

Annealing Processes

11.19 Full annealing--Heat to about 50°C above the A_3 line, Figure 11.10 (if the concentration of carbon is less than the eutectoid) or above the A_1 line (if the concentration of carbon is greater than the eutectoid) until the alloy comes to equilibrium; then furnace cool to room temperature. The final microstructure is coarse pearlite.

Normalizing--Heat to at least 55°C above the A_3 line Figure 11.10 (if the concentration of carbon is less than the eutectoid) or above the A_{cm} line (if the concentration of carbon is greater than the eutectoid) until the alloy completely transforms to austenite, then cool in air. The final microstructure is fine pearlite.

Quenching--Heat to a temperature within the austenite phase region and allow the specimen to fully austenitize, then quench to room temperature in oil or water. The final microstructure is martensite.

Tempering--Heat a quenched (martensitic) specimen, to a temperature between 450 and 650°C, for the time necessary to achieve the desired hardness. The final microstructure is tempered martensite.