised the adhesion coating scheme while the fifth through the eighth layers comprised the wear coating scheme.

5               For Run No. 3, the first through the fourth layers comprised the adhesion coating scheme while the fifth through the ninth layers comprised the wear coating scheme. In Run No. 3, the fifth and sixth layers and the same (or repeats of) the seventh and  
10 eighth layers.

              For Run No. 4, the first through the fourth layers comprised the adhesion coating scheme while the fifth through the seventh layers comprised the wear coating scheme.

15               For Run No. 5, the first through the fourth layers comprised the adhesion coating scheme while the fifth through the ninth layers comprised the wear coating scheme. In Run No. 5, the fifth and sixth layers and the same (or repeats of) the seventh and  
20 eighth layers.

              For Run No. 6, the first through the fourth layers comprised the adhesion coating scheme while the fifth through the seventh layers comprised the wear coating scheme.

25               For Run No. 7, the first through the third layers comprised the adhesion coating scheme while the fourth through the sixth layers comprised the wear coating scheme.

              For Run No. 8, the first layer comprised the  
30 adhesion coating scheme while the second through the eighth layers comprised the wear coating scheme. The second and third layers are the same as the fourth and fifth layers and the sixth and seventh layers. In other words, the fourth and fifth layer is a repeat of  
35 the second and third layer, and the sixth and seventh layer is a repeat of the second and third layer.

While the above examples were carried out under the conditions set forth above, it should be appreciated that the invention can be carried out under different conditions. For example, in the deposition  
5 of the layer comprising the compound containing boron and nitrogen, it would be expected that the use of a higher ion beam energy would result in a different (e.g., greater) amount of cubic boron nitride in the layer. One preferred way to increase the ion beam  
10 energy is to use multiple (e.g., two) ion beam guns wherein each ion beam gun may have a wide (e.g., higher) range of ion beam energies.

The patents and other documents identified herein are hereby incorporated by reference herein.

15 Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from a consideration of the specification or practice of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the specification and specific runs be considered as  
20 illustrative only, with the true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tool comprising:  
a substrate having a first surface and a  
second surface, the first surface and the second  
5 surface intersect to form an edge;  
an adhesion coating scheme on the  
substrate, the adhesion coating scheme comprising an  
innermost layer including titanium, the innermost layer  
being on the surface of the substrate, and an outermost  
10 adhesion layer; and  
a wear coating scheme on the adhesion  
coating scheme, the wear coating scheme including one  
or more wear coating sequences wherein each wear  
coating sequence comprises an inner layer including  
15 aluminum and nitrogen and an outer layer including  
boron and nitrogen.
2. The tool of claim 1 wherein the adhesion  
coating scheme further includes a first intermediate  
layer on the innermost layer, the first intermediate  
20 layer including boron and carbon.
3. The tool of claim 2 wherein the first  
intermediate layer predominantly comprises boron  
carbide.
4. The tool of claim 2 wherein the first  
25 intermediate layer consists essentially of boron  
carbide.
5. The tool of claim 2 wherein the first  
intermediate layer includes boron and carbon and  
nitrogen.
- 30 6. The tool of claim 5 wherein the first  
intermediate layer predominantly comprises boron  
carbonitride.

7. The tool of claim 5 wherein the first intermediate layer consists essentially of boron carbonitride.

8. The tool of claim 2 wherein the  
5 outermost adhesion layer includes boron and nitrogen.

9. The tool of claim 8 wherein the outermost adhesion layer comprises boron nitride including one or both of amorphous boron nitride and hexagonal boron nitride; and the outermost adhesion  
10 layer further including cubic boron nitride.

10. The tool of claim 8 wherein the outermost adhesion layer consists essentially of boron nitride including one or both of amorphous boron nitride and hexagonal boron nitride; and the outermost  
15 adhesion layer further including cubic boron nitride.

11. The tool of claim 2 wherein the adhesion coating scheme further including a second intermediate layer on the first intermediate layer, the second intermediate layer including boron, carbon and  
20 nitrogen.

12. The tool of claim 11 wherein the second intermediate layer predominantly comprises boron carbonitride.

13. The tool of claim 11 wherein the second  
25 layer consists essentially of boron carbonitride.

14. The tool of claim 11 wherein the outermost adhesion layer predominantly comprises boron nitride including one or both of amorphous boron nitride and hexagonal boron nitride; and the outermost  
30 adhesion layer further including cubic boron nitride.

15. The tool of claim 11 wherein the outermost adhesion layer consisting essentially of boron nitride including one or more of amorphous boron nitride and hexagonal boron nitride; and the outermost  
5 adhesion layer further including cubic boron nitride.

16. The tool of claim 1 wherein the wear coating scheme further includes an exterior layer on the outer layer of the outermost wear coating sequence, and the exterior layer containing titanium.

