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(54) **A method of spheroidizing annealing of hypo-eutectoid low alloy steel**

(57) Method of spheroidizing annealing of hypo-eutectoid low alloy steel, wherein a hot rolled steel typical comprising ferrite and a high carbon phase such as pearlite or martensitic/bainitic microstructural constituents

- a) is heated to a temperature between A1 and A3

until austenitic domains with higher carbon content than the base composition has been created,

- b) the temperature is lowered and held under A1 to enable the austenite to transform into ferrite and carbides,
- c) the temperature is held under A1 until a desired degree of spheroidizing of the carbide is obtained.

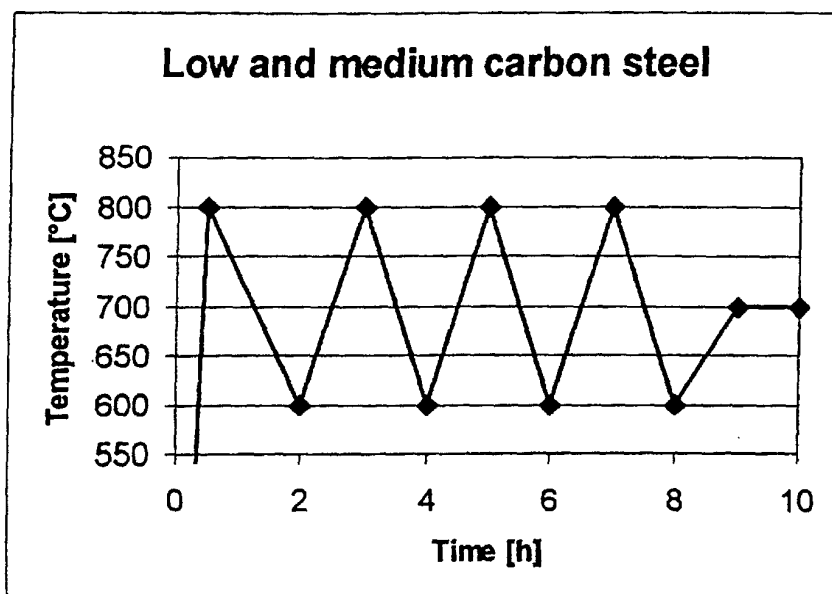


Fig. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 85 0027

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CI.7)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.CI.7)
			C21D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		30 July 2003	Chebeieu, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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