10 17. The tool of claim 16 wherein the exterior layer comprises titanium aluminum nitride.

18. The tool of claim 1 wherein the inner layer of each wear coating sequence comprises a layer of aluminum nitride and the outer layer for each wear  
15 coating sequence comprises a layer of boron nitride including one or more of amorphous boron nitride and hexagonal boron nitride; and the layer of boron nitride further including cubic boron nitride; and for each wear coating sequence the layer of boron nitride has a  
20 thickness that is between about five times to about ten times greater than the thickness of the layer of aluminum nitride.

19. The tool of claim 1 wherein the tool includes a round tool.

25 20. The tool of claim 1 wherein the tool comprises a cutting insert wherein the first surface comprises a rake surface and the second surface comprises a flank surface so that the rake surface and the flank surface intersect to form a cutting edge.

30 21. A tool comprising:  
a substrate having a first surface and a second surface, the first surface and the second surface intersect to form an edge;

an innermost layer containing titanium on the surface of the substrate; and

a wear coating scheme on the innermost layer, the wear coating scheme including one or more wear coating sequences, each wear coating sequence comprising an inner layer including aluminum and nitrogen and an outer layer including boron and nitrogen wherein the outer layer is on the inner layer.

22. The tool of claim 21 wherein the wear coating scheme further includes an exterior layer containing titanium, the exterior layer being on the outer layer of the outermost wear coating sequence.

23. The tool of claim 22 wherein the exterior coating is titanium nitride.

24. The tool of claim 21 wherein the inner layer of each coating sequence comprises a layer of aluminum nitride and the outer layer for each coating sequence comprises a layer of boron nitride including one or more of amorphous boron nitride and hexagonal boron nitride; and the layer of boron nitride further including cubic boron nitride; and the thickness of the outer layer of boron nitride is about ten times greater than the thickness of the inner layer of aluminum nitride.

25. A process of making a coated tool comprising the steps of:  
providing a substrate;  
applying an adhesion coating scheme to the substrate wherein the adhesion coating scheme comprising an innermost layer containing titanium being on the surface of the substrate and an outermost adhesion layer; and

applying a wear coating scheme on the adhesion coating scheme wherein the wear coating scheme



including one or more wear coating sequences wherein each wear coating sequence comprises an inner layer including aluminum and nitrogen and an outer layer including boron and nitrogen.

5                   26. The process of claim 25 wherein the step of applying the adhesion coating scheme further includes applying a first intermediate layer on the innermost layer wherein the first intermediate layer containing boron and carbon.

10                   27. The process of claim 26 wherein the step of applying the adhesion coating scheme further including applying a second intermediate layer on the first intermediate layer wherein the second intermediate layer including boron, carbon and  
15                   nitrogen.

                  28. The process of claim 27 wherein the step of applying the wear coating scheme further includes applying an exterior layer on the outer layer of the outermost wear coating sequence wherein the exterior  
20                   layer contains titanium.

                  29. A process of making a coated tool comprising the steps of:  
                                providing a substrate having a first surface and a second surface, the first surface and the  
25                   second surface intersect to form an edge;  
                                applying an innermost layer containing titanium on the surface of the substrate; and  
                                applying a wear coating scheme on the innermost layer wherein the wear coating scheme  
30                   includes one or more wear coating sequences with each wear coating sequence comprising an inner layer including aluminum and nitrogen and an outer layer including boron and nitrogen on the inner layer.

30. The process of claim 29 wherein the step  
of applying the wear coating scheme further includes  
applying an exterior layer containing titanium wherein  
the exterior layer being on the outer layer of the  
5 outermost wear coating sequence.

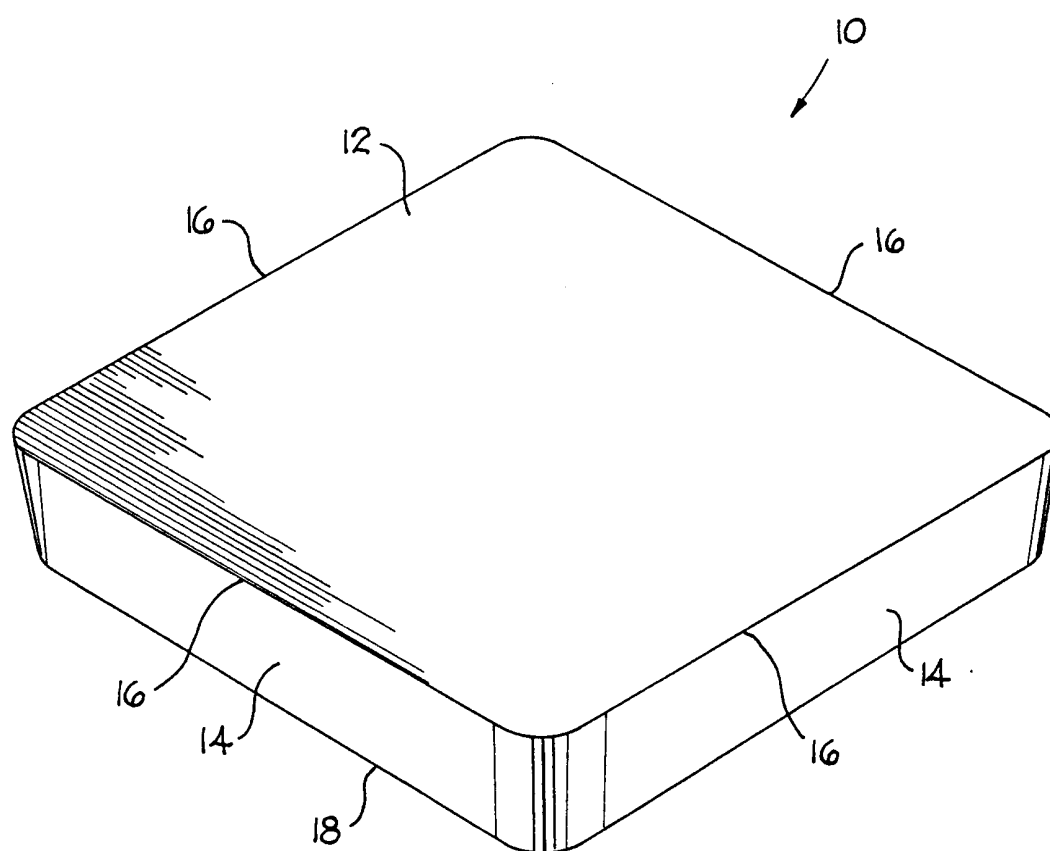


FIG. 1

2/3

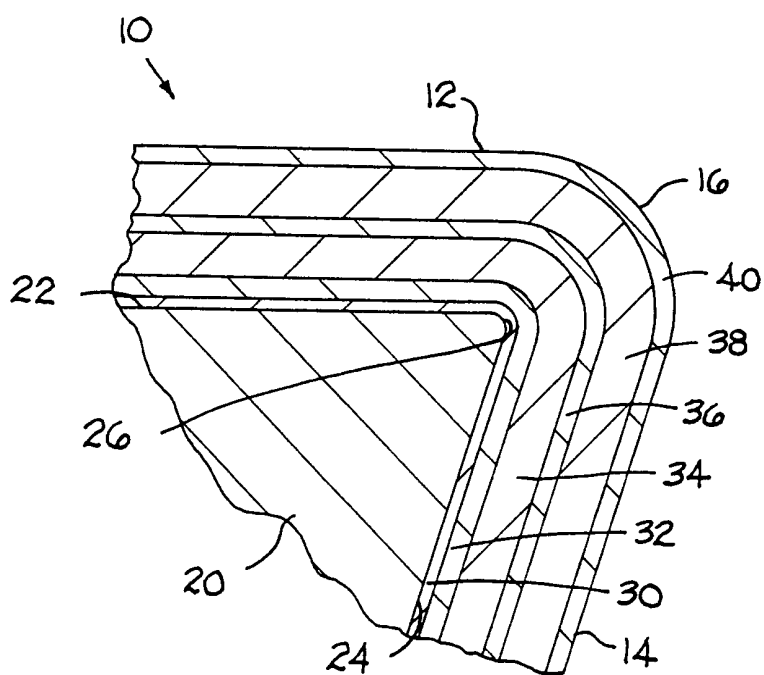


FIG. 2

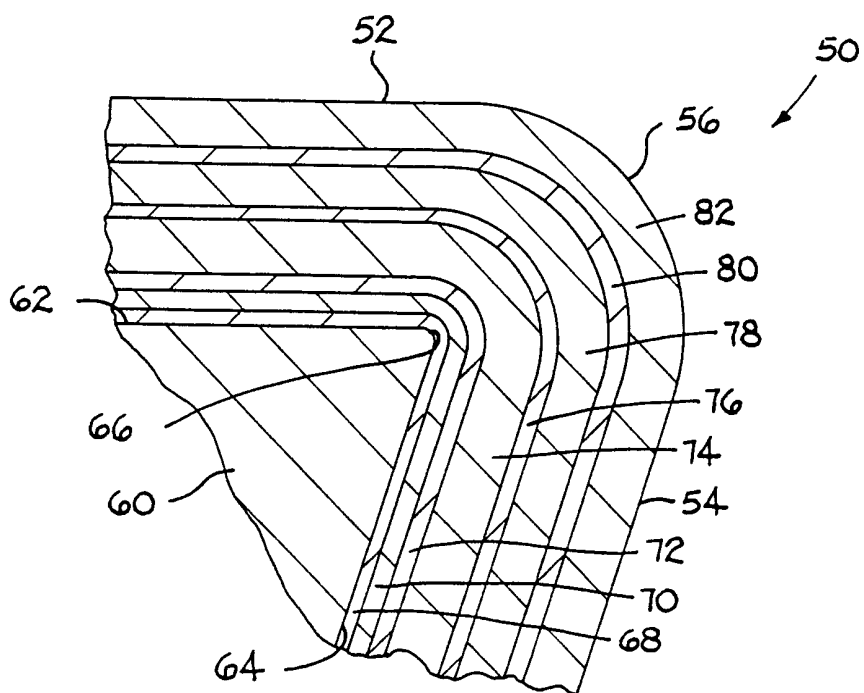


FIG. 3

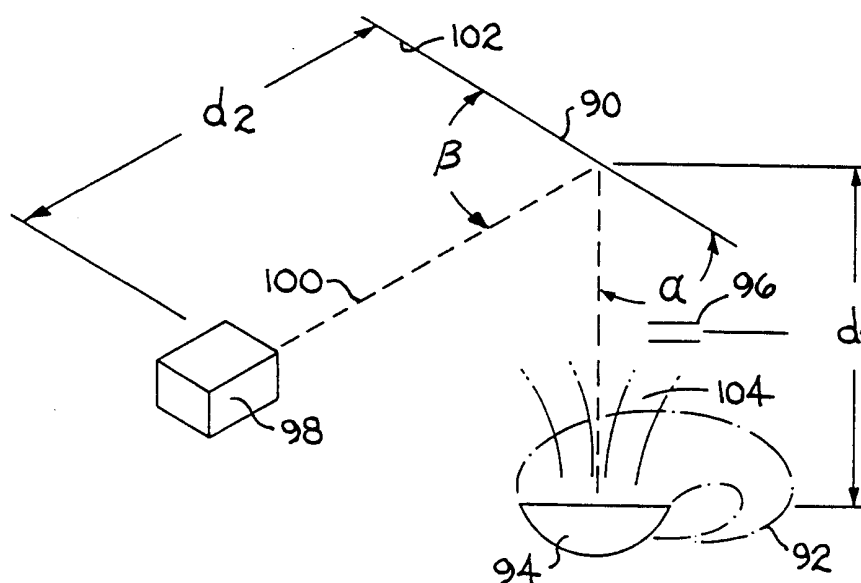


FIG. 4

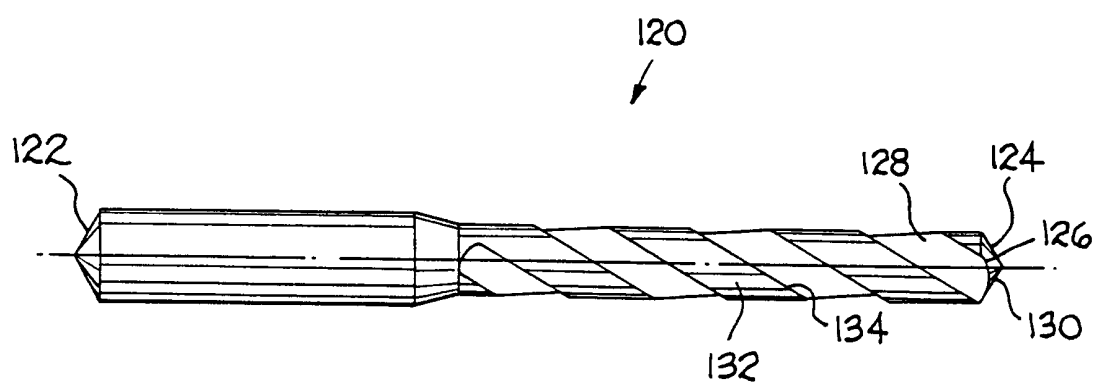


FIG. 5

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/US 00/30207

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C23C30/00 C23C14/06 C23C14/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C23C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 731 303 A (HIRANO SHIN-ICHI ET AL) 15 March 1988 (1988-03-15) column 3, line 34 - line 51; examples 3,6,9,10	1,20,21, 25,29
A	US 5 976 716 A (INSPEKTOR AHARON) 2 November 1999 (1999-11-02) column 5, line 36 -column 6, line 27; figure 2	1-30
A	US 4 599 281 A (SCHINTLMEISTER WILFRIED ET AL) 8 July 1986 (1986-07-08) examples	1,21,25, 29
A	DE 195 46 357 A (KOBE STEEL LTD) 20 June 1996 (1996-06-20) page 7, line 9 -page 9, line 66; claims	1,21,25, 29



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents :

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

8 March 2001

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Information on patent family members

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